



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Volume: 9 Issue: 44

November 3, 2017

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NEWS

TACHC 34th Annual Conference Wraps up With Motivational Momentum

All told, close to 400 people (counting exhibitors and speakers) gathered at La Cantera Resort & Spa in San Antonio for the TACHC 34th Annual Conference from October 29-November 1. True to the theme: Our Voices, Value and Vision, the sessions offered a wealth of knowledge on those subjects for community health center

staff to take home and use within their centers and clinics. Additionally, highlights included the Legislative Hero Award and Community Health Center Hero Awards, which were presented to Texas legislators who make outstanding contributions to support access to health care services on behalf of Texas Community Health Centers. Those included:

- Legislative Hero Award: Rep. J. D. Sheffield
- Community Health Center Hero Award: Dr. John Zerwas
- Community Health Center Hero Award: Rep. Richard Peña Raymond
- Legislator Chief of Staff Awards: Amanda Tollett, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. J. D. Sheffield; Nelda Hunter, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. John Zerwas; and Kyle Mauro, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Richard Peña Raymond ([See photos here](#))
- President's Award: Roland Goertz

The awards were followed by a [video tribute](#) to all of those who responded to help our health centers recover from Hurricane Harvey, the worst storm to hit Texas in more than a decade. The storm caused more than \$180 billion in damage, displacing thousands of Texans, and impacting communities across 300 miles of Texas. Health centers across Texas and across the country rose to the call to help each other. From California to New York, across Texas, and as far away as Canada, we saw communities pull together to rescue survivors, provide treatment, coordinate disaster response, and now work on the long effort of recovery.



The conference wrapped up with a great motivational session called Motivate! Activating the Motivational System, featuring University of Texas cognitive psychologists, Dr. Bob Duke and Dr. Art Markman, along with Rebecca McInroy (*pictured above*) of KUT 90.5 Austin from the radio show "[2 Guys on Your Head](#)." A recording of their session, along with the other TACHC sessions will be available to TACHC members later this month. Stay tuned!

[Click here to view all conference photos!](#)

Funding Cliff Update

The extension of the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) will be voted on today in the House, and marks an important step forward toward resolution of the crisis facing millions of vulnerable patients due to the expiration of the CHCF nearly a month ago. The House legislation extends critical funding for the CHCF, as well as for important workforce programs like the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program, for two additional years. A two-year extension will begin to restore certainty around future investment and will allow the nation's more than 1,400 CHC organizations to focus on doing what they do best: providing high-quality care to more than 27 million patients in thousands of communities nationwide. As the medical home for more than 8 million children in rural and underserved communities nationwide, Health Centers also support the extension for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) included in the bill. Stay tuned to TACHC communications for updates...Support efforts to fix the cliff by [sending your Members of Congress a message asking them to co-sponsor the CHIME Act](#). Additionally, we encourage the use of NACHC's [social media tools](#) available on the Health Center Advocacy

Network's website. For more information visit: hcadvocacy.org/makethecase.

Happy TACHCiversary to the Following:

Lee Davila, November 13, 17 years at TACHC, Lisa Allen, November 1st, 16 years at TACHC and RexAnn Shotwell, November 16, 5 years at TACHC. Congratulations to all of you, and TACHC thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

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Harvey Disaster Relief Grant Applications: UPDATE

The first checks from the Harvey Donation Fund have gone out to eligible applications to help with unexpected and unfunded costs CHC staff had due to flooding, wind damage, loss of power, evacuation and loss of income in their households. Due to an unexpected volume of submissions, TACHC is still reviewing applications and will likely do so through next week. TACHC will continue to work to fund eligible applications in first come, first served order if further funds are donated for this purpose. We thank you for your patience.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CMS Emergency Preparedness Final Rule - Are You Ready?

This Webinar featuring Alexander Lipovtsev is set for Tuesday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. and will overview the main requirements for FQHCs when it comes to the CMS EP Rule and provide some resources to facilitate implementation. [Register here](#).

UDS Training

UDS Training is set for December 7 at the Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 Hotel Drive, in Austin. [Click here for information](#).

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

ACA Sign-Up Nov. 1 - Dec. 15! #GETCOVERED

NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?

Most people get financial help to pay for coverage!

Sign up for 2018 health insurance
Nov. 1 - Dec. 15

Get ready to enroll at Healthcare.gov!

Open Enrollment is Here

The [Health Insurance Marketplace](#) opened its doors this week and health center outreach and enrollment staff are ready to help consumers enroll. This year, shoppers only have 45 days to enroll, so it is important to remind them that financial assistance and savings on co-pays and deductibles is still available to those who qualify. Insurance premiums may be higher this year, but financial assistance will help shield the increase in costs so help spread the word that [free enrollment assistance](#) is available at your local community health center.

Election Day is Tuesday November 7, 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

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorated Across HHS

Approximately one in every four women in the U.S. and one in seven men experiences "intimate partner violence," according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Included are physical and sexual violence, stalking, and verbal and mental abuse. HRSA's Office of Women's Health recently launched The HRSA Strategy to Address Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), an agency-wide initiative to integrate IPV screening and prevention into key programs through coordinated action and activities spanning from 2017-2020. Download [The HRSA Strategy to Address IPV](#).

- Read HHS OWH's Blog Post – [Intimate Partner Violence: A Community Response Model](#)
- Access NLM's [Patient Resources on Domestic Violence in Multiple Languages](#).

Implementing Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Rural Primary Care:

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has published a two-volume environmental scan on implementing medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in rural primary care. Volume 1 describes the significant challenges and barriers that may limit access to MAT services in rural primary care settings, including those related to workforce, stigma, logistics, financing, and policy. The report also highlights essential characteristics of effective MAT practices and identifies three innovative models of care that may help overcome challenges to implementing MAT services in rural primary care settings. Volume 2 includes nearly 250 tools and resources available to providers, patients, and communities to help implement MAT in rural primary care settings (and other settings). The tools have been categorized by topic and address the full spectrum of needs for patients with or at risk for OUD, including prevention, training and education, treatment, and overdose. To learn more and download the two volumes, please [click here](#).

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](#).

2017 Uniform Data System (UDS) Manual Re-Released

HRSA has released the [508-compliant, formatted version of the UDS manual](#). While the format varies, the content matches the version of the manual released on Aug. 31. 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. Health center personnel use the manual—a comprehensive guide to the framework of UDS reporting requirements, including data submissions on patients, operations, and clinical performance—as a reference when preparing their center's UDS report. The 2017 UDS Manual is available on the UDS Resources page. Access the [2017 Clinical Performance Requirements Crosswalk](#) and [Program Assistance Letter](#) 2017-02 for more information on changes to the 2017 UDS that will be reported by Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes by Feb. 15, 2018.

The Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI) Implementation Grants Available

CHI has launched an aggressive plan to expand access to the centering model of group health care in communities where group care can have the greatest impact. With this expansion, CHI has developed a program offering technical assistance and implementation services to 130 eligible sites – primarily in health centers – eliminating the financial barrier to those in resource-limited communities. CHI will award these grants in several waves over two years beginning in Jan. 2018. [Learn more and see application information](#).

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](#).
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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!](#)

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