

MPHCA E-UPDATE

May 9, 2011

MPHCA NEWS

PREPARING FOR MISSISSIPPI FLOODING

MPHCA is monitoring the flooding along the Mississippi River and will send regular updates to our members as they become available. We ask that our members monitor their local and state news outlets for updates. MPHCA is monitoring meetings of the Governor's Flood Task Force today in Cleveland, MS and will be participating in a meeting of the Mississippi State Department of Health's Health Care Flood Impact Task Force Advance Planning Unit today at 1 PM at the MSDH Logistics Warehouse in Flowood, MS along with representatives from the Department of Mental Health, Division of Medicaid and other health care related organizations. We will share information from these meetings as soon as possible.

MPHCA asks that our member health centers, especially those located in the Delta Counties to have their emergency plans in order as they prepare for historic flood levels. MPHCA also asks that our CHC members report any impact from the flooding.

Click here to view the "[Federal Disaster Declaration Granted for several counties along MS River](#)"

Offer of Help from Magnolia Health Plan (CENTENE) – MPHCA was contacted by Ms. Pam Shipley with Magnolia Health Plan (Centene) and she asked us to let our members know that if she can be of any assistance to any of you expecting to be impacted by the flooding, please contact her by email at pshipley@centene.com.

See Notes from Gov. Haley Barbour's May 4, 2011 Briefing Regarding Delta Flooding (These notes are raw and quotes are approximate.)

Synopsis - Gov. Haley Barbour on Wednesday warned individuals and businesses in Delta Counties – particularly South Delta areas and port facilities – to prepare for historic flood levels, cresting in

two weeks but the water lasting in many areas for as long as a month. The worst flooding will be between the Mississippi River levees and the Yazoo River, South of Mississippi Highway 14, with water topping over some interior levees. Locally ordered mandatory evacuations are likely for most of the impacted areas.

The governor urged residents and business to prepare property, tie down things that can float away, remove what can be moved and then to evacuate as soon as possible. [See Full Story.](#)

AFTER LAST WEEK'S STORMS

Update from Marilyn Sumerford about the Storm Damage to ACCESS Family Health Services and Smithville, MS

As you all know, one of Mississippi's Community Health Centers, ACCESS Family Health Services located in Smithville, MS, sustained tremendous damages from last Wednesday's tornadoes that swept across Mississippi before continuing their destructive path into Alabama. In Smithville, Mississippi's hardest hit community, the recovery operations continue and will most likely take years. MPHCA can report that all of our other 20 CHC members only sustained minor damages or losses from the storms including power outages, power surge damage to equipment and loss of revenue due to closing early in anticipation of the storm's arrival. MPHCA is keeping in touch with Marilyn Sumerford and will forward updates as they are received. MPHCA will also let all of our members know of specific needs that Ms. Sumerford would like assistance with as soon as she has her temporary unit set up and operational. Thank you to all our members and partners who have offered to help our family and friends at ACCESS Family Health Services.

From Marilyn,

Dear MPHCA Friends,

Thanks for your offers of assistance and most of all for your prayers. There's nothing quite like living through an F5 tornado to put things in perspective. I will gladly help MPHCA and each of you with your emergency plans when we get out of this swamp full of alligators, but the best plans don't prepare you for walking out the door of your building and finding your town gone. I never thought I could get lost in Smithville since my Daddy had the hardware store here and I've lived here my entire life. We've lost 150 homes, 14 (of 16) businesses and 15 people died. Our medical clinic, administrative office and dental clinic were all in full operation at 3:44 PM when the tornado hit and we were in the tornado's direct path. Everyone lived and walked out without injuries. Our staff started searching for people and provided first aid. They were starting IVs, putting in airways and helping dig people out. Ambulances couldn't get to the scene due to trees and power lines that were down, so we took down doors and used them as stretchers to put people in the back of pickup trucks to get to the ambulances. Everyone that our people found alive is still alive.

Trust me, I don't mind asking for help. Right now everything is good and every day is a little better. We've basically got the clinic cleared out and ready to demo. We've got a new roof on the dental clinic and we're ready for the ceiling and lights to be put back. I hope to have the dental clinic open next week. There's a huge warehouse full of supplies and shopping carts so people can come in and shop for what they need. I will call for help and supplies when we get the modular unit set-up and ready to move into it. I can't say enough good things about Magnolia Managed Care and AmeriCares for their support and assistance. I appreciate your prayers and support.

SPECIAL NOTE From Marilyn regarding requests for an Emergency Change of Scope - As for the emergency change of scope, be sure that everyone (All CHCs) is familiar with PIN 2007-16 and has a copy of it in their Emergency Manuals.

