

From: [LaSheila Young](#)
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Subject: MPHCA E-Update
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MPHCA e-Update- June 16, 2010

We hope you find this an efficient, useful tool and we welcome your feedback and comments.
Robert M. Pugh, Executive Director

MPHCA Events/Educational Offerings

- **NEW: July 21-22, 2010**- Community Health Center (CHC) Growth and Capacity Building Symposium and MPHCA Board of Directors Meeting-IP Casino*Resort*Spa, Biloxi, MS
- **August 20, 2010**- Basic Excel 2007

For complete information on trainings listed above, please click on http://www.mphca.com/Training_and_Events.htm

Other Events/Educational Offerings

- **June 17, 2010**-2nd Annual Men's Health and Health Care Conference,Hilton Jackson Convention Center, 1001 East County Line Road, Jackson, MS. ([Click here for more information](#)).
- **June 17,2010**-Group Health Insurance and Your Center's Employee Benefits program: What you need to know for 2010.
- **June 23, 2010**-Developing Effective FQHC Programs and Applications
- **June 24, 2010**- Addressing Harassment in the Workplace, Thursday, June 24, 2010 @ 2:00 - 3:30 pm Eastern. [Register for this webinar](#). Human Resources Management Webinars. Join us for these FREE Webinars designed specifically for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Primary Care Associations.
- **June 27-30, 2010**-Louisiana Primary Care Association's 2010 Annual Continuing Education Conference-Shreveport Convention Center, Shreveport, LA. For more information, please visit www.lpca.net.
- **July 8, 2010**-MPA Perinatal Health & Healing Partnership for Success, St. Dominic Centre, 3800-155 North Frontage Road. ([Click here for more information](#)).
- **July 19-21, 2010**-The 340B Coalition 14th Annual Conference, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. [Register today!](#)
- **August 8-14, 2010**- National Health Center Week (www.healthcenterweek.org)
- **August 10-11, 2010**- Strategic and Business Planning Seminar, Chicago
- **NACHC Seminars/Conferences/Webcasts 2010 Listings. To view complete listing, click here or Register Today at www.nachc.com!**
- **NEW:** Two New On-Demand Webinars -- Integrating HIV Services in Primary Care Settings and Strategic Budgeting (In Spanish)[Please take a moment to review and share the links **Implementing HIV Services in Primary Care Settings**: Case Presentations and Discussions](#)
- [Presupuestación Estratégica: El Camino al Éxito](#) (Strategic Budgeting: The Road to Success)
- **NEW: Registration Now Open for Two New Free Webinars!** NACHC is now offering two new webinars to provide health centers the tools needed to keep up with the changes coming out of Health Care reform. The first webinar is designed to offer health centers guidance on understanding the nuances of disability insurance coverage, and how to determine if staff members are adequately covered. The second, focuses on the challenges of health center staffing, and offers tips on attracting the top candidates and how to keep them! See details below on how to register for one of these dynamic and free webinars today!

Disability Insurance: How to be Sure Your Whole Staff is Covered

- **(CORRECTED DATE) July 1, 2010 2 – 3:30 PM EST**

Online registration cutoff date: June 28, 2010

This hour long webinar focuses on a very important employee benefit that often times gets overlooked: disability insurance. The make-up of the health center's staff is varied. Is each member of your staff adequately covered??

Learn the nuances of disability coverage and get to know the discounts available to you as a NACHC member community health center!

At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Determine what the actual benefit would be to a staff member if he/she went out on a disability claim.
- Find out what your current disability insurance covers.
- Distinguish between group health coverage and individual coverage.

Mass Mutual:
Kenneth J Van Valkenburgh

[Register online here.](#)

[Staffing Your Health Center in an Era of Health Reform](#)

July 15, 2010 2 – 3:30 PM EST

Online registration cutoff date: July 12, 2010

This convenient 90 minute webinar will address the challenges and obstacles of recruiting primary care physicians and dentists to your community health center. Topics discussed will include strategies for recruiting and retaining top talent. We will also provide inside expertise on the best ways to attract the candidates you really want and how to retain them.

