



**TACHC**  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

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**NEWS**



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

***Four Reasons You Can't Miss This Conference***

- Great networking opportunities
- Five expert-led tracks
  - Workforce/Staff Engagement
  - Quality
  - Partnerships
  - Pharmacy
  - Cost Effectiveness
- Up to 20.25 contact hours of CE credit (subject to change)
- 53 Exhibitors

**Register Now!** for the TACHC 34th Annual Conference



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

**REGISTER**

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## Funding Cliff Update

A couple weeks ago, the House Energy and Commerce Committee took a crucial first step to fix the health center funding cliff by passing The CHAMPION Act of 2017, which funds health centers, National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program for two years.

But this is just that, the first step on a long road to securing funding for these programs. The bill has yet to pass the House of Representatives, and faces an uphill battle in the Senate because of how the legislation pays for the programs. A two year funding solution is also less than ideal and falls short of a more stable long-term solution. You have worked hard to get us here. Health center staff, leadership, supporters, and patients have made thousands of phone calls, dozens of meetings, press interviews, and even took time out to fly to Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress. Please DO NOT GIVE UP NOW!!! This funding issue is going to be fixed, but the big question is when. As of today, the House has 14 working days left before Thanksgiving; the Senate has 21 working days left. We must keep the pressure on to fix the cliff as soon as possible.

### Actions we need you to take:

- **Engage your board members.** Members of Congress have heard a lot from health center leaders and staff. It's time for them to hear from influential community members, patients, and other leaders.
- **Have your board members meet with district staff.** One of our Senator's, Senator Cornyn, has long been supportive of health centers. However, our other Senator has yet to indicate his support. Although thousands of calls have come into their offices, and health center staff have met with both offices in Washington and locally in Texas, Senator Cornyn has been quiet on taking direct public action to move health center funding forward. As a leader in the Senate, Sen. Cornyn's perspective holds a lot of weight. We need Sen. Cornyn's staff to hear from scores of community members and leaders across the state clambering for a fix to the funding cliff now to make it an urgent priority in the Senate. Senator Cruz needs to understand the importance of health centers.

Use the links below for office locations, talking points and hand outs:

- [TACHC Statewide Fact Sheet](#)
- [NACHC Funding Cliff Infographic](#)
- [Senator Cornyn Offices](#)
- [Senator Cruz Offices](#)
- [Talking points and Background for Cornyn Meetings](#)
- [Talking Points and Background for Cruz Meetings](#)
- **Please report back to TACHC.** We are keeping track of the offices that are getting visits and how many different board members and health centers our Senators are hearing from or meeting with. Let us know when meetings are scheduled, and what the outcomes were. Email Mimi Garcia at [mgarcia@tachc.org](mailto:mgarcia@tachc.org), Courtney Weaver at [cweaver@tachc.org](mailto:cweaver@tachc.org), or Mary Allen at [mallen@tachc.org](mailto:mallen@tachc.org).
- **Continue asking House members to cosponsor the CHIME Act:** The CHIME Act sends a message that long term, secure funding for health centers is a priority. As of this week 201 members of the House have cosponsored the CHIME Act – just 17 members away from a majority of the House. Fourteen Texas House members have co-sponsored the act. While we know that the CHIME Act will not be the final bill that will advance health center funding, we also know that it is a powerful public symbol for Congress to declare their public support for long-term health center funding and modest increases over the next five years. [View the Texas House members have cosponsored the CHIME Act here.](#)

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### **Gieger-Gibson's Emerging Leader Awards: Consider Nominating One of Your Emerging Leaders**

[Click here to view a flyer](#) with information regarding the nominations for Gieger-Gibson's Emerging Leader Awards. Please consider nominating one of your staff.

### **Gateway Community Health Center Recently Launched Capital Campaign for Fifth Clinic in North Laredo**

Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., has embarked on a Capital Campaign to build a full-service clinic in North Laredo. [Here is some media coverage of their campaign.](#)

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**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

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### **POLICY**

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

### **OUTREACH**

#### **Election Day is Coming. Early Voting Begins October 23, 2017- November 03, 2017**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 is an important statewide election for Texas Constitutional Amendments. Remember, during early voting you can vote at any location close to where you live or work as long as it's in your county of residence. Polls are open for Election Day Tuesday November 7, 2017. If you need help finding your poll, use our state's [poll finder](#) or call your local election office.



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## 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](#).

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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](#).**

### Centering Implementation Grants

**CHI** has developed a program offering technical assistance and implementation services to 130 eligible sites - primarily in FQHCs and community health centers - eliminating the financial barrier to those in resource-limited communities. These grants will be awarded in several waves over two years beginning in January 2018. For more information on the grant, [please visit CHI's site announcement](#). The first informational webinar about the grant will be **TODAY October 20th 12:00 -1 p.m. (CST)**.

### FREE: IHI Online Course Incorporating Mindfulness into Clinical Practice

**IHI Open School online courses** are multimedia learning modules that offer continuing education credits and teach practical skills to improve health care quality and safety. For a limited time, they're inviting everyone to take their newest course, **[PFC 103: Incorporating Mindfulness into Clinical Practice](#)**, for free. Why take this

course? Practicing mindfulness — assuming an aware, nonjudgmental, present state of mind — not only enhances quality and safety for patients, it can also foster joy in work and help prevent burnout. In addition to individual learning, the IHI Open School offers ways for institutional faculty and organizational leaders to [bring essential training in quality and safety to students and staff](#).

### **New Clinical Directors Training**

Oklahoma Primary Care Association (OKPCA) is excited to partner with NACHC to host the New Clinical Directors Training in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma December 8-9, 2017. While the content of this training is designed for *new* Clinical/Medical Directors, it is open to *ALL* Clinical/Medical Directors. For more information about the training, please visit [OKPCA's website](#). There is a limited number of seats available. [REGISTER](#).

### **Implementing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder in Rural Primary Care--Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Environmental Scan**

A [new AHRQ report](#) examines factors that may limit access to MAT for opioid use disorder (OUD) in rural primary care settings. The two-volume report includes nearly 250 tools and resources to support the delivery of MAT, and builds on AHRQ's previous work related to OUD by further exploring the unique factors associated with implementing MAT in rural primary care settings.

### **Invitation to Apply: A Guided Implementation of Community Health Worker Interventions to Address Chronic Disease**

MHP Salud, a BPHC-funded NCA, invites all health centers to [apply to receive in-depth training and technical assistance](#) to start or strengthen a community health worker program to address diabetes or hypertension. [Contact Bonnie Hough](#) with questions not answered by the [website](#). The request for proposal term concludes on Thursday, Nov. 30.

### **Clinical Best Practices for Improving the Oral Health of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders Webinar**

BHW, BPHC, and SAMHSA are hosting a webinar that will identify ways that oral health and behavioral health professionals and safety net health care systems can integrate oral health into the care of patients with substance use disorders. The webinar is Thursday, Nov. 16, 1-2:30 p.m. CST [View the webinar the day of the session](#)

### **Hurricane Harvey Information for Providers**

Texas Health and Human Services has shared and updated the [Hurricane Harvey Information for Providers FAQ](#). Additional resources can also be found [here](#).

## **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](#).