

TACHC



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

Weekly Wrap-up - August 23,
2013

In This Issue

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

- [TACHC 30th Annual Conference](#)....For more on this topic, see the Upcoming Events section
- [TACHC Board of Directors Election](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Governance and Finance section
- [HHSC Draft FOHC Affiliation Rules](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Governance and Finance section
- [DSHS Issues Measles Alert for Texas](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [DentaQuest Foundation—Innovation Fund for Oral Health](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [ECRI Institute—ADA/FDA Recommendations for Limiting Radiation Exposure During Dental Radiographic Examinations](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #3 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [HRSA/BPHC Save the Date: Health Center Clinician Leaders' Forum Kick-off Call](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #4 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [FEMA Emergency Preparedness—Hurricanes on the Horizon!](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #5 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [CMS Certified Application Counselor \(CAC\) Organization Sign Up is Now!](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Outreach section
- [HRSA Outreach & Enrollment \(O&E\) Quarterly Progress Reports Due in October](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Outreach section
- [TACHC Outreach & Enrollment \(O&E\) Trainings](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #3 in the Outreach section
- [HHSC Community Partner Program Enrollment](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #4 in the Outreach section
- [TACHC Staff Recruiting at HealthMATCH & PracticeMatch in September!](#)....For more on this topic, see the Recruitment & Retention section
- [CMS Tri-Regional Webinar “EHR Incentive Program - Stage 2 Webinar”](#)....For more on this topic, see the Information Technology section
- [Congratulations to People's Community Clinic for a Successful HRSA New-start Site Visit!](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Other News section
- [TACHC Member News](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Other News section



*Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic
Dallas, TX*

Upcoming Events



[TACHC 30th Annual Conference](#)

October 7-9, 2013, Hilton Austin Hotel

We have a great conference planned for you with relevant topics targeting health center executive leadership, operations, financial, billing, clinical, and administrative staff as well as FQHC board members. We have also built in ample time for professional peer networking opportunities and have a robust Exhibit Hall planned for the conference. As a friendly reminder, the hotel cutoff date is **Tuesday, September 3, 2013**. Call the Hilton central reservations line directly (1-800-236-1592) and reference the group, **TACHC's Annual Conference**, or the group code, **CHC**, in order to receive the group rate of \$194 single/double over the contracted event dates, or you may click [HERE](#) to do so online. ***Reserve early, as the TACHC conference is in the middle of both Austin City Limits Festival weekends!***

IMPORTANT: Housing Policy

In an effort to ensure that our hotel is able to accept the maximum number of reservations, TACHC has implemented the following housing policies:

- Each reservation must have a unique name attached to it. No person may book more than one room in his/her name.
- A deposit of one night's room and tax will be taken at the time of booking in order to guarantee your reservation.
- Should you need to cancel, cancellations must be made 15 days in advance in order to be refunded your deposit.
- Cancellations within 15 days prior to your arrival date, deposits are non-refundable unless the hotel is able to resell your canceled room.

Click [HERE](#) to download an event agenda.

For questions or assistance, please contact [TaSheena Mitchell, TACHC Meeting](#)

[Coordinator.](#)

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

Governance and Finance



1. TACHC Board of Directors Election: It's time to submit nominees for the upcoming TACHC Board of Directors elections. On **Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at the TACHC 30th Annual Conference in Austin**, organizational members will elect new board members and officers of the board. Further information about the elections, officer responsibilities and the nomination form for the executive director and provider representative candidates by region may be viewed by clicking [HERE](#). Please remember the following:



- Only eligible Executive Directors/Chief Executive Officers from Full Organizational Members in Good Standing are allowed to nominate individuals for the board;
- You are *not* allowed to nominate yourself; and
- You *are* allowed to nominate eligible individuals from other regions.

Please nominate qualified candidates for a seat on the board by **September 13, 2013** and email them to [TaSheena Mitchell, TACHC Meeting Planner](#). All nominees will be sent a petition for candidacy and an



information packet outlining requirements, roles and responsibilities associated with holding a seat on the board of directors of TACHC.

2. HHSC Draft FQHC Affiliation Rules: Draft rules on FQHC affiliation agreements were published last Friday for public comment. TACHC has been working with the Health and Human Services Commission for more than a year to ensure that these rules have a minimum impact on health centers, and TACHC believes that all of our concerns have been addressed in the final draft rules, which may be viewed [HERE](#). However, please review the draft rules and let TACHC know if you have any remaining concerns or comments. Public comments are due to the Commission by the end of August, so please send your comments or any questions to [Shelby Massey, MPAff, TACHC Policy and Research Coordinator](#) **no later than August 27th**.