In the fast paced world of community health, planning is key. We will discuss a successful CHC recruitment process model that will help you staff your clinics with the providers needed so you are not left with empty buildings losing potential revenue.

DDS Resources: Ed Taaffe, President, MD & DDS Resources; Jason Ortwerth, Vice President, MD Resources; Krista Holloway, Vice President, DDS Resources. [Register online here.](#)

NEW: HealthHIV Efforts on Women of Color and HIV: HIV Primary Care Integration Series and Women's Workshop

HealthHIV is launching its **HIV Primary Care Integration Series** with a publication addressing ***HIV Disparities in Women of Color in Southern United States***. This first-in-a-series publication is based on HealthHIV's experience providing Intensive Capacity Building assistance to community health centers and other primary care sites across the U.S. ***HIV Disparities in Women of Color in Southern United States*** reviews factors and barriers, and HealthHIV's response, to the documented need for culturally competent/fluently HIV primary care among women of color in the South.

Also attached is the agenda for our ***Women of Color and HIV: Unique Needs – Real Solutions*** workshop, being held June 25th, 2010 at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in La Fayette, LA. This workshop is designed for primary care clinicians seeking to increase access, improve health outcomes, and improve the quality of care for women of color in their community. Based on clinical practice and service delivery gaps identified through a comprehensive organizational diagnosis by HealthHIV, content has been developed to equip providers with responses to the unique needs of women of color with HIV. ([Agenda](#)) ([Brochure](#))

If you have any questions about the HIV Primary Care Integration series, the Women of Color and HIV workshop, please contact me at Javier@healthhiv.org or Brian Hujdich at Brian@healthhiv.org, or visit www.healthHIV.org.

Funding Opportunities and News

[HHS Awards \\$83.9 Million in Recovery Act Funds to Expand Use of Health Information Technology](#)

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced \$83.9 million in grants to help networks of health centers adopt electronic health records (EHR) and other health information technology (HIT) systems. The funds are part of the \$2 billion allotted to HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to expand health care services to low-income and uninsured individuals through its health center program. ([Click here to view complete article](#)).

Community HealthCorps Program Renewed at Record Levels

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is lauding a move by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) to fully fund the [Community HealthCorps](#) at its requested levels, setting the stage for healthy growth amid high patient demand at health centers. This marks the first time the Community HealthCorps program, the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program of its kind, has been fully funded. The \$6 million grant was awarded to the Community HealthCorps program despite large odds and a record number of competing applications—nearly twice the amount of eligible program slots. ([Click here to view complete article](#)).

[AAP Community-based Child Health Initiatives Planning Grants](#)

Application Deadline: July 30, 2010
(The RFP will be posted on May 3)

These American Academy of Pediatrics grants are awarded for pediatric community-based child health

initiatives. The program provides grants in amounts from \$2,500 to \$12,000 for pediatricians to develop innovative, community-based initiatives that increase children's access to medical homes or to specific health services not otherwise available. Planning project activities must lead to sustainable, community-based child health initiatives that increase access to care, especially for underserved children, and address health disparities among children.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships

Application Deadline: September 1, 2010

A program designed to forge relationships between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and local grantmakers to fund promising, original projects that can significantly improve the health of vulnerable people in their communities. Up to \$1 million is available for the 2010 grant cycle. Up to eight matching grants of between \$50,000 and \$200,000 for each per project will be awarded.

RWJF notes that applicants' projects must be new, innovative, collaborative and community-based. Significant program expansions into new regions or to new populations may also be considered.

NOTE: This program does not fund existing projects. Projects must be nominated by a local grantmaker interested in participating as one of the funding partners. Local funding partners must be willing to work with grantees to obtain sufficient dollar-for-dollar matching funds throughout the grant period. These funders may include independent and private foundations, family and community foundations, and corporate and other philanthropy.

