



**TACHC**  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers

**WEEKLY WRAP-UP**

Volume: 9 Issue: 36

September 8, 2017

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**NEWS**

**Hurricane Harvey: The Road to Recovery**

Unified Response to Hurricane Harvey Continues  
TACHC is Here to Help  
Health Center Funding Cliff  
TACHC Employee Anniversaries

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference Starts September 27-28 – Register Now!  
Register Now! TACHC Annual Conference  
13th Annual Texas Health Literacy Conference

**GROUP PURCHASING**

HRSA OPA 340B Update-OPAIS Webinar Set for September 13  
Request for Information on 340B/Pharmacy  
OPA's 340B Database Offline For Updates

**POLICY**

Health Center Funding Cliff

**GOVERNANCE & FINANCE**

2016 Health Center Program Data Now Available  
Need a Letter of Support from TACHC?  
Does Your Center Need a Nurse Advice Line?

**OUTREACH**

Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference – Register Now!

**CLINICAL**

Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings  
Ensuring Compliance with the 2016-2017 Top Challenging Accreditation Standards for Health Centers  
How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home Webinar  
A Message from the American Cancer Society  
New PRAPARE Health Center Engagement and Innovation Awards  
St. David's Foundation Announces Postpartum Support Services RFP

**RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

Assessment of Health Professionals  
Would You Like Us to Help You Recruit?

## NEWS



### **Unified Response to Hurricane Harvey Continues**

TACHC wishes to express our gratitude for the tremendous outpouring of help from not only our own health centers in Texas, but from organizations around the country. Our unified effort has already helped many victims of Hurricane Harvey. Needless to say, there is still a long way to go to recover from the unprecedented damages wrought by the storm.

Sufficient medicines (especially Tetanus) and staff shortages remain a big concern in affected areas. There are 34 health centers with 186 sites in declared disaster counties. Of those, 26 health centers have 132 sites where patients have been directly affected by severe flooding or damage to their homes. At least twelve health centers have reported that multiple members of their staff have flooded or damaged homes, even staff members who have lost everything. Nine health center sites have reported damage, including significant flooding and one case of looting.

Resources are flowing in from mobile units sent by health centers from areas in Texas, [California](#), and Florida (Direct Relief has also provided 60 emergency deliveries to 18 sites in Texas containing more than \$900,000 (wholesale) in medicines, hygiene kits, and supplies, which include insulin and other requested medications that are critically important for patients with chronic conditions that can rapidly become life threatening if unmanaged. There is also a need for Tetanus/TDAP and possibly Hepatitis A vaccines for people who have waded through floodwaters that typically carry bacteria. TACHC is also working with federal officials to ensure that health centers have the resources and adaptability to respond to the host of needs that emerge in the wake of a disaster, including expedited licensing, CHIP co-pay waivers, WIC replenishment, and SNAP for hot and ready to eat foods. For more information about donations to Texas health centers [please visit this link](#).

### **TACHC is Here to Help**

As TACHC continues to provide assistance, we need to know your specific needs. Please send your assessments, requests for assistance, or questions for support to Christina Brito-Tigerina at [cbtigerina@tachc.org](mailto:cbtigerina@tachc.org).

## [Back to Top](#)

### **Health Center Funding Cliff**



(Click to download full graphic)

If Congress does not take action by September 30, health centers could see a 70% funding cut when the Community Health Center Fund expires.

The Community Health Centers Fund was established in 2010 under the ACA. It provided a supplemental infusion of funds to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) for expansion, operation, and allowed health centers to open new locations in poor and medically underserved areas of the country. In 2015, Congress extended the Community Health Center Fund for 2 more years. Now in 2017, we face another funding expiration. **Failure to extend funding for the Community Health Center Fund would result in a 70% funding cut for FQHCs.** Clinics could close without a funding extension.

FQHCs are in urban, suburban, rural, and frontier areas of the state. In some communities, especially rural communities, the local health center is the only full time medical provider in the community. In Texas, 76 FQHCs deliver health services at more than 450 sites in 122 counties and see more than 1.2 million patients a year for over 4.5 million health visits a year. FQHCs serve everyone who comes to them, regardless of ability to pay. In a state like Texas with such a high uninsured population, health centers are essential.

**Over the next couple weeks we will be mobilizing letters, calls, op-eds, etc. to turn up the heat and I ask all of you to join, make calls, and amplify the message through your networks and through social media. Take action now by emailing your members of Congress and tell them to act to save health centers.**

#### Washington D.C. Fly-In

TACHC Executive Director José E. Camacho, Director of Policy and External Communications Mimi Garcia, and Policy and Research Associate Mary Allen will be headed to Washington, DC. as part of the "DC Fly-In" to avoid the funding cliff and extend the Health Centers Fund. They'll be joining community health centers from Texas and around the nation next week (September 11) to visit with members of Congress and seek a long-term fix for the funding cliff.

All TACHC members attending should have received an email with the materials needed for the visit. Any questions, please contact [Mary Allen](#).

