



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

Weekly Wrap-up - November 8,  
2013

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**IMPORTANT:  
Before You Continue...**

**Important Changes Are Coming Soon to the TACHC Weekly Wrap:** TACHC needs your input! We are updating the look and delivery method for the Weekly Wrap to best meet our members' needs.

- Please participate in this [2-3 question survey](#) by **Wednesday, November 20, 2013**.
- To continue to receive the Weekly Wrap, you **must** be signed up as a TACHC Health Center Advocate by clicking [HERE](#).
- Have your center staff [sign up](#) to receive the Weekly Wrap and its important updates directly.

Questions? Contact [Andrea Abel](#), [Communications Director](#) at TACHC.

## Upcoming Events



### [TACHC November CPI Webcast “Coding to Ensure Accurate Health Risk Scoring” \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

*November 15, 2013, 9am to 11am*

**Why** do health centers need to ensure providers code correctly? And **how** should that coding occur? Our presenters will discuss how coding leads to accurate health risk scoring of patients and how that health risk scoring is used by health centers and third parties, as well as clarifying what robust diagnoses codes are and discussing common coding errors that should be avoided. **Participation in this webinar is mandatory for all health centers in Essential Care Partners.**

### [TACHC UDS Training](#)

*December 9, 2013, Hilton Austin Airport 9515 Hotel Drive Austin, TX 78719*

The Uniform Data System (UDS) in-person training is a full day program covering the preparation of the 2013 UDS Report. The training addresses each of the tables, including a discussion of the changes that have been made and the definitions necessary to complete the reports. The UDS training is aimed at those who are responsible for gathering and reporting the data elements included in the UDS report, as well as management and clinical staff who need to understand the definitions and concepts used. To register for this event, click [HERE](#).

Information regarding all upcoming events hosted by TACHC can be found [HERE](#). For questions or assistance, please contact [TaSheena Mitchell](#), [TACHC Meeting Coordinator](#).

## Governance and Finance



**1. Texas Medical Board Updates Rules:** SB 406, passed during the 83rd legislative session, made changes to the delegation of prescriptive authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs), effective **November 1, 2013**. The Texas Medical Board has published rules to implement changes made by SB 406. In sum, the Medical Board rules do the following:



- Remove site-based requirements for prescriptive authority eligibility for

APRN/PAs,

- Outline requirements for prescriptive authority agreements (the mechanism by which physicians delegate to APRNs/PAs), including the ability to use alternate physicians, and
- Set up requirements for periodic face-to-face meetings between APRN/PAs and delegating physicians.

The final Medical Board rules were published with a **November 7th effective date**. However, providers are not expected to report agreements to the Board until the end of November at the very earliest. TACHC is working on a draft prescriptive authority agreement. In the coming weeks, TACHC will set a webinar on the rules and the proposed contract amendments. Please contact [Shelby Massey, TACHC Policy & Research Coordinator](#) at TACHC if you have any questions.

**2. TACHC ACOs Plan Merger:** Essential Care Partners and Essential Care Partners II have approved a merger of their Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) **effective January 1, 2014**. This means 24 Texas health centers will be working together more efficiently to achieve best practices in care coordination, quality measurement and shared savings.



## Clinical Affairs



**Texas/Oklahoma AIDS Education & Training Center World AIDS Day Webinar Series:** Registration is now open for an upcoming webinar series in honor of World AIDS Day. Session 1: "HIV Routine Testing" will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 (12-1 pm CT) and guest speaker will be Cordella Lyon, RN & Ken Malone, \*CDC testing initiative. Session 2: "We Test, but it Ain't Easy" Strategies for Testing People of African Descent for HIV will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 12-1pm CT) and guest speaker will be R.J. Shannon, BA, \*MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative). Participants will be able to view slides, hear audio, participate in polls, and ask questions directly to each presenter. This webinar series will be presented LIVE over the internet. FREE Social Work CEs are available for this series! ["Click Here"](#) for more information and to register.



Texas/Oklahoma  
AIDS Education & Training Center

## Outreach



**CMS.gov**  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**1. CMS New ACA Storefronts Opening in Texas:** CMS has contracted with SRA International to open up storefronts in selected areas across the country. Specifically, they are looking at states where Medicaid was not

expanding and identifying zip codes in the biggest cities of those states that are most likely to have people age 18-35 that would be eligible for coverage through the exchange. New ones are about to open in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston, and will be opening one in El Paso and McAllen as well. The storefronts will be staffed by trained workers who know how to help folks with the website and with general Q&A. The one in Austin should be opening by Veterans Day, and will be located on the 6800 block of William Cannon. Locations of others around the state are anticipated in the near future. Contact [Sonia Lara, TACHC Director of Outreach & Enrollment](#) for more information.

**2. TACHC Request for Quarterly Progress Reports from HRSA O&E Grantees:** HRSA O&E grantees, please forward a copy of your first Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) that was due to HRSA on October 24, 2013 to [Sonia Lara, TACHC Director of Outreach & Enrollment](#) at TACHC. Grantees were required to report the following for the period July 1 – September 30, 2013: the number of OE staff that were trained as Certified Counselors; the number of assists provided; the number of Medicaid & CHIP applications submitted; the number of individuals enrolled; and any successes and challenges during the period. Please contact Sonia if you have any questions.



### Recruitment and Retention



**1. TACHC Congratulations to Brownsville Community Health Center for New Hire!** Dr. Mahmod Sultan, a TACHC referral, has accepted an offer from Brownsville Community Health Center for their Internal Medicine position. Dr. Mahmod is completing his Residency in New Jersey and will begin employment in August 2014. Does your center have openings for clinical providers or executive management that you would like us to help you recruit for? Click [HERE](#) and complete the quick and easy online position profile. Contact [April Sartor, TACHC Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) if you have questions or need assistance.



**2. TACHC Upcoming Staff Recruitment Activities:** With great enthusiasm, TACHC staff continue in our mission to support member organizations in fulfilling their clinical and administrative staff workforce needs. As such, we will be **speaking with Family Medicine residents at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston November 14<sup>th</sup>**. If your center has a new Family Medicine opportunity that you would like us to help you recruit for at this event, simply click [HERE](#) and complete the easy online position profile **by no later than close of business November 12<sup>th</sup>**. Have questions or need assistance? Contact [April Sartor, Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) at TACHC.



### Other News



**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](mailto:members@tachc.org)), where only TACHC executives or their designees are recipients.



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