



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

## WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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## NEWS

### Do Not Relent Until the Health Center Funding Cliff is Fixed

Although it does not look like we will make the September 30 cut-off date for the Health Center Funding Cliff, our efforts to keep the pressure up are working – we know that House and Senate Committee leaders and Congressional leadership are actively negotiating the size and scope of a fix, and that plans are underway to move ahead in the first and second week of October with consideration of both CHC/NHSC funding and CHIP. All parties agree to the need for a fix – but they have not agreed on how long it should be for, and how it should be paid for.

We cannot relent until the cliff is fixed! In the House, the best means we have for demonstrating broad bipartisan support is to get Members to cosponsor the Community Health Improvement, Modernization, and Excellence Act of 2017 (CHIME Act) – H.R. 3770. While this bill may not be the one that eventually passes through Committee and the floor, the more Members who cosponsor it, the more leverage we give our champions on the Hill, and the better chance we have for a long-term extension. The bill currently has 111 cosponsors. We are working with Senate offices on possible companion legislation.

**We remain optimistic that the Cliff will be fixed, but timing is critical!** To move Congress to act to fix the cliff once and for all we need to continue to generate thousands of calls, messages and posts every day next week, to every Member of Congress, demanding action! Even if you've already taken action, we need you to do it again and we need you to get others to take action as well. Use the "[Take Action](#)" link now to make your voice heard!

**The future of the Health Center Program depends on your advocacy...**



#### El Centro de Corazon Hosts TACHC Post-Hurricane Psychosocial Skills Training

[Dr. Jeanne LeBlanc, Ph.D.](#), travelled to Texas from Vancouver, Canada last week to prepare and present upon best practices of psychology for disaster response on Friday morning, September 22, 2017, at the El Centro de Corazón - Magnolia Health Center location. The event was well attended with behavioral health providers from six TACHC member centers--including Stephen F. Austin CHC, Gulf Coast Health Center Inc., Coastal Health & Wellness, South Central Houston Action Council, Inc. (Central Care HIS), Magnolia Episcopal Health Outreach Program (MEHOP) and El Centro de Corazón—as well as representatives from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Dr. LeBlanc's two presentations were "Healing in the Midst of Chaos: A Medical-Behavioral Health Approach to Disaster Medicine" and an overview of Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR). The materials and slides from this presentation are available on the TACHC.org website event page [here](#).



In an email to all her fellow attendees following the presentation, Dr. Kimberly Butler M.D. wrote "Thank you so much for the invitation. That was a great, encouraging and educational presentation. I wish you all much strength, endurance and encouragement as you go back to your respective clinics and communities."



Above: Nancy Gilliam, Community Development Director ; Britt Kushner, Health Informatics and Coding Coordinator; Barb Boushon, Consultant, Mark Murray and Associates; Verne LaGrega, Interim Director of Clinical Affairs, Ken White, CEO Crossroads Family Center, and Ana Sierra, TACHC Quality and Evaluation Program Manager. (Not pictured Christina Brito-Tigerina, Clinical Care Coordinator)

### **TACHC Clinical Affairs Plans for OC3**

On September 27 and 28, 2017, TACHC Clinical Affairs staff met to plan for the upcoming Optimizing Comprehensive Clinical Care (OC3) Learning Program. OC3 is an eighteen month long curriculum designed to help health centers facilitate a culture of continuous improvement and communication. OC3 faculty include TACHC staff, outside consultants and current health center staff who share their knowledge and facilitate each cohort's mastery of the concepts of access, office efficiency and team-based care. For more information contact Verne LaGrega, Interim Director of Clinical Affairs at [vlagrega@tachc.org](mailto:vlagrega@tachc.org)

### **Regina Rogoff, CEO, People's Community Clinic Receives Award**

On Wednesday, September 27, Regina Rogoff, JD, Chief Executive Officer at People's Community Clinic in Austin received the Nonprofit Leadership Award from Mission Capital. Mission Capital is a local group whose vision is that complex community problems get solved, and whose mission is to multiply the impact of mission-driven people and organizations.



