

TACHC



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

Weekly Wrap-up - February 8, 2013

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Upcoming Events



[TACHC February CPI Webcast: "Getting started on a Centralized Call Center"](#)

Friday, February 15th, 9am to 11am Central

Join Mark Murray, MD as he shares his experience with centralized call centers, including how to get started, how to monitor effectiveness and how to avoid common pitfalls. Registration fee for this one-time session is specially priced at \$50.00. To register for this event, click [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Dr. Davelyn Hood, Director of Clinical Affairs](#) at TACHC.

NOTE: If you missed the December/January CPI training on Cervical Cancer Screening, you will be able to access it via the Community Health Learning Network (CHLN) website at www.chln.org. For more information, contact [Verne LaGrega, Clinical Care Coordinator](#) at TACHC.

[TACHC Health Information Technology Summit](#)

*February 18-19, 2013
AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900
University Avenue, Austin, Texas 78705*

Your center has implemented its electronic health record, so now what? The 2013 HIT Summit will explore state, federal and third-party payor expectations and initiatives facing EHR utilization in the Community Health Center setting. Join us to hear speakers from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Joint Commission, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and other experts as they discuss the future landscape of HIT. While you are here, don't forget to attend the statewide user-group breakfast on Tuesday morning to share EHR product-specific experiences with other CHC colleagues. To view the agenda and/or register for this event, click [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Todd Radloff](#), Director of Information Technology at TACHC.

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



*Patient Exam at Centro de Salud Familiar
La Fe,
El Paso, TX*



1. NACHC Policy & Issues Forum: Earlier this week, an email about the NACHC P&I Forum was sent by Jana Blasi assigning lead centers for organizing Congressional visits during the Forum. NACHC schedules this conference to bring all of our health center members together to brief you on the current national health care environment, key issues facing national policymakers and provide you with position papers to take to meetings with your federal elected officials. **Your staff are responsible for scheduling these meetings, in coordination with other health centers in your district, prior to coming to the conference.** The purpose of the meetings with Congressional members is to educate them about the good work of FQHCs in Texas, discuss issues that are impacting your communities and clients and to establish and/or enhance your relationship with your elected representatives at the federal level. **The dates for the 2013 NACHC Policy and Issues Forum are March 20-23, 2013 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC.** You can find the conference agenda and register online at www.nachc.com. **On Wednesday, March 20st in the evening from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, TACHC will convene a state delegation meeting for all of the Texas health center participants attending the NACHC P&I at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.** Jana will let you know as soon as we have been assigned a meeting room for the Texas Delegation Meeting. During this meeting, we will go over the NACHC policy papers, answer and questions you have and give you copies of NACHC policy papers and Texas specific handouts for your Congressional visits. If there is a Congressional member that does not have a health center representative attending the P&I, TACHC staff will schedule and cover the meeting with that center's Congressional member. **Therefore, it is critical that you let us know if you are coming (or sending other representatives from your center) to the NACHC P&I as soon as possible. TACHC will be responsible for scheduling the meetings with Senators Cruz and Cornyn.** As President of TACHC, Rachel Gonzales Hanson has decided that the members of the TACHC Executive Committee will represent the Texas health centers in the Senate meetings.

2. State Policy & Issues Forum Presentations & Evaluation: Handouts from the event are available [HERE](#). If you attended and have not already submitted an evaluation form for the event, please complete the attached and send to [TaSheena Mitchell](#) at TACHC by no later than **COB TODAY Friday, February 8th**. We appreciate your feedback!



1. New OC3 Learning Year to Begin May 1st: Do you want your center to transform into a patient-centered medical home? Do you want to improve the health outcomes of your patients? Are you interested in increasing your staff and provider productivity? Do you want to improve patient and staff satisfaction at your center? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then TACHC has an exciting learning opportunity for you and your health center. This unique learning opportunity will help you and your staff to transform your center and improve your operational and clinical efficiencies. **The 2013 – 2014 OC³ Medical Home Transformation Learning Year will be starting May 1, 2013 and TACHC is now accepting applications from interested health centers. Please be aware that time and space is limited, so don't delay.** See the attached program synopsis for further details. If you are interested, please send an email to [Verne LaGrega, Clinical Care Coordinator](#) and complete the attached OC3 Application by **April 1, 2013**.

2. TMF Webinar: New DSME Standards; Information on DSME Accreditation: On February 12, 2013 - 12:00-1:00pm CST, the TMF Health Quality Institute is hosting a webinar designed to help program coordinators and diabetes educators understand the requirements needed for Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) programs and to apply for CMS accreditation. It is also a review of the revised 2013 standards for DSME. The presenter will be Ardis A. Reed, MPH, RD, LD, CDE, Diabetes Educator, TMF Health Quality Institute. This event is the first in a series of quarterly webinars providing valuable information and educational content for diabetes educators, community health workers and anyone involved in providing diabetes education to the public. To register for this event, click [HERE](#). For more information contact Heidi Turpin, 1-800-725-2633 or visit www.DiabetesHealthForLife.org.

3. 2013 Texas Cardiovascular Health Promotion Award Recognition: Is your organization doing outstanding work in tobacco prevention/control, obesity, nutrition, physical activity, or diabetes? Would you like to apply to be recognized at the state level? The Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, in conjunction with the CVD & Stroke Program of the Texas Department of State Health Services, invites you to participate in the **2013 Texas Cardiovascular Health Promotion Awards**. This award is designed to recognize outstanding cardiovascular health promotion programs in Texas, especially those using evidence-based practices. These programs can address any of the major risk factors that contribute to cardiovascular disease and stroke. If you would like for your program to be considered for recognition as an outstanding cardiovascular health promotion initiative, please read through the attached application form and nomination criteria and submit your application by **Friday, March 15, 2013**. Questions? Please contact [Tom Stephan](#) with the CVD & Stroke Program, Chronic Disease Branch at the Texas Department of State Health Services.