United Healthcare Children's Foundation Medical Assistance Grants

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

Assistance grants for children for medical services not fully covered by health insurance. Parents and caretakers across the country will be eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 for healthcare services that will help improve their children's health and quality of life. Examples of the types of medical services covered by UHCCF grants include speech therapy, physical therapy, and psychotherapy sessions; medical equipment such as wheelchairs, braces, hearing aids, and eyeglasses; and orthodontia and dental treatments.

USDA Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

Funding to construct, enlarge, or improve essential community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services in rural areas.

Michael and Susan Dell Foundation - Helping Children in Urban Poverty Grant

Application Deadline: Rolling

The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation seeks to fund projects that directly serve or impact children living in urban poverty, particularly in the areas of education, childhood health and family economic stability. Award amounts vary. Charitable or tax-exempt organizations are eligible to apply.

ARHQ Grants Available for CHIP Pediatric Healthcare Quality Measures

The grant focuses on cooperative research demonstration and dissemination projects for the purpose of implementing the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 section on advancing and improving pediatric quality measures. Deadline: Letters of intent are due June 1, 2010, and applications are due June 30, 2010. [Click here to view grant announcement.](#)

Resources

NEW: Transparency Mississippi MEMO

Please read the Transparency Mississippi memo posted on the MMRS website at www.mmrs.state.ms.us on the Featured News page regarding the new Transparency Mississippi website which is scheduled for release on June 18, 2010.

The NHSC and Health Centers: Together Making a Difference instance replay information from the joint conference call on May 17, 2010, with Rebecca Spitzgo, Associate Administrator, Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service and Jim Macrae, Associate Administrator, Bureau of Primary Health Care can be accessed as follows: NHSC and Health Centers: Together Making a Difference (PPT- 538 KB). Replay technical assistance conference call phone number: 1-866-400-9641. The informational power point slides can be found under the NHSC web page at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/communities/>

Annual Quality and Disparities Reports Include Data on Rates of Patient Safety, Obesity and Health Insurance Improved. Improvements in patient safety continue to lag, according to AHRQ's 2009 National Healthcare Quality Report and National Healthcare Disparities Report. The 2009 reports include a new section on lifestyle modifications, because preventing or reducing obesity is a crucial goal for many Americans and an important task for health care providers. The reports indicate that the lack of health insurance slows improvement in health care quality and reduction of disparities. For many services, not having insurance is the single strongest predictor of poor quality care, exceeding the effects of race, ethnicity, income or education. The quality and disparities reports are available online. Print copies are available by sending an e-mail to

ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.

AHRQ Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit Available. AHRQ has released the Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit. The toolkit is based on the principles of universal precautions or specific actions that providers can take to make health information more understandable for all patients. It is designed to be used by all levels of staff in practices providing primary care for adults and/or children. The toolkit was developed for AHRQ by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Select to access the toolkit. (PDF File).

New Website Designed to Help Users Understand Healthcare Reform

George Washington University and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announced the launch this week of [Health Reform GPS](#), a web portal designed to help key stakeholders understand and operationalize health reform legislation. The portal will be a valuable resource for comprehensive information about all phases of the law and the process of implementation. The portal will offer regularly posted short essays, called "Health Reform Implementation Notes," that provide background about the legislation, explain the changes made by the law, describe the federal implementation process and timetable and identify the questions and challenges for policymakers. The portal will also offer an online library, consisting of resources such as federal agency regulations and guidelines, analyses and studies and other materials from key stakeholders. In addition, the site will offer a health reform glossary of terms and will be searchable through a topical index.

Some are Optimistic about Healthcare Reform Law's Impact

A May 4th Washington Post [article](#) envisions a new and better healthcare system as a result of the foundation for reform created by the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act, the nation's healthcare reform bill. The article highlights the potential impact of widespread use of health information technology, the focus on primary care, and the opportunity for better decision-making by patients and doctors because of the availability of better information.