Important FTCA Coverage PIN 2007-16 – Please access the links below for FTCA Coverage Info found in PIN Notice 2007-16. Thank you to Marilyn Sumerford for reminding MPHCA of the importance of PIN 2007-16 and we join her in asking all CHCs to print and keep a copy of this PIN in your disaster/emergency management folder/manual.

Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Coverage for Health Center Program Grantees Responding to Emergencies

Policy Information Notice 2007-16

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policiesregulations/policies/pin200716.html>

[Printer-friendly PIN 2007-16](#) (Acrobat/PDF)

MPHCA Reports on Storm Damage to Mississippi CHCs (*Released on Friday, April 29, 2011*)

MPHCA staffers have been calling and speaking with our centers that were in areas affected by last night's storms and tornados. MPHCA has also received many calls from our board members, CHC staff, PCA colleagues from surrounding states and others concerned about Mississippi's health centers.

We have spent the day gathering what information we could and are sharing it with you at this time. The reports on the local and national news have unfortunately told a pretty accurate story of the damage and devastation from the tornados to the small town of Smithville, located in Northeast MS, where ACCESS Family Health Services is headquartered.

MPHCA's Director of Clinical Services, Joyce Smith, spoke with ACCESS's Executive Director, Marilyn Sumerford, this morning and she reported the following:

She and her family are all ok.

The staff at the Smithville clinic and their families are ok. Their cars were thrown around but no staffers were hurt.

The administrative office did not receive damage but the Smithville clinic received a lot of damage. She said they will most likely bulldoze it down and put up a modular unit.

The town of Smithville is relatively nonexistent. The school, churches, grocery stores, discount stores, restaurants are all in ruins. "The whole downtown area is gone...not a single business is left."

There are a lot of people dead. The last count was 15 but she said there are still a lot of people unaccounted for.

They did triage at the Smithville clinic as best they could with what was left there and had to deal with long waits to hospitals as the ambulance service in the area was painfully slow.

Marilyn's main need at this point is prayers and to get the servers up so she can get the satellite clinics up and running. She spoke to Chuck Clark to see about getting this done.

Other Mississippi Community Health Centers reported disruptions and damage including: having to close early; having to suspend services while huddling with staff and patients in basements or hallways while the storms passed; losses of power; computer and telephone service outages or other issues; damage from lightning strikes and power surges; and other minor disruptions and damages. As requested under a separate email earlier today, MPHCA asks that all of our member CHCs send us a report of any financial losses they suffered due to the storms.

We at MPHCA, are very grateful that all of our colleagues and friends at ACCESS Family Health Services have survived this terrible disaster and we ask that each of you join us in keeping all of them and their families, friends and the entire community of Smithville in your thoughts and prayers. We also ask that you extend your thoughts and prayers to our neighbors in other Southeastern states affected by the storms and especially in Alabama where there was such a great loss of life.

MPHCA EVENTS/EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

May 12-13, 2011

First Annual Medical Directors Retreat

Natchez, MS

For more information, contact Joyce Smith at 601-981-1817 or jsmith@mphca.com.

June 17, 2011

Clinical Advisory Task Force Workshop: Focusing on Mental Health First Aid
Flowood, MS

For more information, contact Joyce Smith at 601-981-1817 or jsmith@mphca.com

September 21-24, 2011

MPHCA to Convene 25th Annual Conference & 30th Anniversary Celebration

Harrah's Tunica & Mid-South Convention Center/Robinsonville, MS

For more information, contact Kim Hancock at 601-981-1817 or khancock@mphca.com

Watch for more information coming soon to www.mphca.com & we hope to see you in 2011.

For complete information on trainings listed above, please click on

[http://www.mphca.com/Trainings and Events.htm](http://www.mphca.com/Trainings_and_Events.htm).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Find out about the Implications of a Medicare Shared Savings Program for your CHC at the NACHC/Feldesman Tucker ACO Webinar

Accountable Care Organizations under the Proposed Medicare Shared Savings Program: What Health Centers Need to Know

Summary of the Proposed Medicare ACO Program Regulation

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT

Online registration deadline: Monday, May 16, 2011

Under Section 3022 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, CMS must establish the Medicare Shared Savings Program by January 1, 2012 in which groups of providers of services and suppliers would work together to manage and coordinate care for Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries under a mechanism for shared governance. That group of providers and suppliers, organized as a separate legal entity, would be known as an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed regulation describing how it might implement the Medicare Shared Savings Program.

In this three-part webinar series, NACHC will offer a comprehensive look at the proposed Medicare Shared Savings Program and the particular issues and implications for health centers considering participation in the Program.

Session Description

This webinar will summarize the various aspects of the proposed Medicare Shared Savings Program regulation. Several days after that first webinar, NACHC will conduct a town-hall style conference call in which NACHC experts will field questions and comments about the proposed Medicare Shared Savings Program. This is an opportunity for health centers to share concerns about the proposed regulation so that NACHC, PCAs and others may consider those issues in developing written comments to CMS about the Shared Savings Program.