### **Update Your Center Profile for 2018 - Deadline is Monday!**

The project to update the TACHC Membership Directory for 2018 is officially underway! We are asking all of our members to log into the back-end of [tachc.org](http://tachc.org) via a unique link that allows for the review and update of center profiles for the Directory. If you did not receive the email containing your link, please email Corinne Medina at [cmolina@tachc.org](mailto:cmolina@tachc.org). Please review and update your records timely and thoroughly, as the directory will be available to all TACHC members and on [tachc.org](http://tachc.org). The deadline to complete your update is Monday, October 2nd!

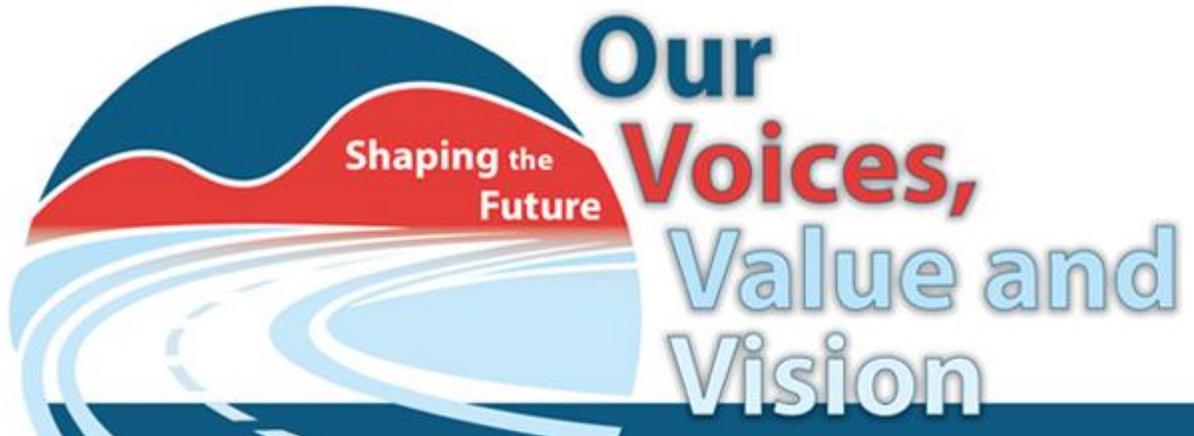
### **TACHC Employee Anniversaries**

Happy "TACHCiversary" to the following:

- Maria Tamez since September 4, 2007
- Courtney Weaver since September 22, 2014

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **TACHC Annual Conference • October 29-November 1, 2017 La Cantera Resort & Spa • San Antonio, Texas**

**Register Now! Early Bird Registration Deadline is Oct. 13!**

#### **13th Annual Texas Health Literacy Conference**

The conference, held October 12-13 in San Antonio, is geared towards health care organizations (and their providers and staff) working with patients who are living in poverty. This conference will be covering health literacy in health insurance, LGBT, youth, older adults and mental health populations/communities via 90 or 120 minute break out sessions. For more information, please visit [www.SAHealthLiteracy.com](http://www.SAHealthLiteracy.com) or contact Kate Martin at [Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu).

#### **GROUP PURCHASING**

##### **HRSA/OPA's New Information System is Live**

The registration component of the 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (OPAIS) is now available for all stakeholder use at (<https://340bopais.hrsa.gov>). The registration component of the 340B OPAIS enhances the functionality and security of the system for both manufacturers and covered entities. The system also increases the integrity and effective use of 340B stakeholder information.

What You Should Do in Preparation for Accessing 340B OPAIS:

1. Review the 340B OPAIS Educational Resource page for "What's New" Information, Recorded Webinars, Recorded Educational Series, 340B OPAIS FAQ's, and 340B OPAIS Public User Guides ([340B OPAIS Public User Guide](#))
2. Create a 340B User Account ([Create a User Account](#))
3. Log In and Manage your 340B OPAIS records
4. Be aware that previously saved 340B Database links will not function

Contact [Lynn Ford](#) for more information.