Funding for Hospital/Health Center Collaboration to Reduce Readmissions Forthcoming

As described in a recent *Health Affairs* GrantWatch [blog](#), the new health reform law provides \$500 million to support partnerships between hospitals and community-based organizations that aim to provide evidence-based care for Medicare beneficiaries at high risk of readmission. The provision grew out of the Care Transitions Intervention, which has been successfully implemented in 14 states and led to significantly reduced readmissions. Proven strategies to improve care transitions are described in a new resource developed by The Commonwealth Fund, the John A. Hartford Foundation, and the Health Research and Educational Trust: [The Health Care Leader Action Guide to Reduce Avoidable Readmissions](#).

New Report Delves Into Primary Care Practice Demands

A [new report](#) in the April 29th issue of the New England Journal of Medicine offers insight into the non-visit work done by primary care physicians. Physicians in a Philadelphia medical home tracked work over the course of a year. Findings show that each doctor responded to a phone call or laboratory result a combined average of 43.2 times a day. According to the study's author, it is urgent that we understand the actual work of primary care and find ways to support it. The [New York Times](#) also reports on the findings.

Time Magazine Highlights Text4Baby

A [recent article](#) in Time Magazine titled "Take Two Texts and Call Me in the Morning" highlights the importance of this new initiative in reducing U.S. infant mortality rates. With the U.S. ranking even behind Hungary and Cuba and coming in 30th worldwide in infant mortality, it is hoped that this easy to use feature of free text messaging on a pregnant woman's cell phone will help better these statistics.

American Academy of Pediatrics Offers Free Prevention Resources

2010 health reform legislation mandates coverage of preventive services for infants, young children, and adolescents, including evidence-based preventive care and screenings. The [Bright Futures guidelines](#), designed to help office staff improve developmental screening and preventive services for children under 5 years of age, were developed for the Health & Human Resources Administration (HRSA) by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The materials offered include: Improving Preventive Care In Your Office - Tools for Office Improvement; Working with Practices to Improve Preventive Care - A Leader's Guide; and Training Materials to Improve Preventive Care in Office Practice - Bright Futures Workshop Materials. These training and implementation materials for the Bright Futures Program, funded by the Commonwealth Fund with support from the US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal & Child Health Bureau are **free** for all to download.

Breastfeeding and Racial & Ethnic Differences

Research that was recently published in a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) examines racial and ethnic differences around breastfeeding. The [analysis](#) found that even though approximately 73% of women breastfed their babies, many ceased doing so after only a few weeks or months. Hispanic women had a higher initiation rate than non-Hispanic whites while non-Hispanic blacks had a lower breastfeeding initiation rate than non-Hispanic whites.

AHRQ Offers Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is now offering a [Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit](#) based on the principles of universal precautions and specific actions that providers can take to make health information more understandable for all of their patients. It is designed to be used by all

levels of staff in practices providing primary care for adults and/or pediatrics.

New Report Offers Guidance on HIT Collaboration with Health Centers

Earlier this year, the National Association of State Health Policy (NASHP) hosted a webinar that convened individuals from Massachusetts, Oregon, and Tennessee to discuss ways in which state agencies and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) are working together to use HIT and health information exchange (HIE) funding opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to achieve mutual goals for health system improvements. A new [issue brief](#) draws from and builds on this webinar to offer an overview of opportunities, explore these states' experiences, and provide concluding observations. The brief was developed through a National Cooperative Agreement sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC).

NACHC News

NEW: Dear PCA Communicators,

We've been getting requests from health centers and PCA representatives for message points and other communications assistance on health reform, particularly since the public is increasingly skeptical about the benefits of this new law. NACHC has created communications tools to help you spread the message about the value of investing in health centers through health reform. These tools, which are also available on the

[NACHC web site](#) are:

[A Sample Op-Ed](#)

[Message Points](#)

[A Letter to the Editor](#)

NEW: Federal Process and Timeline for Community Health Center

Tue, 25 May 2010: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) moves toward integrating "Look-Alikes" into its electronic systems. ([Click here for more information](#)).

