



TACHC
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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NEWS

Funding Cliff Update: National Day of Demonstration!



Day of Demonstration – Red Alert for Health Centers is February 6

On Tuesday, February 6th, health center staff, supporters, and leaders will be mobilizing across the country to push for an end to help deliver the message that health center funding move to the top of Congress's priority list when the short-term Continuing Resolution expires on February 8. *It is essential that we maintain comprehensive affordable healthcare services for our community.* If you haven't already, please make sure to work with your colleagues to organize around National Day of Demonstration. As a reminder, the official hashtag for that day is #redalert4chcs - You can access resources to support demonstration on the HC Advocacy website here: <http://www.hcadvocacy.org/redalert> . Also, encourage creative ways to demonstrate around the impact of the cliff and the need for immediate action to fix the cliff. Additionally here is a national **Advocacy Hotline** call-in number **1-866-456-3949**. **As we saw in this most recent CR debate and brief government shutdown, many of the outstanding issues that Congress needs to resolve are complicated and controversial. These dynamics will continue to be beyond our control. We need to stay focused on keeping the pressure up and to carry the message that "Health Centers cannot continue to wait - CHC funding MUST be passed immediately."**

For any immediate questions, please email [Courtney Weaver](#), [Mimi Garcia](#) or [Mary Allen](#).

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We Want to Tell Your Success Stories!

It's more important than ever that we tell your patient success stories! 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!



TACHC 2018 Membership Directory Now Available!

With the input of our members and the help of some stellar TACHC staff, the **2018 Membership Directory** has been completed and is **available online now!** Hard copies were sent out the last week of January. A big thanks goes out to all those who helped put this year's directory together.

TACHC LGBT Collaborative

If your health center is interested in furthering their training to better serve, screen and outreach to their LGBT patients, please contact [Sonia Lara](#). The training, which will be dictated by the collaborative, will be provided by the National LGBT Health Education Center at the Fenway Institute, the HRSA NCA grantee for this special population.

Happy TACHCiversary to the Following:

We would like to wish a very happy TACHCiversary to Anita, 02/07/2000; Nancy Gilliam, 02/02/2013; Britt Kushner, 02/24/2014; and Paul Christie, 02/01/2016. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OC³ CPI Webcast/ECP Office Hours: Coherent Steps to Care Coordination in FQHCs Part 2

The webcast takes place on February 16 from 9:00-11:00 AM. [Register here.](#)

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GROUP PURCHASING

Is Rite Aid Converting to Walgreens?

If any of your health centers contract with Rite Aid, they need to stay in close communication with each store to determine if – and when – it might convert to a Walgreens, as a conversion will interrupt its 340B eligibility. If a conversion is scheduled, they need to contact Apexus right away in order to minimize how long the site will be ineligible. Failure to do this will impact their eligibility for 340B – leading to claims of “diversion” if the “new” Walgreens continues to dispense 340B drugs.

Proposal To End “Penny Pricing” Expected Soon

In the near future, the Trump Administration is expected to release a proposed regulation that would end the long-standing “penny pricing” policy (under which drugs for which the statutory formula would result in a price less than zero are made available to 340B providers for a penny each.) NACHC and TACHC strongly opposes any changes to penny policy as being inconsistent with a plain reading of the 340B statute, and will submit comments.

E&C Review of the 340B Program

Last week the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the 340B program in the House, released a report detailing their examination of the 340B program over the past two years, which included hearings, document requests, and stakeholder meetings. [Here is a link to the report.](#)

POLICY

NACHC Survey Documenting Health Center Capacity and ACA Experiences

TACHC strongly encourages all health center CEOs to complete NACHC's [Survey Documenting Health Center Capacity and ACA Experiences](#) (*sample for viewing only*). The survey is being conducted in partnership with the George Washington University Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy, the Kaiser Family Foundation Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured, and the RCHN Foundation. The survey covers: (1.) health center capacity constraints; (2.) health centers' role in health insurance outreach and enrollment; and (3.) addiction treatment services. The survey must be completed online. If your health center CEO did not receive a link to complete the survey, please email ggprogram@gwu.edu.

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GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Approved Uniform Data System (UDS) Changes for 2018

[Program Assistance Letter \(PAL\)](#) 2017-08 highlights the approved changes to the UDS for calendar year 2018. The early dissemination of this PAL, released about a year in advance of the reporting period, supports the [UDS modernization efforts](#) currently underway. Changes include updates to the CMS electronic-specified clinical quality measures, removal of the Patient-Centered Medical Home measure (identified as redundant), an expanded telehealth question, and updates to the Medication-Assisted Treatment and Meaningful Use questions. The reporting changes detailed in this PAL will be used by Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes for reporting data beginning in January 1, 2019. The forthcoming 2018 UDS Manual will include additional details regarding these changes.

