

# TACHC



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

Weekly Wrap-up - Nov. 16,  
2012

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*Patient Exam at  
United Medical Centers  
Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Brackettville, TX*

## Upcoming Events

### [TACHC 2012 Uniform Data System \(UDS\) Training](#)

*December 4<sup>th</sup>, The Omni Mandalay Hotel, 221 East Las Colinas Boulevard in Dallas (Irving)*

This UDS in-person training is a full day program covering the preparation of the 2012 UDS Report. The training addresses each of the tables, including a discussion of the changes that have been made (*changes for CY 2013 will be addressed through a webinar in April 2013*) and the definitions necessary to complete the reports. The UDS training is aimed at those who are responsible for gathering and reporting the data elements included in the UDS report, as well as management and clinical staff who need to understand the definitions and concepts used. For more detailed information, see the attachment “TACHC 2012 UDS Training – Promo & Agenda”. A room block has been set up with a group rate of \$129/night. Please call 1-800-THE-OMNI to reserve your room by **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. To register for this event, click [HERE](#).

Information regarding all upcoming events hosted by TACHC can be found [HERE](#).

## Governance and Finance

**1. Future of the Region South Texas (FORSTX) Conference:** The 2012 Future of the Region South Texas (FORSTX) Conference is being held in San Antonio on November 18-20 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The FORSTX Conference is designed to help set the legislative agenda for our 47-county region in South Texas. Topics to be discussed at this year's event include economic development, workforce development, trade opportunities, health care, infrastructure and industry. Visit the conference website at [www.forstx.org](http://www.forstx.org) for more information.

**2. BPHC UDS Webinar Information:** BPHC is hosting several UDS training webinars on topics important for organizations involved in reporting and interpreting UDS data. The objectives for each webinar are listed in the attached “BPHC UDS Training Webinar Flyer” to help organizations identify the proper personnel to participate. Presentation materials will be made available one week after each training [HERE](#).

The webinars are also being offered to cover specific topics not addressed at the in-person training. Webinars are geared toward specific audiences and will cover the objectives outlined below. The webinars do not substitute for the instructor led training, but complements it so it is important that participants come to the in-person trainings prepared. Staff who fall into one of the “audience” categories listed on the attached document are encouraged to participate. Any questions regarding these webinars can be directed to the UDS Support line at 866-837-4357 or [udshelp330@bphcdata.net](mailto:udshelp330@bphcdata.net).

**3. TACHC Awarded Statewide Community Partner Program Contract:** TACHC, in partnership with Baylor University’s Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) and Texas Impact (TI), a statewide religious member organization, have secured HHSC’s Community Partner Program (CPP) contract. TACHC, THI and TI will conduct statewide recruitment, training and technical support for interested community-based organizations, including health centers, to sign up as a Community Partner. The role of a Community Partner is to use the online Self Service Portal (SSP) found at [www.yourtexasbenefits.com](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com) to help eligible families apply and enroll in public programs such as Medicaid. TACHC’s goal is to sign up all Texas health centers in this program as Application and Case Assistance Community Partners. Health centers that are trained and certified as Application and Case Assistance Community Partners will be able to conduct *case management* on a family’s application. TACHC will also provide additional training and technical assistance to health centers that are interested in signing up. The good news is you do not have to wait for TACHC to come to you! You can begin the process of becoming a Community Partner now by following these simple steps:

1. Watch HHSC’s short introduction video on the CPP program [HERE](#) and then complete the [online interest form](#). HHSC will respond in 4-6 weeks to advise you if your health center has been approved. Please let TACHC know so that we may follow-up with HHSC and maximize our resources to target health centers that are not yet signed up.
2. Read and familiarize yourself with the [Memorandum of Understanding](#). HHSC will initiate this once your health center is approved.
3. Have appropriate health center staff do the online training and become certified as Application and Case Assistance navigators (level 2) at the [Navigator Certification website](#). Once trained and certified, health center staff will officially be “Your Texas Benefits Navigators” and will be assigned an individual Community Partner login account.

If you have submitted an online interest form or want more information regarding the CPP, please contact [Sonia Lara](#) at TACHC.