Clinical Affairs



1. DSHS Issues Measles Alert for Texas: Citing four confirmed measles cases in the last month and nine cases for the year, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has issued a health alert and is urging immunization against this highly contagious illness. **State health officials are asking health care providers to be on alert for potential exposures and patients with measles symptoms, particularly in the North Texas area. The four most recently confirmed cases are from Tarrant County.** Other Texas counties with cases this year include Dallas (2), Denton (2) and Harris (1).



There were no measles cases reported in 2012 and six cases in 2011. The full health alert, including vaccination recommendations, can be viewed



2. DentaQuest Foundation—Innovation Fund for Oral Health: The

DentaQuest Foundation is accepting applications accepted on an ongoing basis with total funding available in the amount of \$4,450,000. The Innovation Fund for Oral Health supports nonprofit organizations who are working to create systems changes that reduce and eliminate barriers to oral healthcare access and promote community-based prevention strategies. Applicants must be based in the United States or its territories and may be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Grantees should work to create innovative programs that can be reproduced. Applicants are encouraged to align their proposals with the following focus areas: Specific communities, Non-Traditional partners, Inter-professional collaboration, Financing of care and Technology. For more information contact [Andrea Forsht](#) / (617) 886-1760. For more information, click [HERE](#).

3. ECRI Institute—ADA/FDA Recommendations for Limiting Radiation Exposure During Dental Radiographic Examinations:

In December 2012, the American Dental Association (ADA) and the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released Dental Radiographic Examinations: Recommendations for



Patient Selection and Limiting Radiation Exposure”, the latest revision of guidelines for prescription of dental radiographs. To review the guidelines, click [HERE](#).

Dentists can use the [self-assessment checklist](#) to optimize patient care, minimize radiation exposure, and responsibly allocate healthcare

resources. The checklist will help to assess dentist and staff training, emphasize appropriate dental

examinations and patient communication, evaluate protocols and processes, and evaluate quality assurance

and quality improvement measures in an effort to promote dental safety. The self-assessment checklist and

other Clinical Risk Management resources are provided for **FREE** by ECRI Institute on behalf of HRSA.

For more information, or if you want to attend a free, live demonstration of the website, send an email to

Clinical_RM_Program@ecri.org or call (610) 825-6000 ext. 5200.

4. HRSA/BPHC Save the Date: Health Center Clinician Leaders’ Forum Kick-off Call:

On **Friday, September 13, 2013, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm CT**, Health Center Clinical and Quality Leaders are invited to join

BPHC’s CMO and Senior Clinical Advisors for a national webinar and dialogue on clinical performance

measures, quality improvement, patient-centered medical home, meaningful use and the primary care

workforce. This session will also include time for Q&A. To join the webcast, click [HERE](#).

5. FEMA Emergency Preparedness—Hurricanes on the Horizon!

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) recently updated its [2013 Hurricane Season](#)

[Outlook](#). Because the season has already produced several named storms in the

Atlantic hurricane region, NOAA now predicts an above-average hurricane

season, with the possibility of being very active. This season is expected to

produce 13-19 named storms, of which 6-9 are expected to become hurricanes and 3-5 to become major

hurricanes. The season ends November 30 but peak season runs mid-August to late October. As we all

know from recent years, it only takes one hurricane or tropical storm to cause a disaster which can occur

whether a season is active or mostly quiet. Therefore, centers on or near the Texas coast are urged to

prepare for every hurricane season regardless of the outlook. For more tips on hurricane preparedness, click



HERE.

1. CMS Certified Application Counselor (CAC) Organization Sign Up is Now! HRSA Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) grantees and health centers that choose to conduct O&E services **are required to apply for designation as a CAC organization by August 31, 2013.** If your center has already applied for or been approved for this designation, please inform [Sonia Lara, TACHC Director of Outreach & Enrollment](#)—otherwise, TACHC will be calling you to ensure that you have applied. All HRSA O&E staff and other appropriate staff or volunteers must be trained as CACs, which will assist patients with applying for health care coverage, including assisting patients with their insurance options through the federal marketplace set to open October 1st. **Click [HERE](#) to submit your CAC organization application now.** Health centers submitting a CAC organization application are responsible to ensure their respective O&E staff and volunteers take and pass the training and comply with all CAC requirements, including privacy and security requirements. **You may submit one CAC application from the parent organization on behalf of all service delivery locations that will be providing consumer assistance** (up to 5 at a time). You may not, however, designate other outside organizations (non-FQHCs) on your application. CMS must screen all other potential CAC organizations separately. Attached is a chart that explains the difference between Navigators, CACs, and the Community Partners Program.

