



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up Volume: 9 Issue: 6

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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes

Community Health Center Day at the Texas Capitol Really Made an Impression!
Representative King's Letter of Support to Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn
Interactive Open House at Center for Adolescent Health at People's Community Clinic

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Open for Medicare and Texas Medicaid FQHC Cost Reporting Webcast!
TACHC HIT Summit!

GROUP PURCHASING

340B "Mega-Guidance" Withdrawn
340B Annual Recertification

POLICY

Bill of the Week: Friday, February 10, 2017
P&I Feedback Forms
Federally Mandated Provider Enrollment for Federally Qualified Health Centers Frequently Asked Questions

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

2016 Update to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to HRSA UDS Sealant Measures
Changes to Refugee Medical Assistance Program
2016 UDS Reports Due Soon: Timeline and Resources

CLINICAL

2017 Recommended Immunization Schedules Available
Clarification Made to Joint Commission "Observers" Standard
American Heart Month 2017: Change Starts with a Heart-to-Heart

NEWS

We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes

Staff at TACHC are hard at work preparing for the legislative session, and we want to tell your story! Stories resonate with people, and are one of the most compelling ways to communicate. We are seeking anecdotes and success stories that highlight the quality care that you provide every day.

We want to hear your success stories that highlight integrated services, care coordination, and excellent clinical outcomes. Stories that include patient names and pictures are the best, but make sure to get patient consent before sending personal information. However, we would love to hear anonymous stories as well. Please help TACHC to educate policymakers about the outstanding work that you are doing and

email [Brom Hoban](#) or [Corinne Medina](#) with your best stories!

Community Health Center Day at the Texas Capitol Really Made an Impression!

Mindy Speck and Cam Kleibrink of Frontera Healthcare, along with Charlie Robitaille and Sherry Hill of AccelHealth visited with Rep. J.D. Sheffield, District 59. [Take a look at what Rep. Sheffield had to say about Community Health Centers.](#)

Henry Salas and Rafael De La Paz of Community Health Centers of South Central Texas visited with Rep. John P. Cyrier, District 17 at the Capitol on January 30 during TACHC's Policy & Issues Forum. [Watch this brief video to hear Rep. Cyrier's take on the impact of our work.](#)

TACHC President Mike Campbell, La Esperanza Clinic, Inc., talks about [reaching Texas legislators at the Capitol](#) during TACHC's Policy & Issues Forum.

Representative King's Letter of Support to Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn

Your voices are heard! At TACHC's Policy & Issues Forum last week, community health center leaders visited the Capitol, and had a chance to meet with legislators in the House and Senate. Leaders from Community Health Development, Inc.; Gateway Community Health Center, Inc.; South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc.; and Vida y Salud Health Systems, Inc. met with Rep. Tracy King, District 80 to engage him on the health center legislative agenda—specifically how health centers face a loss of up to 70% of federal (statutory) funds when the Health Center Trust Fund expires on September 31, 2017.

As a result, Rep. King sent a [letter to U.S. Senators for Texas Ted Cruz and John Cornyn](#), urging them to support continued Medicaid funding of health centers.

Interactive Open House at Center for Adolescent Health at People's Community Clinic

On February 22 at 6:00pm, head over to [People's Community Clinic](#) (PCC North) for an interactive open house. Attendees will learn about health issues facing adolescents and young adults, network with staff and new providers and check out the beautiful mural created by teen artists. Please RSVP to [Kitty Ho](#) before February 15 or contact [Ann Marie Wilke](#) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Open for Medicare and Texas Medicaid FQHC Cost Reporting Webcast!

The Medicare FQHC cost report and the Texas Medicaid crosswalk are documents that are oftentimes confusing and misunderstood by health center management teams. This FREE webcast, held on February 24 at 9:00am, will help participants gain a better understanding of the new Medicare FQHC cost report form (Form CMS-224-14) released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) during April 2016. In addition, participants will gain a better understanding of the Texas Medicaid FQHC crosswalk. It is important for health center management teams to understand the cost reporting issues of significance that drive the calculation of this crosswalk and to understand the scope change process in the state of Texas. To register, please visit the [TACHC Events Page](#).

TACHC HIT Summit!

The TACHC HIT Summit is March 1-3, 2017 at the Airport Hilton in Austin, TX. The summit is open to all members and all are encouraged to attend. HCCN members, as part of the grant, are authorized for up to 4 people from your center to receive up to \$150 for travel and \$150 for lodging for each member as part of attendance. The final day of the summit is set aside for EHR training on the two most member utilized EHRs; NextGen and eCW. For more information please visit the [TACHC Events Page](#) where you will find an agenda packed with important need to know topics.