#### TACHC Employee Anniversaries

Happy "TACHCiversary" to the following:

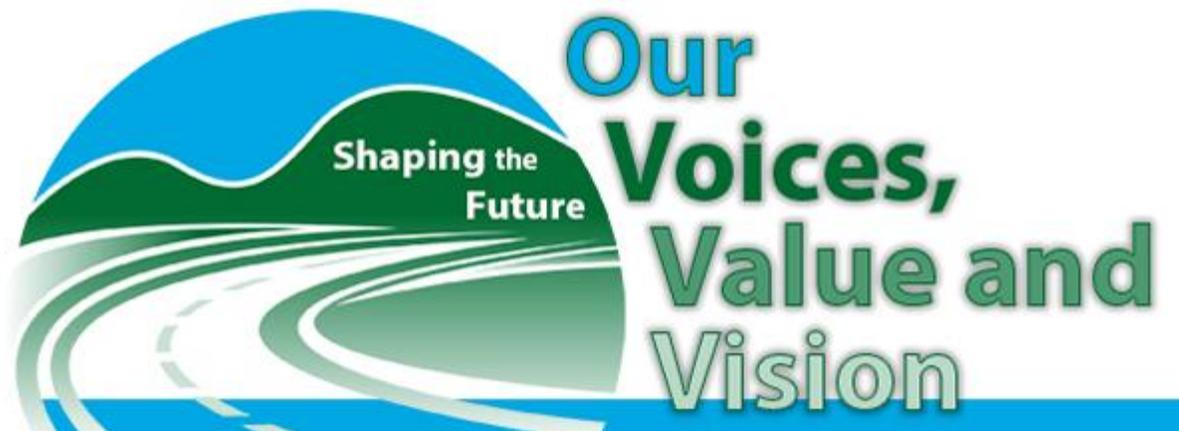
- Maria Tamez since September 4, 2007

- Courtney Weaver since September 22, 2014

[Back to Top](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TACHC Outreach & Enrollment Annual Conference Starts September 27- 28 – Register Now!**



**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).

### GROUP PURCHASING

#### HRSA OPA 340B Update-OPAIS Webinar Set for September 13

HRSA's Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) is transitioning: Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (OPAIS). OPAIS will have two separate components: (1) a new registration system and (2) a new secure pricing system. The registration component of the new OPAIS will be released in mid-September and the pricing system will be released at a later date. The registration component of the new OPAIS will modernize the current 340B Database to enhance its integrity and functionality and security for both manufacturers and covered entities.

OPA will hold a webinar on September 13, 2017, from 1:00-2:00 pm EST to prepare covered entities for the new registration component of the system. The webinar will be recorded and can be viewed on the OPA website after September 13, 2017. To connect to the call: 800-857-9665 with a participant code: 4780274.

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

#### Request for Information on 340B/Pharmacy

The 340B pharmacy program is under a microscope at the federal level and in the theme of being pro-active, NACHC has asked for two pieces of information:

1. Brief examples of how your health center uses the 340B savings to expand services to your patients and communities. For example: expanding dental services or underwriting sliding fee discounts or adding evening and weekend hours. The documenting of these services as an internal document is

- an excellent idea if you are ever asked what you do with these savings.
2. Information on why it is critical for your health center to be able to contract with multiple retail pharmacies.

Please forward the examples and information to [Lynn Ford](#).

### **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 [hrsa.gov/opa](http://hrsa.gov/opa). If you have any questions, contact [Lynn Ford](#).

[Back to Top](#)

### **POLICY** **Health Center Funding Cliff (see above)**

[Back to Top](#)

### **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](#).

[Back to Top](#)

### **OUTREACH**



**REGISTER NOW!**  
TACHC Outreach and Enrollment 2017 Conference

*Together Towards Tomorrow.*

September 27-28 | 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 Today!](#) Contact [Sonia Lara](#) or [RexAnn Shotwell](#) for more information.

[Back to Top](#)

### **CLINICAL**



Centering®

### **Centering Group Medical Visit Trainings**

There's less than a week until the first Centering Virtual Information Seminar! If you are interested in bringing group medical visits, and specifically the [Centering model of care](#), to your health center, we highly encourage you to attend this free three-part webcast series.

#### **Centering Virtual Information Seminar**

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

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

The Basic Facilitation Workshop will be held at CommuniCare Health Centers in San Antonio prior to the start of the Annual Conference.

#### **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](#).**

### **Ensuring Compliance with the 2016-2017 Top Challenging Accreditation Standards for Health Centers**

A Webcast for **Accreditation Standards for Health Centers** (Presented by OQI and The Joint Commission) is set for Thursday, Sept. 14, 1:00-2:00 PM. CST. [View the webcast the day of the session.](#)

### **How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home Webinar**

A "How Health IT Works to Support Patient-Centered Medical Home" Webinar (Hosted by HITEQ, a BPHC-funded NCA) is set for Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2:00-3:00 PM CST. [Register here](#)

### **A Message from the American Cancer Society**

We have worked with many of you to support the cancer prevention and early detection needs of your community health centers and the patients you serve. Our hearts go out to everyone in the community who has been affected by Hurricane Harvey. We understand that a disaster can compound and intensify the challenges a cancer patient faces. The American Cancer Society can provide knowledgeable help and compassionate guidance. We have many resources to help those fighting cancer. If Hurricane Harvey has impacted you or a loved one who has cancer, the American Cancer Society can help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us at 1-800-227-2345. [Find out more here.](#)

### **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](#) for more information. Five health centers will be awarded, \$8,000 each 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 the [NACHC website](#) starting the week of September 28. Submit questions to [prapare@nachc.org](mailto:prapare@nachc.org).

### **St. David's Foundation Announces Postpartum Support Services RFP**

St. David's Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of funds to aid low-income and underserved women in Central Texas in receiving timely and effective postpartum support services. The postnatal period represents a vital window to help women and babies reap health benefits that can pay dividends for years to come. Through this opportunity, the Foundation is interested in improving postpartum access and outcomes for underserved women during the "fourth trimester," the year following delivery. [See the full story here.](#)

## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

### **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 · United States

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