National Health Center Week is Just Around the Corner:

Health Centers from Alaska to Delaware have already begun planning and posting their events for [National Health Center Week 2010, August 8-14](#). This year's celebration is shaping up to be something special with the observance of the 45th Anniversary of the Health Center Program, the opportunity to highlight the impact of the stimulus and recognition of the key role health centers will play in health care reform. This year's theme is America's Health Centers: Turning the Vision Into Reality. Don't forget to visit the National Health Center Week website to [post your events](#), [find NHCW tools and resources](#), [order NHCW products](#) and stay up to date on the latest [NHCW news](#).

NEW: Add to the Success of Your Health Center's Operations with New NACHC Tools

Due to some technical difficulties...job descriptions are not available at this time; however, the Auditor RFP templates still are!

NACHC is offering a new template that can help you improve the overall efficiency of your health center's operations. The Auditor RFP Template is an innovative tool designed to help health centers effectively reflect its strategy and short/long-term business objectives. Here's how to order yours!

1. An RFP for Auditors: A Request for Proposal (RFP) is an invitation to suppliers to submit a proposal on a specific product or service. Effective RFPs reflect the strategy and short/long-term business objectives, providing detailed insight upon which suppliers will be able to offer a matching perspective. Health Centers should use this template to:
 - Inform CPA firms that you wish to procure products or services.
 - Alert CPA firms that the selection process is competitive.
 - Ensure that suppliers respond factually to the identified requirements.
 - Demonstrate impartiality by following a structured evaluation and selection procedure.

Pricing Information:

Member and Non-member: \$25

[Order online.](#)

1. [Soon to come - Job Description Templates - stay tuned for more information!: Job descriptions are written statements that describe the duties, responsibilities, most important contributions and outcomes needed from a position, required qualifications of candidates, and the reporting relationship of a particular job. Effectively developed, job descriptions are communication tools that are significant in your organization's success. NACHC will soon offer position templates Positions including:](#)

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| ➤ CEO | ➤ LPN | - |
| ➤ CFO | ➤ Medical Assistant | - |
| ➤ COO | ➤ Billing manager | - |
| ➤ Medical director | ➤ Registration clerk | - |
| ➤ Physician | ➤ HR director | - |
| ➤ Mid-level Provider | ➤ Accountant | - |
| ➤ RN | | - |

[For more information, contact Gervean Williams at gwilliams@nachc.com, or \(301\) 347-0400.](mailto:gwilliams@nachc.com) [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Spotlights Health Centers and Health Reform](#)

"Reform leads to bigger role for Community Health Centers"

Reporter Guy Boulton of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel writes, that Community Health Centers "have been given a crucial role - and with it, a huge increase in funding - to help meet the expected rise in demand that will accompany health care reform." You can read the full text of the [article here](#).

Community Health Centers Receive High Marks as Patient-Centered Medical Homes

Commonwealth Fund Survey Identifies Areas of High Performance

A new survey by the *Commonwealth Fund* finds that *Community Health Centers are making significant strides in serving as high performing patient-centered medical homes (PCMH), but face barriers when it comes to helping patients navigate the health care system outside the walls of the center. Health centers that are closely affiliated with hospitals, however, face fewer challenges in getting their patients appointments for specialty procedures like X-rays, diagnostic tests, and visits with specialist physicians.

[The Commonwealth Fund's national survey](#) of health centers identified areas of strength as well as opportunities to improve their capacity to serve as PCMHs. The PCMH is generally recognized by quality of care factors such as timely access care to on site care, coordination among specialty care providers and local hospitals, quality improvement activities, and health information technology (HIT) to streamline and coordinate care. ([Click here to view complete article](#))

Federal Process and Timeline for Community Health Center

Tue, 25 May 2010: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) moves toward integrating "[Look-Alikes](#)" into its electronic systems.

HRSA has issued a Program Assistance Letter (PAL), which lays out the process and timeline for taking the Look-Alike program electronic through the Electronic Handbook System. The process aims to make it easier for Community Health Center Look-Alikes in a number of areas that include recertification, facilitating changes in scope of project requests, and improved communication overall. The transition will begin in July 2010. You may download the PAL [here](#).

