

# TACHC



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

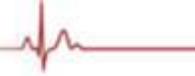
Weekly Wrap-up - February 22,  
2013

### In This Issue

Click on the blue header to go to the pertinent section of this email

- [TACHC Application Assistance Training for Harris and Jefferson Regions](#)....For more on this topic, see the Upcoming Events section
- [TACHC ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT: Background Info on Sequestration & Impact on FOHCs](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Governance and Finance section
- [TACHC Survey on Center Board Member Recruitment and Retention](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Governance and Finance section
- [Community Partner Program](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #3 in the Governance and Finance section
- [CDN Webcast: "Social Determinants for Medically Underserved Community Health Center Patients"](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [New TACHC OC3 Learning Year to Begin May 1<sup>st</sup>](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [Texas Medicaid's 2013 New & Updated Information Available Regarding the Electronic Health Records Incentive Program & Educational Webinars](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #3 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [CPHP Webinar: "Public Health, Farmers Markets & Food Access: Lessons Learned Working Outside the Box"](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #4 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [TMF Free Conference or Webinar: "Improving Patient Safety & Preventive Care"](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #5 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive Program \(HCEP\) - Applications Now Available!](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #6 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [AAFP is Now Recruiting 20 Federally Qualified Health Centers for the Office Champions Tobacco Cessation FOHC Project](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #7 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [GSK Flu Vaccine 2013/14](#)....For more on this topic, see the Group Purchasing section
- [Congratulations to Community Health Service Agency!](#)....For more on this topic, see the Recruitment and Retention section
- [TACHC Member News](#)....For more on this topic, see the Other News section

## Upcoming Events



### [TACHC Application Assistance Training for Harris County and Jefferson County Regions](#)

*March 1, 2013 9:30am-12:00 Noon*

*Holiday Inn Express Houston East, 11460 East Freeway I-10, Houston, TX 77029*

As the Health and Human Services Commission modernizes and increases accessibility to social service applications and assistance, community based organizations like yours are fast becoming an integral resource to your community by providing application and case management assistance through [YourTexasBenefits.com](#). Your staff are the frontline workers helping clients navigate this system, and TACHC wants to help you by providing this free training opportunity for those staff. Community partners at all stages of enrollment, whether you are just now submitting an online interest form, or have been an active user of [YourTexasBenefits.com](#) for many months, and from all levels of access are encouraged to attend this training opportunity. This training will provide an overview of public assistance programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF, and discuss best practices for Community Navigators to help families apply using the integrated application on [YourTexasBenefits.com](#). This training will cover the steps to complete an application for healthcare benefits and the supporting documents or State forms necessary to help make the processing time faster and less difficult for families. There will also be case scenarios so Community Navigators can learn about how required documents can vary due to different household and income situations and how to approach uncertainties in regards to public charge and fear of sharing information with the State. Be sure to register for your free ticket to access this event, especially if you are in the Harris County or Jefferson County regions. (Similar trainings



*Patient Exam at Coastal Health & Wellness  
Galveston & Texas City, TX*

will be made available in other regions of the state later this year.) Space is limited, so reserve your spot today! Bottled water will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own drink and snacks. To register for this event, click [HERE](#).

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



**1. TACHC ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT: Background Information on Sequestration and Impact on FQHCs:** Congress is once again making decisions on federal spending that could mean REAL CUTS in funding for health centers that would impact their ability to serve even their current patients. These decisions are being made NOW! We know that federal spending is going to be cut; the question is how it will be done and what programs will suffer the most. If you want to have any influence on those decisions, you need to act NOW by calling and emailing your Members of Congress. They need to hear from YOU and as many other advocates like you as possible to make sure they get the message that they need to protect health centers and the patients they serve! **Send your Members of Congress a clear and forceful message that they will get LOUD and CLEAR; take these two easy action steps NOW:**

- **CALL** the toll free Advocacy Hotline at 1-866-456-3949 NOW and tell your U.S. Senators and Representative to STOP the Sequester (across the board cuts) NOW. Urge your Members of Congress to delay or replace the sequester as soon as possible and remind them that if they fail the funding cuts that will go into effect could have an immediate impact on Health Centers' ability to serve their patients and communities.
- **EMAIL** your Members of Congress to let them know what's at stake for your health center and the patients it serves if they fail to stop the sequester immediately. Click [HERE](#) to access the NACHC Grassroots Action Center and send your message NOW.

