



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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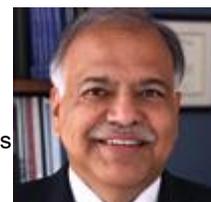
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NEWS

***Uvalde Leader News* Runs TACHC Executive Director José Camacho's "Viewpoint"**

The *Uvalde Leader News* ran TACHC Executive Director/General Counsel José Camacho's "Viewpoint" editorial piece on February 19, along with a picture of five-year old Caelyn Cantu's letter written to Texas Sen. Carlos Uresti. [You can read José's article here](#)



We Want to Tell Your Story—Request for Anecdotes

Staff at TACHC are hard at work preparing for the legislative session, and we want to tell your story! 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!



Project Vida - First row: Bill Schlesinger- CEO; Bryan Ted Ibarra, Youth Action Team; Rosario Fernandez, coordinator, Economic Development. Second row: Mario Mendoza, Economic Development specialist; Gloria Marmolejo, supervisor- Education dept.; Myranda Valenzuela, Youth Action Team; Jesus Zapata, Power 4 Uth program facilitator; Carmen Zuniga Hernandez, Power 4 Uth program coordinator; Third row: Irma Avila, coordinator Housing dept.; Aida Delgado, Infant Care, Education dept.; Joyce Davidoff, Grants & External Affairs; Aida Ponce, supervisor, Wellness dept.; and Pastor Neal Locke, Project Vida Board of Directors.

Project Vida Health Center Recognized at Capitol

Congratulations to Project Vida Health Center (El Paso) which was recognized during “El Paso Days” in the Texas Legislature in Austin at the State Capitol on February 22. The resolutions recognizing Project Vida’s 25 years of comprehensive service, 1991-2016, were read on Wednesday, February 22, in the Texas House of Representatives and in the Texas Senate. **Following the resolutions, leaders from Project Vida spent the rest of the day visiting with legislators.**

“Project Vida is just delighted to have recognition from the state, as well from our city and county for 25 years of service in the El Paso area. We’ve got folks here from all of our different programs: housing, healthcare, education, homeless prevention & recovery, from our work in the schools. We’ve got some of kids with us who have been active in Power 4 Uth. And this has been a remarkable experience to find ourselves here in Austin and to be able to tell our story,” said Project Vida CEO Bill Schlesinger.

Veronica Brown, Lone Star Circle of Care Testifies at Capitol

THANK YOU to Veronica Brown from Lone Star Circle of Care (Georgetown), who testified at the state Capitol on HB1 (state budget) before the House Appropriations Article 2 subcommittee on February 23. Veronica talked about the need to maintain funding for women's health and urged the committee not to reduce eligibility or services for Medicaid patients.



NACHC's New Health Center Advocacy Network Website Unveiled

NACHC's [new Health Center Advocacy Network website at www.hcadvocacy.org](http://www.hcadvocacy.org) was recently unveiled. Over the past three years, the Health Center Advocacy Network has experienced unprecedented growth to encompass 100,000 individuals and counting. Thanks to this growing number of Advocates like you, who have not only joined the Campaign for America's Health Centers, but have repeatedly raised your voice on behalf of Health Centers and their patients, the power and effectiveness of our network has grown as well. [Read the full story here.](#)

Urgent: Short National Health Center Survey on Potential Impacts of ACA Repeal

NACHC has collaborated with the George Washington University and the RCHN Foundation to rapidly develop and field a national survey of health centers that would document the potential impacts of an ACA repeal on health centers and their patients. This short survey was just fielded to all health centers, and CEOs should have received an email invitation to participate. Please take the time to complete this survey as soon as possible so we can collect this vital information. The full survey can be previewed [here](#). If you think you should have received the survey and did not, please email ggprogram@gwu.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PCMH Bootcamp • Starting February 28, 2017 → **REGISTER NOW!**

PCMH Bootcamp

TACHC is offering a FREE PCMH Bootcamp starting Tuesday, February 28 and continuing through July. In partnership with Community Health Solutions, the Bootcamp will help health centers either attain or maintain PCMH recognition through a combination of face-to-face group learning sessions, webinars, weekly virtual office hours, and an online support portal. Space is limited to 25 health centers. To reserve your spot, contact [Verne LaGrega](#). For more information, [please click here](#).

TACHC HIT Summit • March 1-3, 2017 → **REGISTER NOW!**

TACHC HIT Summit!