#### **Request for Information on 340B/Pharmacy**

The 340B pharmacy program is under a microscope at the federal level and in the theme of being pro-active, NACHC has asked for two pieces of information:

1. Brief examples of how your health center uses the 340B savings to expand services to your patients and communities. For example: expanding dental services or underwriting sliding fee discounts or adding evening and weekend hours. The documenting of these services as an internal document is an excellent idea if you are ever asked what you do with these savings.

- Information on why it is critical for your health center to be able to contract with multiple retail pharmacies. Please forward the examples and information to [Lynn Ford](#).

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## **POLICY**

**[Do Not Relent Until the Health Center Funding Cliff is Fixed \(see above\)](#)**

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## **GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

### **2016 Health Center Program Data Now Available**

HRSA has released the 2016 UDS information. Data shows the HRSA funded health centers served nearly 26 million people – 1 in 12 nationwide – in 2016. In Texas, a total of 1,328,406 patients accessed care through a health center or a look-alike center. Almost all (99.6%) health centers nationally demonstrated improvement on one or more clinical quality measures. [View the Health Center Data & Reporting Here](#).

### **Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?**

If you would like to request a Letter of Support, signed by TACHC Executive Director, José Camacho, please email [Corinne Medina](#) along with the project abstract. Once the request and abstract have been received, please allow 2-3 business days for turnaround.

### **Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?**

If you haven't heard, TACHC recently began offering a Nurse Advice Line through the Group Purchasing program. Following Schmitt-Thompson support protocols, a registered nurse, licensed in the state of Texas, will triage callers when your center doors are closed. This after-hours support service is helping centers significantly alleviate their on-call provider schedules. For some, the nurse advice line is replacing it completely. The service is available 24/7/365, and includes free translation services and unlimited calls. If you would like additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

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## **OUTREACH**

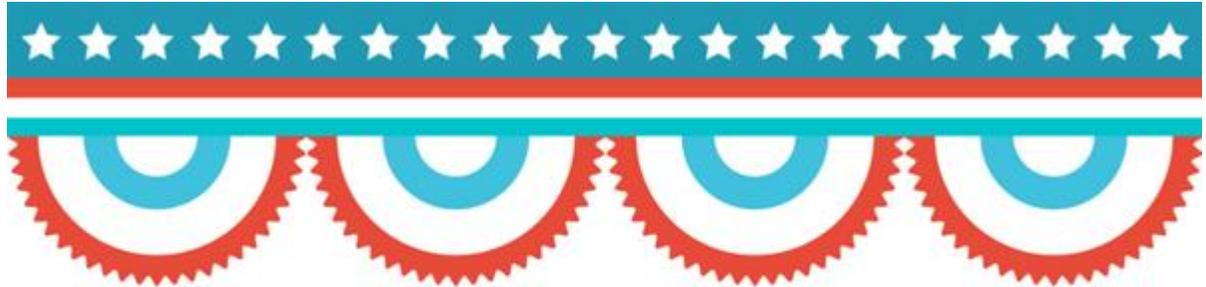
**[Outreach & Enrollment Conference in Austin a Success!](#)**



Above: Julian Johannesen (NonProfit VOTE), RexAnne Shotwell (TACHC) and Daniel Del Toro (Centro San Vicente Health Center)

The 5th TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Conference: My Texas My Health<sup>SM</sup> Together Towards Tomorrow took place on September 27-28 in Austin and was a great success. The conference focused on the latest health care policies at both the federal and state levels and what that means for outreach and enrollment activities in

health centers. Health center staff learned about messages and strategies to respond to any changes as well as immigration issues, outreach to Veterans, programs available for women's health and selecting and comparing Marketplace health plans. [You can view photos of the event here.](#)