4. HRSA FREE Webinar: “Using an EHR & Quality Data to Improve Hypertension” On Friday, February 22, 2013 at 1pm CT, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is sponsoring a free Health Information Technology and Quality Webinar entitled: “Using an EHR & Quality Data to Improve Hypertension”. This webinar will focus on how safety net providers can utilize health information technology (HIT) to improve health outcomes in patients with hypertension. Hypertension control is a core clinical quality measure in the Meaningful Use incentive program and also a priority within the National Quality Strategy, Healthy People 2020, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ “Million Hearts” campaign. Presenters Christopher H. Tashjian, MD from Ellsworth Medical Clinic, Ellsworth, Wisconsin and Sarah Woolsey, MD from Health Insight, Salt Lake City, Utah are safety net providers from rural inpatient and community health center settings. They will share their best practices for helping patients control their hypertension. To register for this event, click [HERE](#). Questions for presenters are welcome ahead of the event and may be emailed to healthit@hrsa.gov. Previous HRSA Health IT and Quality Webinars may be accessed at the [HRSA Health IT and Quality Webinar website](#).



1. TACHC ViP Program: TACHC has a partnership with Community Health Ventures (CHV) for the ViP program to leverage the purchasing power of all health centers to bring them negotiated pricing on medical supplies and equipment, while supporting TACHC and NACHC. The TACHC/ViP program is managed through TACHC and CHV, the business development affiliate of NACHC. Currently the

TACHC/ViP program has preferred vendor agreements with Henry Schein and Physicians Sales and Service (PSS). Both of these medical distributors provide high-quality name brand and private brand products delivered through world-class distribution. They represent the best-in-class, with a commitment to superior customer service that helps health centers fulfill their mission to create a health home and improve health-status outcomes for the underserved. Currently, over 600 centers are enrolled in the program nationally. ViP has saved health centers millions of dollars over the past few years, with average savings of 18%-38% on all health center purchases. ViP is free to join, enrollment is quick, and there's NO obligation once your health center becomes a member. To learn more and experience the savings through ViP, please contact [Lynn Ford, Purchasing Program Coordinator](#) at TACHC.

2. OPA Recertification Deadline: As of February 5th, the new recertification process for health centers with HRSA's Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) to maintain eligibility for 340B pricing has begun. If you have not already done so, please verify that your center's information is current and accurate in the OPA database at www.hrsa.gov/opa. On the NACHC blog, there is an excellent overview/reminder of this new recertification process [HERE](#). Please pay particular attention to item #7: **According to OPA, FQHCs that do not recertify within the three week window will be deemed ineligible and dropped from the FQHC database. OPA is not likely to give individual extensions.** Attached is the memo that [Lynn Ford](#) sent to the membership in September 2012 to prepare for the recertification process that is now upon us with an overview of this process. Attached is also the [OPA Database Guide for Public Users-Recertification](#). This is a very detailed guide on the new OPA website (new as of October 2012) and database, and it may answer many of your questions about the information in the database.

3. 340B Recertification Process Requirement: As you are aware, the 340B recertification process is in full swing (as noted in Item #2 above). One item that you will need to supply during this process is the health center's 'site ID'. This number is different than the health center's 340B ID number. In case you forgot, your site ID number can be found in your EHB and it is 12 characters long. A site ID # for a FQHC will look like: BPSH80XXXXXX and a site ID # for a FQHC look-alike will look like: BPSLALXXXXXX. TACHC is being told that **this information must be included in the recertification** in order to properly finish the process. If you have any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford, Purchasing Program Coordinator](#) at TACHC.

4. March is a GREAT Time to Educate Your Patients! March brings awareness to National Nutrition, American Diabetes Alert Day (March 26th) and National Sleep Awareness Week (March 5-11). TACHC collaborates with American Solutions for Business (ASB) for promotional and educational items. ASB is currently offering **FREE SET UP** for [these items](#)! If you have any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford, Purchasing Program Coordinator](#) at TACHC.

Recruitment and Retention

1. NHSC 2013 Loan Repayment Application is Now Open! The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) offers primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers the opportunity to have their student loans repaid while serving in communities with limited access to care. To help ensure that the communities with the greatest need are supported, qualified applicants working in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) with the highest scores (as of January 1, 2013), will be given funding preference. With continued service, NHSC

providers may be able to pay off *all* of their student loans! **The application cycle will be open through April 16, 2013.** For more information regarding eligibility and the application process, click [HERE](#). If you have questions about the FY 2013 Loan Repayment Application cycle you may also call the HRSA Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393 or e-mail gethelp@hrsa.gov.

2. TACHC Careers Page Update: Candidates can now more easily access TACHC member center job postings via the TACHC Careers page. Hyperlinks have been added at the top of the page that take candidates directly to all current job opportunities within their specialty. Click [HERE](#) to check it out!

Other News



1. New TACHC Staff: Please join us in welcoming Nancy Gilliam, TACHC's new Community Development Specialist!

2. Congratulations to CommuniCare Health Centers! On January 28, 2013, CommuniCare received the prestigious Summit Award for Medical Clinic of Choice. This award celebrates exceptional customer service achievements in healthcare throughout the United States.

3. 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), where only TACHC executives or their designees are recipients.



If you would like to be removed from this mailing, please send a message to ccarson@tachc.org, and we will remove your name from our list as soon as possible.