Funding Opportunity: Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

Under the Rural Health Network Development Planning Program, up to 20 rural public and nonprofit entities forming a consortium of three or more organizations will be awarded total funding of \$2 million to assist in the planning and development of an integrated health care network at the local level. By emphasizing the role of networks, the program creates a platform for medical care providers, social service providers, and community organizations to coalesce key elements of a rural health care delivery system for the purpose of improving local capacity and coordination of care. [View the grant opportunity here](#). Applications are due by February 23. For any questions, please contact [Sara Afayee](#) at (301)945-4169.

What Happens to Your Patients When Your Center is Closed?

If a concerned mom calls about a child with a fever and your center is closed, what happens after that call? How many of our after-hours callers are going to the ER unnecessarily? How many times is the continuity of care disrupted because your doors are closed? With a Nurse Advice Line, you can rest assured that your patients are being taken care of and are being triaged appropriately. This service, offered under TACHC's group purchasing program, has grown significantly since launching early last year and it's not too late to sign on! The number of calls is unlimited and translation services are also offered at no additional cost. If you would like additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

Health Centers That Receive An Inquiry From Kalderos Should Respond Promptly

Health centers across the country are being contacted by an organization called Kalderos, asking about potential duplicate discounts. NACHC encourages health centers to respond promptly to these requests, as Kalderos is acting on behalf of multiple drug manufacturers, and failure to respond promptly can significantly increase the chances of being subject to a full-scale manufacturer auditor.

2018 TACHC Membership Dues Deadline: March 1, 2018

The notice for the 2018 TACHC membership dues was emailed to each Executive Director in early January. Full or partial payment (as per Payment Policy), must be received by TACHC by 3/1/18; postmarked not acceptable. If you have any questions about the dues payment process, please contact [Lynn Ford](#) or [Danielle Ramos](#)

Do You Need to Update Your Strategic Plan?

If it's been a while since your organization reviewed and updated its strategic plan, now is the time to do it and the TACHC Community Development team can help! In today's changing environment, assessing and adjusting the organization's roadmap is more important than ever to ensure long term sustainability and provide continued access to quality care to its community members. The TACHC Community Development team offers a fun and interactive strategic planning session that will identify where the organization is going, action steps for progress and determine whether the organization has been successful in operationalizing its strategic efforts. This service is free of charge to TACHC members. For more information or to schedule your strategic planning session, contact [Erika Canales](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#)

Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?

If you would like to request a Letter of Support, signed by TACHC Executive Director, José Camacho, please email [Corinne Medina](#) along with the project abstract. Once the request and abstract have been received, please allow 2-3 business days for turnaround.

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CLINICAL

Pain Management Project ECHO Initiative Learning Community

The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) is partnering with the Weitzman Institute at Community Health Centers, Inc. (a HRSA-funded National Cooperative Agreement (NCA)) to offer up to 20 HRSA-funded health centers the opportunity to participate in a Pain Management Project Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) Initiative Learning Community. It will assist health centers that are integrating behavioral health services and implementing evidence-based prescribing guidelines and non-pharmacological approaches for pain management and related behavioral health services. Participating organizations will engage in didactic ECHO learning sessions and case consultation sessions twice monthly (90 minutes each) for six months beginning in March. [Apply here](#) by COB February 9. Direct questions or concerns to [Aaron Williams](#), Senior Director, Training and Technical Assistance for Substance Abuse at CIHS.

CMS Behavioral Health Integration Services Fact Sheet

The CMS [Behavioral Health Integration Services Fact Sheet](#) is now available. It provides information about Medicare coverage of behavioral health integration services, including the new BHI American Medical Association CPT codes, integrating behavioral health with primary care services, and the Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model.

Provider Resources to Combat the Opioid Epidemic: Policy Briefs Now Available!

The NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) developed [five 2-page policy briefs](#) for providers tackling the opioid epidemic. Topics include: Effectively treating addiction, Using Naloxone in life-saving situations, Improving opioid prescribing, Treating opioid use in the criminal justice setting and among pregnant women. The briefs describe the risk of using opioids, offer science-driven solutions, and provide links to additional information and resources.

Region VI Opioid Summit: Key Strategies to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region VI Office will join UT Southwestern Medical Center in hosting a **U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services Region Vi Opioid Summit on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at UT Southwestern.** The event will engage subject matter experts, federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders to discuss opioid prevention-treatment-recovery strategies while identifying resources and opportunities for technical assistance related to the epidemic. **Registration is now open** and can be found [here](#).