The TACHC HIT Summit is March 1-3, 2017 at the Airport Hilton in Austin, TX. The summit is open to all members and all are encouraged to attend. HCCN members, as part of the grant, are authorized for up to 4 people from your center to receive up to \$150 for travel and \$150 for lodging for each member as part of attendance. The final day of the summit is set aside for EHR training on the two most member utilized EHRs; NextGen and eCW. For more information please visit the [TACHC Events Page](#) where you will find an agenda packed with important need to know topics. [Download agenda here.](#)



TACHC Clinical Conference – Putting the "U" in Value

April 20-22, 2017

Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center
1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78628

TACHC's Clinical Conference April 20-22 in Georgetown (Austin area)

TACHC's Clinical Conference will be held April 20-22, 2017 at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center in Georgetown, TX. This annual conference which is open to all clinical staff provides a mix of innovative concepts along with practical skills-based trainings. This year's theme is "Putting the 'U' in Value." We will be discussing the value of staff and treating them as your most important resource, the value that health centers bring towards patients and their communities, and the current move towards value-based care. Registration is now open. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

GROUP PURCHASING

340B "Mega-Guidance" Withdrawn

HRSA recently [withdrew its 340B Program Omnibus Guidance](#), also referred to as the "Mega-Guidance." The guidance would have addressed questions and provided clarifications for enrolled covered entities, drug manufacturers and contract pharmacies participating in the 340B Program. The withdrawal of the 340B Omnibus Guidance comes 10 days after the new federal administration's regulatory freeze that required that federal agencies not issue any new guidance and regulations, retract guidance and regulations under review by the Office of the Federal Register and postpone released guidance and regulations that have not yet taken effect.

POLICY

Bill of the Week: Friday, February 24, 2017

HB 1– (House Appropriations Committee's state budget bill) The House and Senate budget drafts are \$5.3B apart in General Revenue spending for 2018-19, with most of the gap accounted for in health care – Medicaid. The total amount of General Revenue spending proposed by the House is \$108.9B, significantly higher than the Senate's \$103.6B. The Senate proposal makes across-the-board cuts of 1.5% in General Revenue spending, exempting only the Foundation School Program. Under the Senate's proposal, HHSC is expected to lose \$489M in funding this biennium. We encourage the Senate to align their bill with the House version.

Registration Open for the NACHC 2017 Policy & Issues Forum

[Registration](#) for the NACHC Policy & Issues Forum is now open. The meeting will be held March 29-April 1, 2017 in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel. We encourage all health center advocates and board members to join as healthcare issues will be at the forefront of the new administration's agenda. The focus at P&I will be to preserve Medicaid and the unique role of health centers, as well as ensure strong funding to enhance health center capacity. [Click here](#) to register.

Save the Date: National Health Center Week 2017 Will Take Place August 13-19

It's never too early to start planning! Go ahead and mark your calendars for NHCW 2017, August 13-19. The theme this year is "Celebrating America's Health Centers: The Key to Healthier Communities". As you start your planning, please send along any high-resolution photos from past NHCW events that we can use to promote this important celebration online. Send photos to grassroots@nachc.org.

Federally Mandated Provider Enrollment for Federally Qualified Health Centers

Frequently Asked Questions

Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) has released a list of [frequently asked questions](#) regarding federally mandated provider enrollment in Medicaid for FQHCs. This document clarifies several of the issues health centers faced last year during the Medicaid enrollment process. Please reference the PDF as you continue with new enrollment/re-enrollment. For more information, please contact TACHC's Policy & Research Associate [Mary Allen](#).

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

2017 TACHC Membership Dues Deadline- Last Call

The notice for the 2017 **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 3/1/17** (new this year: postmarked not acceptable, must be received by TACHC by 3/1). If you have any questions about the dues payment process, please contact [Lynn Ford](#) or [Danielle Ramos](#).

Have You Properly Encrypted Health Center Devices?

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) imposed the largest civil money penalty to date, \$3,217,000 for two separate HIPAA breaches: a lost un-encrypted, non-password protected Blackberry and a stolen un-encrypted laptop both containing ePHI. The OCR decided to levy a penalty instead of imposing a corrective action plan due, in part, to CMC's "persistent refusal to employ appropriate encryption mechanism on its devices". HHS's press release can be found here: [HIPAA Civil Money Penalty for disclosure of unsecured ePHI](#).

CLINICAL

Keeping a Million Hearts Beating: How Integrated Care Can Reduce Heart Disease Webcast

The Million Hearts initiative was created to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. SAMHSA Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration (PBHCI) grantees have shown how integrating primary care helps reduce cholesterol, lower blood pressure, and lower the risk of hypertension for people with mental illnesses. Join this webinar to learn what's next for Million Hearts and how health care providers, including integrated primary and behavioral health care providers, have used Million Hearts' blood pressure protocols to improve the health of the people they serve. [Click Here to Register](#) on Tuesday, February 28, 2-3 pm

NADA Protocol Training for Substance Abuse Treatment

As substance abuse continues to be a problem in many communities, ear acupuncture using the NADA protocol is a model that can be performed in Texas by social workers, nurses, counselors, and psychologists as an adjunct to behavioral health services. The NADA protocol has been shown to reduce cravings and symptoms of withdrawal, and patients remain in substance abuse treatment longer. The AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine in Austin is providing a training March 3-5. For more information, [go here](#).

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. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