**1. TACHC/American Cancer Society CPI Webcast “Improving Cervical Cancer Screening”:** Please join us on **Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 9:00—11:00am** for the “**Improving Cervical Cancer Screening**” Webcast. TACHC has partnered with the American Cancer Society to review the current guidelines and to look at the effective ways to increase cervical cancer screening in a safety net environment. This will be Part 1 of a two part series. In Part 1, we will review the latest guidelines for cervical cancer screening, discuss how the UDS measures relate to the guidelines, discuss best practices for improving screening rates in the safety net population, and discuss best practices for referrals for further testing/treatment in patients with a positive pap smear. At the conclusion of Part 1, homework assignments will be given to participants asking them to tell us how they propose to improve the cancer screening rate at their center. On Part 2 of the call (January 18, 2013), centers will be asked to discuss any barriers encountered with regard to cancer screening and how they plan to overcome them, as well as to discuss

project ideas. To register, click [HERE](#). For more information contact [Verne LaGrega](#), Clinical Coordinator at TACHC.

**2. Health Resources & Services Administration's (HRSA) New Clinical Quality & Performance Measures Toolkit:** [The HRSA Clinical Quality and Performance Measures Toolkit](#) was developed to specifically address the needs of safety net providers seeking to initiate or upgrade their quality activities. The toolkit features proven strategies and techniques to implement or enhance a safety net provider organization's new or existing quality improvement program. The toolkit's wide range of practical, convenient, and useful tools support data collection, program implementation, and performance measurement. The toolkit also contains clinical quality measure modules focused on critical primary care and chronic disease topics including, but not limited to: screening for cervical, colorectal, and breast cancer; diagnosis and management of diabetes; and screening and hypertension control. These quality improvement resources are adaptable and have been compiled from past and current successful quality improvement initiatives. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

**3. The Joint Commission Intracycle Monitoring Process Coming January 2013:** To help ambulatory care organizations with their continuous compliance efforts, The Joint Commission is introducing the Intracycle Monitoring (ICM) process/profile, effective **January 1, 2013**. The ICM Profile has links to a number of resources in one convenient location and includes risk information at both the accreditation-program and organization-specific levels. The ICM process, including the Focused Standards Assessment tool (**which replaces the Periodic Performance Review**), will help organizations identify and manage risk. The new process currently applies to ambulatory care organizations. The ICM process still includes a "touch point" conference call between representatives of the organization and a member of the Standards Interpretation Group (SIG). The touch point will occur twice during an organization's accreditation cycle, at approximately 12 and 24 months after a survey. For more information about the ICM, visit the Connect extranet; read the October issue of *Joint Commission Perspectives* or send an e-mail to [intracycle@jointcommission.org](mailto:intracycle@jointcommission.org).

**4. New Research on How to Maintain Safe Temperatures for Vaccines:** Vaccines are expensive and fragile, and storing them at the proper temperature is essential to providing effective immunizations. Keeping vaccines in a constant temperature to maintain the integrity has been a major problem. In a recent article in the American Journal of Nursing, Sarah Muegge MSN RN-BC did a study (Sarah Muegge MSN RN-BC. "Protecting Refrigerated Vaccines with Water Bottles: An Evidence-Based Strategy, American Journal of Nursing. November 2012. pages 61- 69) and found that by putting bottled water in the refrigerator with the vaccines that the temperature was able to be maintained in the safe range during temperature fluctuation by the refrigerator compared to a control without the bottles. You can find the original article [HERE](#).



**TACHC Quarterly Recruitment Opportunity Status Reports:** Every quarter, member centers utilizing TACHC's recruitment services receive a report showing their open job opportunities on the TACHC Online Job Bank. Though each vacancy is only shown once, your center's opportunities are advertised by TACHC on Practice Link, 3RNet and several other online marketing venues in order to reach as many qualified candidates as possible, nationwide, and attract them to your opportunity. Prompt review and feedback from

your center helps us maintain up-to-date information on these sites.

So far during this quarter, **35 member organizations** have posted job opportunities with TACHC. With great enthusiasm, TACHC staff continue in our mission to support member organizations in fulfilling their clinical and administrative staff workforce needs. If your center has an opening that you would like us to help you recruit for, please click [HERE](#) and complete the quick and easy online position profile. Have questions or need assistance? Contact [April Sartor](#) at TACHC.

### Other News



**1. TACHC Annual & Clinical Conference Photos:** Thank you Ron Henry, Director of Pharmacy at Family Health Center in Laurel, Mississippi, for sharing your photos from the conference with us! Check them out at: <http://justice40.zenfolio.com/p301871873>.

**2. TACHC Member News:** To learn what your fellow health centers are involved in or read news that may affect your health center, click [HERE](#) for news coverage. We also encourage you to post your news, questions and comments to each other on the TACHC members listserv ([members@tachc.org](mailto:members@tachc.org)), where only TACHC executives or their designees are recipients.



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