



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Funding Cliff Update: Fix to Funding Cliff Tied to Passage of CHIP Extension and Other “Health Extenders”

Just one of the many issues facing Congress in December is the need to extend funding (or, in certain cases, prevent scheduled cuts) to a number of popular, important health programs. Among these is the extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, which covers nearly 9 million children. Of most interest to health center advocates is the extension of the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF), which accounts for

more than 70% of federal grant funding for health centers, and which, like CHIP, expired on October 1. Without action to extend the fund this month, health centers will begin seeing restricted funds as soon as January 1. CHIP and the CHCF are the two biggest items (in dollar terms) on a much longer list of these so-called “health extenders.” That list includes other [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) programs like the [National Health Service Corps](#) and the [Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education program](#), extension of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital funding for hospitals, funding for home-visiting programs and a slew of Medicare related items. The House passed an extension of most of these items as part of H.R. 3922, the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act in October, though that vote broke down largely along party lines due to disagreement over how to pay for the extensions. That disagreement has led to inaction in the Senate, where 60 votes – and thus a more bipartisan consensus – are needed for passage.

While the endgame and timing remains unclear, the good news is the progress in the overall negotiation over these health extenders. And, without question, an enormous part of what has caused this progress is massive advocacy produced by Advocates like you.

Today, we urge Health Center Advocates to [stay engaged and contact your Senate offices!](#) The message remains simple - ask your Senators to act immediately to fix the Health Centers Funding Cliff, you can ask them to include the Health Center Cliff fix as a part of the earliest available legislative vehicle, which right now appears to be the Continuing Resolution (CR) that must pass by December 8.

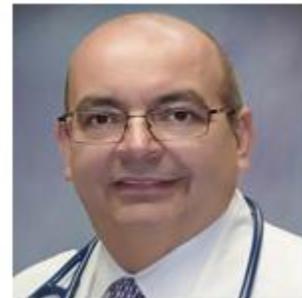
Take Action

TACHC 34th Annual Conference Audio Recordings Now Available

If you were not able to attend the TACHC 34th Annual Conference, missed a session, or simply want to review what you learned, you’re in luck! The TACHC 34th Annual Conference session audio recordings are now available online in a format paired with the PowerPoint presentations. The cost for the complete set is \$75 for TACHC members, and \$100 for Non-TACHC FQHC members. [CLICK HERE](#) to order yours today!

Gateway Community Health Center Welcomes Diego F. Menchaca, MD

Gateway Community Health Center is pleased to welcome Diego F. Menchaca, MD, as a full time family medicine physician for children and adults at Central Clinic. Dr. Menchaca was born and raised in Laredo and is glad to be joining the team. Dr. Menchaca attended Universidad de Monterrey- Division Ciencias de la Salud and did his residency in Family Practice at the Methodist Medical Center of Illinois. He has over 30 years of medical experience starting with the Louisiana State Penitentiary and an Emergency Physician at the Methodist Medical Center of Illinois. Elmo Lopez, Jr., CEO says, “On behalf of the Gateway Board of Directors, administration, and staff, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Dr. Diego Menchaca to Gateway Community Health Center. Dr. Menchaca is one of Laredo’s leading physicians and has provided quality and safe care for patients in his private practice for many years. He will now join Gateway Clinic and continue to provide Quality Care for Everyone.” Dr. Menchaca will officially start seeing patients on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.



Dr. Beverly Foster DDS, MHA, CHCEF Joins NNOHA Board of Directors

Congratulations to Beverly M. Foster, DDS, MHA, CHCEF – Dental Director at Coastal Health & Wellness. Beverly was recently been selected to the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) Board of Directors at the 2017 conference in San Diego.



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Legislative Review

85th Legislative Session Wrap-Up: Guide for Community Health Centers Available

If you did not obtain a copy of the TACHC Legislative Review 85th Legislative Session Wrap-Up: Guide for Community Health Centers at the recent TACHC Annual Conference, [you can access the PDF here!](#) The newsletter-style document focuses legislation concerning funding for priority programs and expanding access to health care coverage for Texans and outlines what happened in each priority area. You'll also find summaries of additional legislation TACHC followed throughout the regular session and special session that will have an impact on health centers and the health care environment in Texas. [View the Legislative Wrap-Up Here!](#)

Happy TACHCiversary to the Following:

Alfredo Garcia, December 1, one year at TACHC. Congratulations, and TACHC thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

UDS Training



UDS Training is set for December 7 at the Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 Hotel Drive, in Austin.

- [Click here for information](#)
- [Download agenda here](#)

HRSA Food Insecurity Webinar

A HRSA Webinar titled: Taking a Look at Food Insecurity within a FQHC Population is set for December 7 at 10:30 a.m. CST.

- [See details here](#)
- [Download agenda here](#)

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POLICY

Family Planning and Healthcare Resources

HHSC has developed outreach materials for healthcare providers and other stakeholders to help educate women about the state's women's health programs. Available materials include general program information and health topic fact sheets and can be ordered [here](#). Additionally, HHSC has created a [library](#) of social media videos for organizations to share on their own social media platforms. For more information, please email mallen@tachc.org

Health Center Funding Cliff (see above)

OUTREACH

Marketplace Weekly Enrollment Snapshot (Week Four)

In [week four](#) of open enrollment, 504,181 consumers selected a plan in the Marketplace totaling over 2.7 million plan selections since open enrollment began. Since November 1, enrollment sign-ups in Texas are at 334,328 up 52% from last year's enrollment numbers during this time. Open enrollment ends December 15.

[Read the related story here.](#)



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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

MHP Salud Invites Health Centers to Participate in Programs

MHP Salud is inviting all health centers to participate in a Guided Implementation of either the Road to Health (diabetes prevention and management) or Su Corazon, Su Vida (hypertension management & heart health) Toolkits. MHP Salud's [RFP](#) is currently open to any health centers now through December 8.

Free Webcast: Diabetes Quality Improvement Talks: Foundation of Change

On Tuesday, December 5, from 1:00 PM-2:30 PM CST, the BPHC is launching a series of interactive webinars aimed at quality improvement of diabetes care at HRSA-supported health centers. We invite health centers and Health Center Program strategic partners to join us to learn more about BPHC's diabetes quality improvement strategy and hear promising practices from health centers. [Join the webinar the day of the session](#) then Call-In: 888-603-9609 and use Passcode: 818 4117. CME/CE will be available.

Resources from HITEQ Available for Improving Diabetes Outcomes

Explore this diabetes dedicated page for guidance on: quality improvement approach, patient-specific activities, population-oriented activities, and foundational work that support high-quality diabetes care. [Explore tools and resources. Additional resources 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 are a limited number of seats available. [REGISTER](#).

Resources for Immediate Disaster Behavioral Health Response

[Follow this link](#) for some useful SAMHSA resources for disaster behavioral health issues for victims and for First Responders on topics including: Mass Violence and Trauma-Specific Information, General Disaster Response and Recovery Information, Resources for Faith-Based Communities and Spiritual Leaders, Resources for Children, Youth, Parents and Other Caregivers, and Schools, Resources for College Students, Resources Focused on People With Disabilities, Resources Focused on Substance Use Concerns, Resources for Disaster Responders, Additional Resource for Acute Needs

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!**

TACHC - United States

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