## Voter Registration Support Services

### Does Your Center Conduct Voter Registration Activities?

Voter registration is a support service that health centers can offer patients to assist them to become more involved in their communities and civically engaged. TACHC offers training and support to help your center get started and tools and resources to help centers already involved continue these efforts. For more information on how your center can participate and/or to update TACHC with your dedicated health center voter registration staff to receive ongoing support and communication, contact RexAnn Shotwell, TACHC Voter Registration Project Coordinator, [rshotwell@tachc.org](mailto:rshotwell@tachc.org), 512-329-5959

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### CLINICAL



Centering®

### Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings

**Basic Facilitation Workshop** October 28-29, 2017

The Basic Facilitation Workshop will be held at CommuniCare Health Centers in San Antonio prior to the start of the Annual Conference.

#### How to Participate:

- Health centers interested in implementing Centering groups must complete the [Readiness Assessment from the CHI website](#).
- **Space for the Basic Facilitation Training is limited, therefore health centers will need to complete the BFT registration form.** Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis and approval will be determined based on the results of the readiness assessment and whether the health center is registered/attends all three parts of the Virtual Information Seminar.

- For any questions, please contact [Ana Sierra](#).

### **Transforming Health Centers into Adolescent-Centered Medical Homes Webinar**

A webinar on Transforming Health Centers into Adolescent-Centered Medical Homes will be presented by the School-Based Health Alliance, a BPHC-funded NCA on Friday, Oct. 6, from 12:00 – 1:00 PM.CST [Register here](#)

### **New National Report Focuses on Behavioral Health, Including Opioid Misuse**

SAMHSA recently released the latest findings from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which provides estimates on substance use and mental health in the United States, including the misuse of opioids. [View the report.](#)

### **Community Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation for Intensive Lifestyle Interventions for Patients with Type 2 Diabetes**

The Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends intensive lifestyle interventions for patients with type 2 diabetes to improve glycemic control and reduce risk factors for cardiovascular disease. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **Advancing PrEP in Practice: Practical Strategies for Everyday Challenges CE Course**

Medical staff has an opportunity to learn about PrEP and earn CMEs. See below for the link and target audience/goal statement, and share with colleagues you believe would be interested. [Click Here to Access the Online Course.](#) This activity is intended for primary care physicians, ID/HIV specialists, and public health and preventive medicine specialists with the goal to improve recognition among primary care providers of patients who could benefit from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications.

### **2017 Uniform Data System (UDS) Manual is Now Available**

The 2017 manual describes the annual UDS reporting requirements for all health centers that receive federal award funds (grantees) as well as for look-alikes under the Health Center Program. This comprehensive guide helps health centers understand the framework of reporting requirements, including data submissions on patients, operations, and clinical performance. The manual provides: An introduction and overview of the UDS; Instructions for completing each of the tables; and Information on how to submit the data through HRSA's EHB. Find the 2017 UDS Manual on the [UDS Resources](#) page.

## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

### **Assessment of Health Professionals**

With the support of HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is fielding a short assessment to gather information on health centers' current experiences with health professions training activities in order to identify potential areas for resources, training, and technical assistance. This assessment takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and should be completed by all health centers regardless of whether or not they are currently training health professions students or residents. Please preview the questions and complete the [assessment online](#). Contact [Allison Abayasekara](#) VP, Training & Programs. Phone: 703-562-8820

### **Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?**

Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help recruit for? [Complete the TACHC online position profile](#). Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) for more information.

Did you know that the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up is available to ALL TACHC members and ALL your staff? [Share this link with your health center staff to sign up for the Wrap!](#)

Don't miss out. Follow TACHC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Send **NEWS** about your health center to be considered for inclusion in the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up to TACHC Wrap Editor [Brom Hoban](#).

Sign up to receive the [TACHC Weekly Wrap Up!](#)

TACHC · United States

This email was sent to [aalvarez@tachc.org](mailto:aalvarez@tachc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).