



# TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

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### **NEWS**

**New TACHC Resource: What is a Community Health Center? Video**



We are proud to share the Texas version of the “What is a Community Health Center?” video. Created with help from the Hawaii Association of Community Health Centers, this short video is a brief explanation of community health centers and the services they provide the community. Note: Anyone can share or embed this video for community outreach. Only TACHC members have the ability to download of the video, and should have received an email with the video links allowing them to do so.

- [What is a Community Health Center?](#) (English)
- [What is a Community Health Center?](#) (Spanish)

TACHC members in need of the download link please contact TACHC Communications Director [Brom Hoban](#)

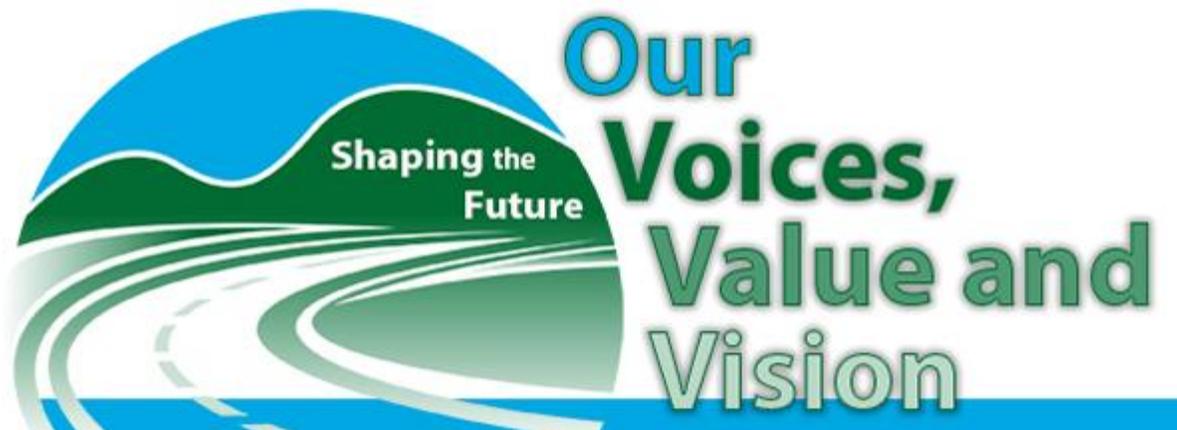
### **Federal Judge Tosses New Texas Voter ID Law; State Plans to Appeal**

A federal judge has tossed out a new law softening Texas’ strict voter identification requirements. Texas’ attorney general says he will appeal the ruling. Read full article [HERE](#).

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Register Now! TACHC Annual Conference • October 29-November 1, 2017 La Cantera Resort & Spa • San Antonio, Texas**



### **13th Annual Texas Health Literacy Conference**

The conference, held October 12-13 in San Antonio, is geared towards health care organizations (and their providers and staff) working with patients who are living in poverty. This conference will be covering health literacy in health insurance, LGBT, youth, older adults and mental health populations/communities via 90 or 120 minute break out sessions. For more information, please visit [www.SAHealthLiteracy.com](http://www.SAHealthLiteracy.com) or contact Kate Martin at [Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mary.k.martin@uth.tmc.edu). Additional information about the conference can be found [HERE](#).

## GROUP PURCHASING

### OPA's 340B Database Offline For Updates

As part of the transition to the new 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (340B OPAIS), the current 340B database will be offline and unavailable as of August 15, 2017. HRSA will begin to archive the information in the current 340B database in preparation for the release of the registration component of the new 340B OPAIS in mid-September 2017 (exact date TBD). During this time, FQHCs will not be able to submit change requests or terminations. However, users can verify covered entity participation, manufacturer participation, and contract pharmacy locations in the 340B Program at [www.hrsa.gov/opa](http://www.hrsa.gov/opa). If you have any questions, contact [Lynn Ford](#).

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## POLICY

### HRSA Technical Assistance (TA) Webcast re: Program Assistance Letter (PAL) 2017-06

This webcast is scheduled for Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 1:00 PM CST and will describe the process and requirements for FTCA Health Centers that wish to have their Health Center Volunteers deemed under the FTCA program. The BPHC Technical Helpline indicated to TACHC that the full PAL will be posted next week. On the day of the webcast, please click [HERE](#) to view the broadcast. No pre-registration is necessary.