GROUP PURCHASING

340B "Mega-Guidance" Withdrawn

On Monday, January 30, 2017, HRSA [withdrew its 340B Program Omnibus Guidance](#), also referred to as the "Mega-Guidance." The guidance would have addressed questions and provided clarifications for enrolled covered entities, drug manufacturers and contract pharmacies participating in the 340B Program. The withdrawal of the 340B Omnibus Guidance comes 10 days after the new federal administration's regulatory freeze that required that federal agencies not issue any new guidance and regulations, retract

guidance and regulations under review by the Office of the Federal Register and postpone released guidance and regulations that have not yet taken effect.

340B Annual Re-certification

TACHC has just learned from HRSA that as of 2/7/17 **only 53% of health centers have recertified for 340B**. There is less than 2 weeks to complete the process and failure to complete recertification by the deadline will result in health centers being removed from the 340B Program.

The CEO of each health center should have received an email from HRSA with instructions on how to complete the recertification process. If not, please let [Lynn Ford](#) know right away. Once the recertification process is complete, a confirmation email from HRSA will be sent. For more information about recertification, including a user guide, please visit the [HRSA website](#).

POLICY

Bill of the Week: Friday, February 10, 2017

Senator Schwertner of Georgetown filed a bill that would expedite the licensing process for physicians specializing in psychiatry. SB 674 directs the Texas Medical Board to create an expedited licensing process for board-certified psychiatrists who hold unrestricted licenses from other states. The license must not be canceled, suspended, or revoked and the applicant must not be under investigation or have any pending criminal charges. The medical board may establish a fee for the expedited process. Contact [Mary Allen](#) with any questions or for more information.

P&I Feedback Forms

THANK YOU to everyone who made it to the Capitol visits last week! If you have not done so already, please submit all feedback forms so that TACHC can follow-up as necessary. A link to the online evaluations can be found [Here](#).

Federally Mandated Provider Enrollment for Federally Qualified Health Centers Frequently Asked Questions

Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) has released a list of [frequently asked questions](#) regarding federally mandated provider enrollment in Medicaid for FQHCs. This document clarifies several of the issues health centers faced last year during the Medicaid enrollment process. Please reference the PDF as you continue with new enrollment/re-enrollment. For more information, please contact TACHC's Policy & Research Associate [Mary Allen](#).

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

2016 Update to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to HRSA UDS Sealant Measures

Developed under a HRSA cooperative agreement and in consultation with oral health specialists, the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) has provided an update to the frequently asked questions ([FAQ](#)) about the UDS sealant measure for children ages 6-9 years at moderate to high risk for caries. The 2016 revised FAQ answers 34 questions asked during NNOHA training and technical assistance sessions and webcasts.

Changes to Refugee Medical Assistance Program

Refugee patients received a letter from Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) stating that their HHS issued Medicaid expired 2/1/2017. With Texas HHS no longer receiving federal funding to assist refugees, The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) is taking over the program. [Andrew Merville](#) is the Texas representative for the USCRI. Please note this new assistance program **WILL NOT HAVE MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE**. Therefore, whether referring out or coming to appointments, the refugees will need to coordinate their own rides. This new program will assist with unlimited prescriptions through the [Magellan RX Program](#).

This program began 2/1/2017. Should health centers need assistance to expedite the credentialing, the contact for Unified Administrators-Point Comfort is [Brandi Peyton](#) 1-317-210-2010, x402.

UDS Reports Due Soon: Timeline and Resources

Health centers can access the Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) to report Uniform Data System (UDS) data for

calendar year 2016. All HRSA-supported health centers are required to submit complete and accurate UDS reports by February 15. Upon successful submission, your UDS Report will be assigned to a UDS Reviewer who will work with you through March to finalize your data submission. No changes will be permitted to the UDS report after March 31. It is very important that UDS reports are submitted on time and that the data is verified as accurate. The 2016 [UDS Manual and other resources](#) are available to help you complete your report. The manual includes an introduction to the UDS, instructions for completing each of the tables and information on how to submit the UDS through HRSA's EHBs. For additional support, email [UDS Help](#) or contact via Phone: 1-866-UDS-HELP (1-866-837-4357).

CLINICAL

2017 Recommended Immunization Schedules Available

In October 2016, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to approve the Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older—United States, 2017. Changes from the previous year's schedule include new or revised ACIP recommendations for influenza, human papillomavirus, hepatitis B, and meningococcal vaccines. The full ACIP recommendations for each vaccine can be found [Here](#).

Clarification Made to Joint Commission “Observers” Standard

Effective July 1, 2017, The Joint Commission has updated the definition of an observer to qualify the role of surveyor/reviewer management staff during on-site surveys and reviews. The updated definition is reflected in new language for Accreditation Participation Requirement APR.07.01.01 and Certification Participation Requirement CPR 10. [Click Here](#) for more information.

American Heart Month 2017: Change Starts with a Heart-to-Heart

Talking with your loved ones about heart disease can be awkward, but it's important. In fact, it could save a life. At the dinner table, in the car, or even via text, [Million Hearts](#) encourages having a heart-to-heart with loved ones about improving heart health as a family. Your center can help support/facilitate these conversations by sharing these messages through your communication channels.

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 [Corinne Medina](#).

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

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