**What's at Stake:** As we recently communicated, if Congress does not act to delay or replace the "sequester" - **an arbitrary across the board cut to all programs in government-** by March 1st, then Community Health Centers face a **potential loss of \$115 million in funding**, which translates into approximately 900,000 fewer patients served, including some current patients and potential new patients. Virtually all existing health centers could expect to see some impact on their federal health center grants if sequester were to go through. For additional information on the sequester, see [this blog post](#) on Health Centers on the Hill and stay tuned to the blog for additional information as it becomes available. If you have questions, please contact [Jana Blasi, Deputy Director](#) at TACHC.

**2. TACHC Survey on Center Board Member Recruitment and Retention:** TACHC needs your help in identifying and sharing Board recruitment and retention best practices. To that end, please have the appropriate staff complete the following quick 5-10 minute [survey on Board recruitment and retention](#). Please feel free to share any gems of wisdom or needs your center may have regarding this area, particularly as it relates to consumer members. We must have your response by **no later than COB Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** for it to be considered. Please contact [Nancy Gilliam, Community Development Specialist](#) at TACHC if you have any questions.

**3. Community Partner Program:** TACHC would like to encourage all health centers interested in joining the Community Partner Program to submit your interest forms today! The process currently takes about 4-6 weeks to become an official Community Partner and begin using YourTexasBenefits.com to submit online applications, therefore the sooner the better. To learn more about the Community Partner Program sign-up process or general program information, please contact a Regional Coordinator (see attached Community Program Partner contacts form). If you have any questions about this program, contact [RexAnn Shotwell](#) at TACHC.



**1. CDN Webcast: “Social Determinants for Medically Underserved Community Health Center Patients”** On **Friday, March 8, 2013 2:00-3:00 PM Central Time**, the Clinical Directors Network, Inc. (CDN), Center of Excellence for Primary Care will present: Social Determinants of Health: Important Considerations for Medically Underserved Community Health Center Patients Webcast. Social determinants of health (SDOHs) are a wide array of social and economic factors, such as income inequality and unemployment, which have a tremendous impact on health outcomes. This webinar presentation will provide an overview of SDOH and the role of SDOH in health care. The presenters will also share and discuss the experience and preliminary findings from studying SDOH at Asian Health Services, a federally qualified community health center. Finally, presenters will demonstrate the use of CHC data within a software program that uses SDOH to adjust for patient risk. For more information or to register for this event, click [HERE](#).

**2. New TACHC OC3 Learning Year to Begin May 1<sup>st</sup>: Don’t Delay – Space is filling up fast**  
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 OC<sup>3</sup> 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**.

**3. Texas Medicaid’s 2013 New & Updated Information Available Regarding the Electronic Health Records Incentive Program & Educational Webinars:** There are a number of items available regarding new or updated items related to the Texas Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Attached is a summary of them as well as a list of Educational Webinar Series on Workflows, Changes from Meaningful Use Stage 1 and 2 and many others. For more information, please refer the attached handout entitled “2013 EHR Incentive Program & Webinars”.

- [Changes Effective in 2013](#): Summaries of 2013 changes to the Texas Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program.
- [March 16 Deadline for Eligible Professionals](#): To receive a payment for 2012 participation, eligible professionals must complete their attestation in the Texas Medicaid EHR Incentive Program portal and

be in the “Payment Pending” status by March 16, 2013.

- **New Meaningful Use e-Learning Tools**: The computer-based learning tools help explain the Electronic Health Record Incentive Program to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals. The tools are interactive and self-guided with voice or closed-captioned narration.
- **Reporting Patient Volume**: Two options for the Patient Volume reporting period, along with instructions.
- **Webinar Schedule – Regional Extension Centers**: Join the centers’ educational webinar series as they discuss the hot topics of electronic health records with subject matter experts. Every month, a new topic will be discussed over lunch. All webinars are open to the public.

For more information contact Verne LaGrega at [vlagrega@tachc.org](mailto:vlagrega@tachc.org)

**4. CPHP Webinar: “Public Health, Farmers Markets & Food Access: Lessons Learned Working Outside the Box”** On **March 14, 2013, from 10:30 – 11:30 Central Time**, Richard Hicks, MPA, Health Planner, Office of Planning & Accreditation, Columbus Public Health Department will present on how to increase a community’s access to fresh, nutritious foods especially when people’s idea of a balanced diet is often a cookie in each hand. One health department’s unusual approach is to establish a farmers market on its own grounds. To register 1. Log on to the Center for Public Health Practice’s (CPHP) Learning Content Management System at <https://www.cphplearn.org/> 2. Enter your username and password. (If you are a first-time user, 3. Select Create Account and enter your profile information), 4. Select Course Catalog, 5. Select Monthly Webinar Series, 6. Select View - Public Health, Farmers Markets and Food Access: Lessons Learned Working Outside the Box and 7. Select LCMS Registration. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email that will provide you with access information. Registration confirmation will be sent from [cphp-registration@cph.osu.edu](mailto:cphp-registration@cph.osu.edu). Be sure to check your spam/junk email for a message from this address. You should add this address to your address book or safe senders list so that it is not marked as spam. Note: *Once the LCMS registration is complete, you may click on TRAIN registration if you wish to have the webinar added to your TRAIN transcript.* For more information or to register for this event, click **HERE**, be sure to follow the steps listed above.