### Special Session Ends

Texas' legislative special session ended a day earlier than expected; about half of Governor Abbott's priorities passed both the House and the Senate and made it to the Governor's desk. Governor Abbott declared the special session in part to pass legislation that would keep open several state agencies, including the Texas Medical Board, which licenses doctors. TACHC monitored this sunset legislation closely, along with [SB 17](#), which extended a study of the causes of maternal mortality.

#### Passed

1. Sunset legislation to keep alive state agencies ([SB 20](#) and [SB 60](#))
2. Limiting local tree regulations ([HB 7](#))
3. Restricting cities' ability to annex property ([SB 6](#))
4. Increasing abortion complication reporting requirements ([HB 13](#))
5. Prohibiting abortion coverage under primary health insurance plans ([HB 214](#))
6. Extending a study of the causes of maternal mortality ([SB 17](#))
7. Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud ([SB 5](#))
8. Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders ([SB 11](#))
9. Public school finance improvements and a study commission ([HB 21](#))
10. Increasing teacher benefits, including easing trims to retirees' health care ([SB 19](#))

#### Failed

11. Teacher pay increase and more flexible contracts and salary schedule (linked in his proclamation with their benefits as one item)
12. School vouchers for special-needs children
13. Limiting growth of local property taxes
14. Caps on local government spending
15. Caps on state government spending
16. Speeding up local government permitting process
17. Preventing local rule changes midway through construction projects
18. Pre-empting local restrictions on mobile devices in automobiles
19. Restricting transgender Texans from using the bathroom of their choice
20. Prohibiting public employers from collecting union dues
21. Prohibiting local governments from sending tax dollars to Planned Parenthood

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## GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

### 2016 Health Center Program Data Now Available

HRSA has released the 2016 UDS information. Data shows the HRSA funded health centers served nearly 26 million people – 1 in 12 nationwide – in 2016. In Texas, a total of 1,328,406 patients accessed care through a health center or a look-alike center. Almost all (99.6%) health centers nationally demonstrated improvement on one or more clinical quality measures. [View the Health Center Data & Reporting Here.](#)

### 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.

### Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?

If you haven't heard, TACHC recently began offering a Nurse Advice Line through the Group Purchasing program. Following Schmitt-Thompson support protocols, a registered nurse, licensed in the state of Texas, will triage callers when your center doors are closed. This after-hours support service is helping centers significantly alleviate their on-call provider schedules. For some, the nurse advice line is replacing it completely. The service is available 24/7/365, and includes free translation services and unlimited calls. If you would like additional information, please contact [Corinne Medina](#) or [Nancy Gilliam](#).

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## OUTREACH



The banner features the 'mytexas myhealth' logo on the left, with 'mytexas' in pink and 'myhealth' in green. To the right, the text reads 'REGISTER NOW!' in bold, followed by 'TACHC Outreach and Enrollment 2017 Conference' and the slogan 'Together Towards Tomorrow.' in a blue script font. At the bottom, it specifies the dates 'September 27-28' and the location 'Bee Cave, TX'.

### TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference – Register Now!

Please join us September 27-28, 2017 at the Sonesta Bee Cave - Austin Hotel for the 5th TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Conference: My Texas My Health. Together Towards Tomorrow. The conference will focus on the latest health care policies at both the federal and state levels and what that means for outreach and enrollment activities in health centers, including messages and strategies to respond to any changes. Breakout sessions will highlight an updated session on immigration issues, outreach to Veterans, programs available for women's health and an improved lesson on selecting and comparing Marketplace health plans. There will be opportunities for peer learning and networking for sharing best practices as well. All health center outreach and enrollment staff and supervisors are invited to attend. [Register here.](#) Contact [Sonia Lara](#) or [RexAnn Shotwell](#) for more information.

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## CLINICAL



Centering®

### Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings

Group medical visits are a reimbursable model that fits in the space between fee-for-service and value-based payment. FQHCs nationwide are increasingly using group visits to increase access to care, improve patient health outcomes, reduce emergency room utilization, and increase patient and provider satisfaction. Centering® is a particular model of group care developed by the **Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI)** that is well established nationwide, with nearly 500 practice sites across the country, including over 100 in FQHCs. The visit schedule and content follow nationally recognized guidelines and there are numerous publications that show reduced costs to the health system, improved health outcomes, and reduced health disparities.

TACHC and CHI are partnering to bring the trainings necessary to successfully implement Centering groups in health centers here in Texas.

