



**TACHC**  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

**Volume: 9 Issue: 40**

**October 6, 2017**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**NEWS**

**Register Now for the TACHC Annual Conference: Early Bird Registration Deadline is Oct. 13!**

Health Center Funding Cliff: Our Efforts to Keep the Pressure up are Working

Gateway Community Health Center Meets with Deputy State Director of Senator Cruz's Office

Update Your Center Profile for 2018!

Hurricane Harvey Recovery Effort Photos Needed

TACHC Member Spotlight: Veronica Brown

TACHC Employee Anniversaries

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

13th Annual Texas Health Literacy Conference

**GROUP PURCHASING**

HRSA/OPA's New Information System is Live

**POLICY**

Health Center Funding Cliff

**GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?

Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?

**CLINICAL**

Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings

New National Report Focuses on Behavioral Health, Including Opioid Misuse

2017 Uniform Data System (UDS) Manual is Now Available

**RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

Assessment of Health Professionals

Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?

**NEWS**



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

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

**Don't Miss Ray Jorgensen, CPC, Co-founder, CEO, PMG, Inc. at the TACHC Annual Conference:**

**Why CHC Coding Matters...Clinical Impact on Future Compensation (CE)**

Tuesday, October 31 • 8:30–10:00 a.m.

Value-based care and quality payment models have made coding an integral part of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and Quality Payment Program (QPP). While CHCs are eligible but not obligated to report via QPP and penalties for 2017 data do not impact CHC PPS payments, CHC exclusion won't last forever. Learning how current CHC coding/billing patterns impact how your organization individually and CHCs collectively are perceived may change the historic CHC tune of "coding does not matter." Attendees will gain a better understanding of the evolution and the future of the value-based care national landscape including the insurance industry perspective. They will also leave with tools that allow them to execute an effective 'top-down' QPP game plan including ICD-10 coding specifics, and physician documentation improvement.



**Learning Objectives:**

1. Discuss the past and future implications of value-based care models.
2. Describe the importance of clinical coding in fiscal success as we move towards QPP.
3. Identify a 'top-down' education plan to ensure success in the face of QPP.

**Back to Top**

**Health Center Funding Cliff: Our Efforts to Keep the Pressure up are Working**

Our efforts to keep the pressure up are working...On October 4 the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed the **CHAMPION Act** out of Committee. This bill extends federal funding for two years for important public health priorities, including Community Health Centers, the National Health Service Corps, and Teaching

Health Center Graduate Medical Education. While this is an important step forward, there is much work to be done before the cliff is fixed. There is no Senate companion at the moment, and the House bill must first pass the House floor. TACHC will be monitoring this legislation closely and will send action alerts as we receive more information.

**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...**

**Take Action**



**Pictured from left to right: Daniel Cabrera, RN, Director of Clinical Operations; Mery Cortes, MD, Chief Medical Officer; Claudia Cavazos, DDS, MPH, Chief Dental Officer; Elmo Lopez, Jr., CEO; Casandra Garcia Meade, Deputy State Director and South Texas Regional Director for US Senator Ted Cruz; Laura A. McCoy, Chief Financial Officer; and Oscar J. Buitron, Chief Operating Officer**

### **Gateway Community Health Center Meets with Deputy State Director of Senator Cruz's Office**

Last week, Gateway Community Health Center received a visit from Casandra Garcia Meade from Sen. Ted Cruz's office. Garcia Meade is the Deputy State Director and South Texas Regional Director for US Senator Ted Cruz. She spent the whole morning with staff at Gateway and toured the clinic. They discussed the funding cliff, FQHC's in general and what TACHC is doing to help.

### **Update Your Center Profile for 2018!**

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 [cmedina@tachc.org](mailto:cmedina@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).

### **Hurricane Harvey Recovery Effort Photos Needed**

If you have any photos relating to the recovery effort following Hurricane Harvey, please share them with us here at TACHC. Email Communications Director [Brom Hoban](#)

### **Spotlight on Veronica Brown, Associate Director of Communications at Lone Star Circle of Care**

Although Lone Star Circle of Care's Veronica Brown has a background in theology and a degree in criminal justice, she's first and foremost a communicator. "At Lone Star Circle of Care, I'm responsible for planning, development and execution of our communications initiative," said Brown, who is based at Lone Star's Georgetown center. "I have a background in business administration and communications. I'm a communicator at my core." [Read the full story here.](#)



### **TACHC Employee Anniversaries**

Happy "TACHCiversary" to the following:

- José E. Camacho- TACHC's Executive Director since 10/1/1984
- Lisa Ware since 10/24/2016

[Back to Top](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **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).

#### **TACHC Annual Conference • October 29-November 1, 2017 ([See Above](#))**

### **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.

[Back to Top](#)

## POLICY

[Health Center Funding Cliff \(see above\)](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

### 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](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## 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](#).**

### 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.](#)

### 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](#).