For questions please contact Pamela Byrnes at pbyrnes@nachc.com or 860-739-9224.

Center Related State Workforce Legislation

The NACHC State Affairs team has compiled a list of state primary care workforce legislation that directly impacts community health centers. [Please see attached report](#) and contact Colleen Boselli, cboselli@nachc.org, if there is a bill missing from your state.

What Does Healthcare Reform Mean for You?

Visit the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) website and check out the [Health Reform Hub](#) to see the latest on the unprecedented investment in community health centers. Updates

include one page fact sheets on:

- Health Center Growth

- National Health Service Corps
- Health Center Payment & Participation
- Medicaid/CHIP
- [Medicare Reimbursement](#)
- Accountable Care Organizations and Medical Homes

The site also includes links to testimony, reform principles, research and other information.

New Resources Available; Health Centers and Health Reform:

Check out several new resources now available on the [NACHC Health Reform Hub](#), including:

- [Frequently Asked Questions: Health Centers and Health Reform](#)
- [Expanded Summary: Health Center and Other Provisions](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Health Centers and Health Care Reform - Growth](#)
- [Other Health Reform One-pagers & Fact Sheets](#)



NACHC Offers Free Facebook Technical Assistance Webinars

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is offering three free webinars designed to provide technical assistance for Community Health Centers utilizing social media:

[Integrating Video Into Your Social Media Efforts](#)

[Building A Facebook Page For Your Organization: 101](#)

[Advanced Facebook](#)

All three webinars will show participants how to utilize these tools live, from the presenter's browser. Register today to learn how your health center can take advantage of Facebook or can better use Facebook.

CBO Report Skews Health Reform Funding Levels:

As we have reported many times, the health reform legislation created the Community Health Center Fund. The fund includes \$9.5 billion in operations funding and \$1.5 billion in capital, [which is \\$11 billion in total direct appropriations from FY 2011 through FY 2015](#). This is currently the only funding **directly appropriated** (read: real money) to health centers in health reform. Health centers are **authorized** to receive \$3.86 billion in FY 2011 within the health reform law, but this is not real money. In reality, there will be \$1 billion available to health centers in FY 2011 from the Community Health Center Fund, in addition to regular appropriated funding, which was \$2.19 billion in FY 2010. Health centers are urging Congress to keep our discretionary funding at least at that FY2010 level of \$2.19 billion, meaning there would be a total of \$3.19 billion in total Health Centers program funding for FY2011, which is below the authorized level but more accurately reflects what will actually be spent next year. ...For this reason, the recent CBO blog and report that indicates health centers could receive \$34 billion over the next 10 years is somewhat misleading. – Krystal Knight, [Health Centers On The Hill](#)

News

Eight States (LA, MD, MO, NJ, OR, WA) and Puerto Rico to Receive Federal Matching Funds for Electronic Health Record Incentives Program

CMS Press Releases: [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [New Jersey](#), [Missouri](#), [New Mexico](#), [Oregon](#), [Washington](#), [Puerto Rico](#). Also, [see attached chart](#) for state by state breakdown of funds.

HHS Proposes State Allocations for High Risk Pools Based on CHIP Formula

[Click here to view HHS Fact Sheet on Temporary High Risk Pools](#), which includes state by state breakdown of proposed funding.

HHS Preparing to Unveil Health Insurance Option Website

According to an interim final rule published this week in the Federal Register, the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) plans to unveil the first version of a website designed to help individuals and small businesses get information about health insurance options in their state by July 1st. The HHS Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight will oversee the web portal that will provide consumers with information about private insurance, high-risk pools, Medicaid and the CHIP. HHS hopes the new portal will influence states' creation of health insurance exchanges; increase enrollment in Medicaid, CHIP and high-risk pools; and boost the sale of private policies to the uninsured. HHS is accepting comments on the interim final rule through June 4th.