### Centering Virtual Information Seminar

- **Part 1: September 7, 2017 12:00 - 2:00 PM CST**
- **Part 2: September 14, 2017 12:00 - 2:00 PM CST**
- **Part 3: September 21, 2017 12:00 - 2:00 PM CST**

### Basic Facilitation Workshop October 28-29, 2017

Annual Conference preconference to be held at CommuniCare Health Centers in San Antonio.

### How to Participate:

- **Health centers interested in implementing Centering groups must complete the [Readiness Assessment from the CHI website](#).**
- **To register your team for the Virtual Information Seminar, [please complete the VIS registration form](#).**
- **Space for the Basic Facilitation Training is limited, therefore health centers will need to [complete the BFT registration form](#).** Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis and approval will be determined based on the results of the readiness assessment and whether the health center is registered/attends all three parts of the Virtual Information Seminar.
- **For any questions, please contact Ana Sierra at [asierra@tachc.org](mailto:asierra@tachc.org).**

### March of Dimes Grant Opportunity - DEADLINE TODAY

If you plan on implementing CenteringPregnancy, an opportunity to offset some of the costs may exist through the **2018 March of Dimes Texas Community Grant funding**. March of Dimes Texas is accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) by **August 25, 2017** as a first step in requesting 2018 grant funding. If Texas FQHCs are planning on participating in the above trainings and implementing CenteringPregnancy, March of Dimes is encouraging them to submit a Letter of Intent, specifically **highlighting that the costs for implementation are significantly reduced due the partnership of TACHC and CHI**.

If you have general grant questions, please contact [Amy Johnson-Rubio](#) with the March of Dimes. For questions on how this can specifically relate to Centering, please contact [Ana Sierra](#).

### Using Neighborhood Socioeconomic Data to Improve Health Outcomes Webcast

In this webinar on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 1:00 - 2:00 PM CST, Dr. Amy Kind of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health will discuss the relationship between neighborhood

disadvantage and health disparities, and the challenges of incorporating socioeconomic measures within national-level health policy and delivery. She will then introduce a practical approach to measuring neighborhood disadvantage and discuss early applications of this tool for health care delivery. Living in a socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhood is associated with lower education, worse health behaviors, higher stress, and increased rates of mortality and disease. These associations have been recognized for decades, but there have been barriers to applying this information to health policy and health delivery. [Click Here to Register.](#)

### **Connected Care: The Chronic Care Management Resource**

An estimated [117 million adults](#) have one or more chronic health conditions, and one in four adults have two or more chronic health conditions. Through the Connected Care campaign, the CMS Office of Minority Health and the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy at HRSA will raise awareness of the benefits of Chronic Care Management (CCM) for patients with multiple chronic conditions and provide health care professionals with resources to implement CCM. [Learn more about the Connected Care campaign.](#)

### **Dental Dashboard Collaborative Pilot Change Package**

Through a cooperative agreement with HRSA, the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) launched the Dashboard Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative pilot with five HRSA Health Center Program grantee dental programs. Using an established quality improvement approach, these grantees tested materials, techniques, and methods for implementing a set of oral health quality measures in health center dental programs and improving quality of care. [See a compilation of the best practices that emerged from their testing.](#)

### **New PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards**

To broaden the understanding and knowledge of PRAPARE, its use, and its impact to bring PRAPARE to scale, NACHC, AAPCHO, and OPCA are launching the first ever PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards. The purpose of the Engagement and Innovation Awards is two-fold: (1) to identify, support, and learn from innovative and unique uses of PRAPARE and (2) to disseminate those models and lessons learned in order to accelerate the use of PRAPARE across health centers and more patients. Please read the application (attached and posted at [www.nachc.org/prapare](http://www.nachc.org/prapare)) for more information. Five health centers will be awarded, with each health center awarded \$8,000 for active participation during each round. Round One will occur between October 2017 – May 2018 and Round Two will occur between October 2018 – 2019. Only health centers are eligible to apply.

Applications for Round One are due Friday, September 15 by 11:00 PM CST. Submit applications and questions to [prapare@nachc.org](mailto:prapare@nachc.org). Additional instructions and application can be found [HERE](#).

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the application will be posted and updated regularly on our website ([www.nachc.org/prapare](http://www.nachc.org/prapare)) starting the week of September 28. Submit questions to [prapare@nachc.org](mailto:prapare@nachc.org).

## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

### **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 - United States

This email was sent to [aalvarez@tachc.org](mailto:aalvarez@tachc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).