



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS



Keynote speaker at HIT Summit - Dr. John Showalter, Chief Health Information Officer at University of Mississippi Medical Center delivered a keynote

HIT Summit Attracts Health Center Leaders from Around the State

TACHC's Health Information Technology (HIT) Summit attracted community health center leaders from around the state to Austin where they participated in a highly informative three-day seminar.

Dr. John Showalter, Chief Health Information Officer at University of Mississippi Medical Center set the tone with his keynote session on HIT initiatives such as using technology to improve the patient experience and the quality of care, and the use of health information technology devices and data to drive improvements in Healthcare delivery.

Repealing and Replacing the Affordable Care Act: Proposals at the Federal Level a Threat to Community Health Centers

Proposals at the federal level are calling for giving up open-ended flows of federal Medicaid money for a set "block grant" – a serious threat for community health centers. As part of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, it's being proposed that states choose between Medicaid block grants and per capita caps—neither of which are good options for community health centers, which rely heavily on Medicaid to help serve patients. We don't know the details of the soon-to-be introduced bill, but here's a great article to help you understand what's being proposed and what's at stake: [READ THE ARTICLE](#)
[More in this newsletter on ACA Repeal Here](#)

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PCMH Bootcamp • February 28,- July 17, 2017  **REGISTER NOW!**

PCMH Bootcamp

TACHC is offering a FREE PCMH Bootcamp starting Tuesday, February 28 and continuing through July. In partnership with Community Health Solutions, the Bootcamp will help health centers either attain or maintain PCMH recognition through a combination of face-to-face group learning sessions, webinars, weekly virtual office hours, and an online support portal. Space is limited to 25 health centers. To reserve your spot, contact [Verne LaGrega](#). For more information, [please click here](#).

Billing Bootcamp

Billing Boot Camp is scheduled for April 10-12, 2017 in Austin, TX. More details coming soon!



TACHC Clinical Conference – Putting the "U" in Value

April 20-22, 2017

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center
1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78628

TACHC's Clinical Conference April 20-22 in Georgetown (Austin area)

TACHC's Clinical Conference will be held April 20-22, 2017 at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center in Georgetown, TX. This annual conference which is open to all clinical staff provides a mix of innovative concepts along with practical skills-based trainings. This year's theme is "Putting the 'U' in Value." We will be discussing the value of staff and treating them as your most important resource, the value that health centers bring towards patients and their communities, and the current move towards value-based care. Registration is now open. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

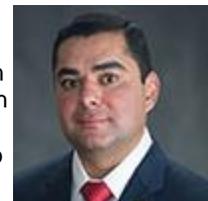
GROUP PURCHASING

340B "Mega-Guidance" Withdrawn

HRSA recently [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.

Bill of the Week: Friday, March 3, 2017

HB 2607: Representative JM Lozano of Portland (*pictured at right*) filed a bill relating to demonstration projects to coordinate eligibility renewal and eligibility recertification for certain children in Medicaid and CHIP. [HB 2607](#) streamlines eligibility re-certification for families with multiple children enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP, allowing parents to re-enroll all children on the same date every year. The bill directs HHSC to submit a waiver application to CMS to allow flexibility to modify eligibility periods. Contact [Mary Allen](#) with questions or for more information.



POLICY

Updates for the NACHC 2017 Policy & Issues Forum

- The State Delegation dinner has been scheduled from 5:45 - 8 PM on Wednesday, March 29 in room Washington 4.
- We need to know which state legislators have sent funding cliff letters to Congress. If you know your state Representative or Senator sent a letter, please forward a copy to mallen@tachc.org. Additionally,

many centers still have not filled out feedback forms from the state P&I. A link to the [survey can be found here](#).

Registration Open for the NACHC 2017 Policy & Issues Forum

Registration for the NACHC Policy & Issues Forum is now open. The meeting will be held March 29-April 1, 2017 in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel. We encourage all health center advocates and board members to join as healthcare issues will be at the forefront of the new administration's agenda. The focus at P&I will be to preserve Medicaid and the unique role of health centers, as well as ensure strong funding to enhance health center capacity. [Click here to register](#).

Policy & Advocacy Update Webinar on March 21

NACHC will be hosting a webinar on March 21 at 2:30 PM (CST) designed to help advocates prepare for P&I, understand this year's policy agenda/messaging and generally ensure a successful conference. This is NACHC's monthly Policy/Advocacy webinar with custom direction for those attending P&I. [Sign up here](#).

Republican Governors Association ACA Repeal

Drafts of some of the Republican Governors Association ACA repeal and Medicaid policy documents were recently leaked and can be found below. While the documents may highlight where RGA may be trying to go, Republican governors are NOT in agreement on ACA repeal or Medicaid reforms. Still, they emphasize the importance of connecting with governors and state Medicaid directors on these issues. To learn more about the latest activity on the Hill, [read NACHC's latest blog post](#).

- ["Governor's ACA replace and reform working draft paper 1: Medicaid"](#)
- [The executive summary of the longer document above](#)
- [Policy questions for governors' consideration"](#)

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Have You Properly Encrypted Health Center Devices?

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) imposed the largest civil money penalty to date, \$3,217,000 for two separate HIPAA breaches: a lost un-encrypted, non-password protected Blackberry and a stolen un-encrypted laptop both containing ePHI. The OCR decided to levy a penalty instead of imposing a corrective action plan due, in part, to CMC's "persistent refusal to employ appropriate encryption mechanism on its devices". HHS's press release can be found here: [HIPAA Civil Money Penalty for disclosure of unsecured ePHI](#).

CLINICAL

NADA Protocol Training for Substance Abuse Treatment

As substance abuse continues to be a problem in many communities, ear acupuncture using the NADA protocol is a model that can be performed in Texas by social workers, nurses, counselors, and psychologists as an adjunct to behavioral health services. The NADA protocol has been shown to reduce cravings and symptoms of withdrawal, and patients remain in substance abuse treatment longer. The AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine in Austin is providing a training March 3-5. For more information, [go here](#).

Join PainNET for Free Access to Tools & Resources for Pain Care

In the midst of the opioid epidemic, the Weitzman Institute is supporting providers with new ways to manage complex pain patients and to find alternatives to opioids. Health care providers and professionals across the country are discovering [PainNET](#), an online learning community designed to deliver the tools and knowledge needed for safe, appropriate pain care. If you're interested in how PainNET can help your practice, please visit [PainNET.net](#) to sign up for free access or contact us at PainNET@chc1.com to learn more.

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](#).