HRSA/BPHC News

SUMMARY NOTES from National Health Service Corps Conference Call – May 17, 2010

Loan Repayment Program

- NHSC estimated that 2,445 full-time and 400 half-time loan repayment awards would be provided to clinicians during FY2010.
- As of April 2010, NHSC has exceeded the number of awards planned for FY2010 - awarding close to 3000.
- Applications are being processed as received, even those from clinicians at sites down to a zero HPSA Score.
- The maximum turnaround time remains 8 weeks.
- Beginning in October, current NHSC clinicians can apply for contract modifications which will allow them to go from f/t to h/t status. Clinicians will need to contact the NHSC at 800-221-9393 for additional information regarding this option.
- **LR application deadline is July 29, 2010** for FY2010. NHSC will begin accepting applications for FY2011 in October/November 2010.

Scholarship Program

- **Scholarship application deadline was June 1, 2010.**
- NHSC estimated that 145 scholarships will be awarded during FY 2010, utilizing ARRA and NHSC funds.

NHSC Site Application and Renewal Process

- Site application process will be streamlined to include an electronic option. It is planned that this process will be revealed in coming months.
- All site renewal dates have **been extended from September 30, 2010 to September 30, 2011.**

Beacon Communities Lead the Charge to Improve Health Outcomes

Last week, [Secretary Sebelius awarded \\$220 million to establish 15 Beacon Communities throughout America](#). These community consortia – selected from 130 applicants – have demonstrated leadership in developing advanced health IT solutions to help improve specific health outcomes. Beacon Communities will leverage other existing federal programs, including HRSA programs at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs) to advance the adoption of certified electronic health records and exchange of health information. HHS has stressed that the partnership with FQHC and HCCN sites is particularly important to ensure they realize measurable and tangible results. [Click here for more information on the Beacon Community Program](#)

The Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the National Health Care Workforce Commission Are Seeking Nominees

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act gave the Comptroller General of the United States responsibility for appointing 19 members to the Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (select to access the [Federal Register notice](#)) and 15 members to the National Health Care Workforce Commission (select to access the [Federal Register notice](#)).

Letters of nomination and resumes for both notices should be submitted by June 30 to ensure adequate opportunity for review and consideration of nominees prior to appointment.

You are subscribed to Health IT for Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). This information has recently been updated, and is [now available](#).

HRSA Kicks Off Rulemaking Process to Change Shortage Designation Methodology:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act required HRSA to use the Negotiated Rulemaking process to start

immediately to update the shortage designation for MUPs and HPSAs. The notice published May 11th starts a year-long process that will include a representative group of stakeholders, and is geared towards reaching consensus in order to ensure the regulation HRSA issues is supported by those most impacted by the changes. [Congress mandated that HRSA use this rulemaking process after the last shortage designation rulemaking in 2008 ended](#) with no agreement. NACHC has supported negotiated rulemaking as a way to engage stakeholders and make sure any policy changes help and don't hurt health centers and their patients. This process is designed to do just that. – [Health Centers On The Hill](#) blog post

Notice from HRSA on Negotiated Rulemaking Process for MUA/HPSA

HRSA has published in the Federal Register its Negotiated Rulemaking process for the MUA/HPSA designation methodology and criteria. You'll notice that NACHC and 3 PCAs are specifically named as participants in the NRM Committee, as are several other groups, including PCOs. NACHC will be commenting on the Notice and urges PCAs to do the same, prior to the comment deadline of June 10, 2010. Following that comment period, the Committee is to be named by July 1, and to begin meeting in August or September, with a goal of completing its task by July 1, 2011. [Click here to view Federal Register Notice.](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) *Mississippi Primary Health Care Association distributes the MPHCA e-Update every Wednesday to inform members and partners of issues important to Community Health Centers.*

The MPHCA e-Update is the official e-bulletin of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association. It is e-mailed weekly as a membership service to Mississippi Community Health Center executive leadership, board members, health professionals, non-clinical staff, and other MPHCA members and partners.

Mississippi Primary Health Care Association~6400 Lakeover Road~Suite A~Jackson, MS 39213~601-981-1817