**5. TMF Free Conference or Webinar: “Improving Patient Safety & Preventive Care” April 30 - May 1, 2013**, The Texas Center for Quality & Patient Safety and Texas Medical Foundation (TMF) Health Quality Institute in collaboration with the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation have joined to provide a **FREE** two-day conference focused on improving patient safety and preventive care. The Partnership for Patients is a national initiative with aims to reduce hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent. The larger aim is to engage patients in their care and provide for continuity across the continuum of care. Learn from nationally recognized experts on an array of topics including: Improving patient-centeredness and perception of care , Prevention of all cause harm including a focus on reducing healthcare-acquired conditions and readmissions, Prevention and early diagnosis using health information technology clinical measures, Improving cardiovascular disease prevention, Meaningful use of electronic health records, Reporting Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures, and Improving the continuity of care and patient engagement. For more information or to register for this event, click **HERE**.

**6. UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive Program (HCEP) - Applications Now Available!** Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive Program! The program provides an intensive eleven days of management and leadership development at the

UCLA Anderson School of Management in Los Angeles, California. Participants engage in a rigorous but relevant curriculum that provides the requisite skills, knowledge and abilities to successfully manage and lead their organizations in a changed world for healthcare delivery. The program has graduated over 600 participants since its inception in 2002. The HCEP is especially designed and valuable for community health centers that need to prepare for and adapt to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA requires that community health centers and community-based health care organizations enhance the efficiency and scope of their service delivery model, consider building alliances and partnerships, provide for expanded patient access, position themselves in an increasingly competitive marketplace, enhance the patient experience, improve health outcomes, and develop and utilize effective health information systems. These and other competencies relevant to health care reform are the focus of the HCEP. They invite anyone who is interested to apply for the 2013 UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive Program, which is to be held from **July 7 – 17, 2013** at UCLA. The application may be accessed online [HERE](#). **Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2013** and will be reviewed by the selection committee at UCLA. Johnson & Johnson covers the majority of the program costs (tuition, training materials, lodging and meals) for both the participant and their co-participant. The *program brochure* and *application form* are attached for your reference. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**7. AAFP is Now Recruiting 20 Federally Qualified Health Centers for the Office Champions Tobacco Cessation FQHC Project:** This project will provide practical strategies through an online training module, live teleconferences and assorted materials for making system changes in medical practices to improve tobacco cessation activities. Each participating practice will designate an office champion to lead the project, as well as a physician champion who will ensure that the office champion receives the support he or she needs. The Office Champions will be required to submit an implementation plan to the AAFP and track and report results. Practices that complete the program will receive \$2,000 financial assistance for administrative costs, plus materials for patients and recognition for practices. To apply and for more information, please visit the [Office Champions website](#). Applications will be accepted through **March 22, 2013**.

### **Group Purchasing**



**GSK Flu Vaccine 2013/14:** TACHC has available a flu vaccine contract via GlaxoSmithKline for the 2013/14 flu season. An overview of the terms and pricing is attached for your reference. But, the short of the long is that the Fluarix and Flulaval flu vaccines are available at \$94.60 (tip-lok syringes) and \$75.90 (10x5 ml vials) respectively (even lower pricing than 2012/13!). Ordering is done via the GSK vaccine website at [www.gskvaccinesdirect.com](http://www.gskvaccinesdirect.com). The shipping and delivery details are outlined on the attached memo as well as pre-booking discounts and returns eligibility. If you have any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford, Purchasing Program Coordinator](#) at TACHC or your local GSK Vaccine Representative.

### **Recruitment and Retention**



**Congratulations to Community Health Service Agency!** Maria Josefina G.A. Echiverri, FNP, a TACHC referral, recently accepted an offer from Community Health Service Agency for their Family Nurse Practitioner position.

## Other News



**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.

A banner image featuring a field of bluebonnets in the foreground and a line of green trees in the background under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid in a light blue, serif font.

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