2. HRSA Outreach & Enrollment (O&E) Quarterly Progress Reports Due in October: The first report, for the period of July 1 – September 30, 2013, will be due soon. **Health centers will need to report the number of O&E assistance workers who have successfully completed CAC training and any Medicaid/CHIP enrollment** during this period (Marketplace enrollment will be required for the next QPR). If you have joined the Community Partner Program and have account access to www.YourTexasBenefits.com, you will have access to the number of patients assisted and their Medicaid/CHIP enrollment status through the portal to assist you in completing your QPR reports for HRSA. **Please begin using [yourtexasbenefits.com](http://www.YourTexasBenefits.com) to assist patients so that you will have access to this critical reporting data for HRSA.** Contact [RexAnn Shotwell, TACHC Community Partner Program Project Manager](#) for more information regarding this feature or the Community Partner Program.

- HRSA will continue to provide guidance and support regarding QPR reporting requirements for enrollment data in qualified health plans of the federal marketplace. Please contact [Sonia Lara, TACHC Director of Outreach & Enrollment](#) with any questions or concerns.
- For common questions regarding CAC organizations in Federally Facilitated Marketplaces (FFM) visit <http://marketplace.cms.gov/help-us/common-qandas-about-cac-designation.pdf>.

3. TACHC Outreach & Enrollment (O&E) Trainings: TACHC is developing a robust O&E supplemental training and tool kit of turnkey messaging, Texas specific outreach materials and community presentations, that can be used by all Texas health center O&E staff. On **September 25-26, 2013**, TACHC will conduct a two day O&E orientation “Certified Application Counselor Supplemental Training” targeting HRSA O&E and any other health center outreach staff. More information can be found [HERE](#). This supplemental training has been scheduled for late September to give you adequate time to hire new O&E staff. This will cover the following topics:

- What the Health Insurance Exchange Marketplace is and how this coverage interacts with Medicaid and CHIP
- How to support your patients in understanding and selecting various Qualified Health Plans and medical options
- Determining premium tax credits, cost sharing, income and family size for Marketplace and Medicaid eligibility



Recruitment and Retention



TACHC Staff Recruiting at HealthMATCH & PracticeMatch in September! TACHC staff will be exhibiting at the HealthMATCH recruitment job fair in Amarillo on September 10th and PracticeMatch Career Fair in Houston on September 11th. Help us keep TACHC's job board current! If you have had recent changes to your center's advertised vacancies and have not already done so, please contact [April Sartor, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) and give her a quick update. If your center has a *new* opportunity that you would like us to help you recruit for, simply click [HERE](#) and complete the easy online position profile, and we will get started on creating your new job posting!



Information Technology



CMS Tri-Regional Webinar “EHR Incentive Program - Stage 2 Webinar” The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Denver are pleased to announce a new EHR webinar focused on the EHR Incentive Payment Program – Stage 2 for Eligible Professionals (EPs) and Eligible Hospitals (EHs). Stage 2 requirements will be effective in 2014. You may register for this event by clicking [HERE](#). You will receive an appointment which will include information on how to connect to the live webinar on **Wednesday, September 11, 12:00 p.m. CDT**. Submit your Stage 2 questions to [Kathy Maris with CMS](#) by **COB September 6th** and use “Sept 11 EHR Webinar” in the subject line of your email. 500 phone lines will be available on a first-come first-served basis. If several people are calling from one location please use one line if possible. Presentation materials will be available for viewing upon your entrance into the webinar. Please use the following links for additional Stage 2 Resources: [Regulations-and-Guidance](#); [Outreach-and-Education/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events-Items](#).



Other News



1. Congratulations to People's Community Clinic for a Successful HRSA New-start Site Visit! People's Community Clinic successfully met all 19 program requirements and were also identified as a best practice for their extensive fund-raising performance.

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



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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.

What are the different assistance roles in Texas' Community Health Centers?

	How are these roles funded?	Is training and certification required?	Do they have to conduct outreach services?
CMS Federal Navigators	Funded by CMS. For a list of CMS-Federal grantees (awarded 08/15/2013) Visit: http://cciio.cms.gov/programs/exchanges/assistance.html	Yes, federal CMS training and certification. (up to 30 hours online)	Yes. (TACHC did not receive CMS Navigator funding)
Certified Application Counselor	Certified Application Counselors are not funded with CMS federal grant money. These positions are primarily funded by the HRSA Outreach and Enrollment grant money awarded to FQHCs late summer.	Yes, federal CMS training and certification. (up to 5 hours online) Supplemental training will also be provided by TACHC.	Yes, however CACs do not have to conduct outreach outside of their designated service area. CACs will also be required to conduct in-reach services to current health center patients.
Your Texas Benefits Navigator (Community Partner Program)	This is a role and not a new position. Therefore, this assistance is not supported by federal or state funding.	Yes. Organizations that apply to become a Community Partner will have access to HHSCs online training modules and online quiz.	No, outreach services are not a requirement of HHSCs Community Partner Program.