Connecting Oral and Heart Health: Blood Pressure Screening and Smoking Cessation in the Dental Setting

HRSA presents a webinar on Wednesday, February 21, 11:00-12:00 p.m. CST highlighting the connection between cardiovascular disease and oral health and the importance of integrating oral and primary health care. Participants will learn about promising practices that promote both cardiovascular and oral health within health centers and how to incorporate cardiovascular disease prevention strategies, such as blood pressure screening

and tobacco cessation services, into the dental setting. [View the webcast the day of the session.](#)

HITEQ UDS Clinical Analysis Dashboards

The Health Information Technology Training and Technical Assistance Center (HITEQ), a HRSA-funded NCA, has created UDS Clinical Analysis Dashboards to help HRSA partner organizations (health centers, Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs), Primary Care Associations, and other NCAs) examine trends in clinical results and the impact of electronic health record (EHR) usage at both the individual organization and group levels. [Learn more.](#) Dashboards include a national view, accessible to all organizations, as well as a view that reflects information related to individual health center results over time, and group comparisons of the members of a HCCN or state compared to all others. These dynamic customizable dashboards provide organization-specific analyses of all 14 clinical measures across six years of reporting. Authorized individuals from each organization should have received an email in recent weeks with log-in details. For additional information, please view the archived webinar, [Accessing and Using the HITEQ UDS Clinical Analysis Dashboard](#), or email hiteqinfo@jsi.com.

New FREE Continuing Education from MMWR and Medscape Vital Signs: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing and Diagnosis Delays

CDC's *MMWR* and Medscape are proud to introduce a new [FREE continuing education \(CE\) activity](#) that describes diagnosis delays among persons infected with HIV: Vital Signs: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing and Diagnosis Delays - United States. This activity is intended for infectious disease clinicians, family medicine specialists, internists, nurses, pharmacists, public health officials, and other clinicians caring for patients with or at risk for HIV infection. To access this FREE *MMWR* / Medscape CE activity [visit here](#). If you are not a registered user on Medscape, please [register for free or login without a password](#) and get unlimited access to all continuing education activities and other Medscape features

TACHC and Henry Schein Dental Contract Continues

The TACHC and Henry Schein Dental purchasing program contract has been extended for an additional three (3) years. TACHC has had a dental purchasing program in place for the members since 2003. The dental purchasing program includes supplies, equipment, maintenance, and repair. TACHC looks forward to continuing the collaboration with Henry Schein Dental to bring beneficial service and products to the dental programs of the TACHC members. If there are any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford](#).

Calories, Cavities and Kids: The Role of Dental Professionals in Addressing Childhood Obesity

This webinar is hosted by the National Network for Oral Health Access, a HRSA-funded NCA and takes place Monday, February 5, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST, [Register here](#), (1.0) Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credit is available.

Hepatitis C Infection: Updated Information for Front Line Workers in Primary Care Settings

This webinar is hosted by the National Center for Health and Public Housing, a HRSA-funded NCA/North American Management Wednesday, February 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST, [Register here](#).

Examples of Collaborations with Local Health Departments to Develop New Resources Needed

As the health care and public health landscape continue to evolve, collaboration between health centers and local health departments becomes increasingly important. In partnership with HRSA, the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) and the [Center for Sharing Public Health Services \(CSPHS\)](#) will work together to develop new tools and resources aimed at enhancing collaboration between health centers and health departments. If you are with a health center that has formally or informally collaborated with a health department in any way over the past 3 to 5 years, we invite you to [complete a short assessment](#) (2-3 minutes). Please contact [Melissa Mayer](#) with any question.

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[RECRUITMENT & RETENTION](#)

Recruitment & Retention: 2017 Review

TACHC's R & R Department would like to thank all of the TACHC member centers who utilized the R & R program in 2017, helping the department complete a total of 15 placements for the year! We look forward to assisting you with your Recruitment & Retention needs in 2018! Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help you recruit for? [Complete the TACHC online position profile](#). Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) for more information.

Assessment of Health Professionals

With the support of HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is fielding a short assessment to gather information on health centers' current experiences with health professions training activities in order to identify potential areas for resources, training, and technical assistance. This assessment takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and should be completed by all health centers regardless of whether or not they are currently training health professions students or residents. Please preview the questions and complete the [assessment online](#). Contact [Allison Abayasekara VP, Training & Programs](#). Phone: 703-562-8820

Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?

Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help recruit for? [Complete the TACHC online position profile](#). Contact [Danielle Ramos, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) for more information.

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 · TX, United States

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