Follow up Conference Call information:Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 2 p.m. EDT

Topics:

- Eligibility and Participation
- Legal Entity and Governance
- Beneficiary Assignment
- Shared Savings Benchmark
- Claims Data Sharing with ACOs
- Calculation of Savings
- Quality Performance Standards
- Risk Models
- Overlap with Other CMS Demonstrations

Presenters:

- Bruce H. Sturm, *Executive Director - Managed Care*, National Association of Community Health Centers
- J. Falk, Esq., *Partner*, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP
- Roger Schwartz, J.D., *Associate Vice President of Executive Branch Liaison*, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

Registration Fee: 75.00. [Click here](#) for webinar details.

For more on NACHC Trainings and Technical Assistance (T/TA), visit us at www.nachc.com/trainings.

“Community Health Centers: Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow” June 9 - 10, 2011 at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Canada

Learn About Community Health Center Movements from Around the Globe!

Looking to hear about pioneering methods to address the most egregious determinants of health?

Do you want to learn how better to advance the health center model?

Join us for a landmark conference highlighting innovations in community-oriented primary care from around the world.

Sponsored by The National Association of Community Health Centers; The Association of Ontario Health Centres, and The Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Association.

This unique event brings together primary care leaders and community health organizers from around the world for networking and shared learning opportunities on an international scale.

Program Highlights:

- Keynote presentations by U.S. health center founder **Dr. Jack Geiger**, Senator **Bernie Sanders**, CMS Administrator **Dr. Don Berwick**, Chairperson of the European Forum on Primary Care **Dr. Jan De Maeseneer**, and Canadian health policy leader the Hon. **Roy Romanow**
- Workshops that highlight **replicable** strategies and best practices taking place in **every continent** that advance health equity and increase care sustainability.
- Networking opportunities with representatives from over a dozen countries and numerous other local communities.
- Tours of Canadian health centers.

Special dinner with live performance by legendary singer-songwriter, educator and social activist **Buffy Sainte-Marie**.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Don't miss out, Register Now and Save \$\$ on Upcoming Finance Training

Now is your chance to catch a deal on the first round of our Essentials for Establishing a Health Center Finance Department (EHFD) regional training seminar, in San Diego, May 25-26, 2011— Early bird registration is still available!



Essentials for Establishing a Health Center Finance Department (EHFD)

May 25-26, 2011 – San Diego, California

Online Registration Deadline: May 20, 2011

****Early bird Registration Deadline: May 10, 2011***

Healthcare Reform has brought significant changes to the industry, and there is a lot more to come. New health centers are expected to be just as prepared as more established centers. In response, the Essentials for Establishing a Health Center Finance Department (EHFD) seminar was developed to provide health centers (especially new starts and new grantees) with the skills needed to provide health center CFOs and COOs with an orientation to financial management, accounting principles and terminology unique to health centers.

Why an EHFD training will benefit you and your staff?

After attending this two-day comprehensive seminar, you will be able to:

1. Understand the key steps involved in operating a successful Community Health Center Finance Department
2. Interpret Health Center Scope of Service: 330 Grant, Medicare, Medicaid
3. Develop strategies to ensure health center sustainability
4. Examine the critical steps involving health center grants management
5. Apply successful approaches to ARRA Reporting

Who should attend an EHFD training?

Health Center CFOs, COOs, Billing and Finance management and key staff, and board members

Registration Rates: Early bird discount rate: **\$375** Regular and On-Site Registration Rate: **\$425**

Download the **[EHFD training brochure](#)** for specific hotel information, registration form and registration deadlines.

[Click here](#) for more information.

For more details on NACHC trainings, visit us at **www.nachc.com/trainings**.

For additional information, contact Sherry Giles at **sgiles@nachc.com**, or call (301) 347-0400.

**AAAHC Sponsored Accreditation Training Calls For HRSA Grantees
May 24, 2011**

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (Central)

In continuation of our outreach educational efforts for Federally Qualified Community Health Centers, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) is pleased to offer a series of monthly educational conference calls.* The calls are open to those centers that are accredited and those who wish to become accredited.

Each 60-minute call will focus on one (1) AAAHC chapter and allow time for Q&A. The call will provide surveyor insights and input on the methods that can be used to attain compliance during survey.

Registration is now open for our May Call: Topic: Chapter 2 Governance

***Pre-registration is required to participate. Registration ends on May 20, 2011**

To register for this month's call, please call or e-mail Ron Smothers, Assistant Director, Accreditation Services at 847 853.6067 or rsmothers@aaahc.org. If sending an e-mail, please title the email "Monthly Conference Call" and in the body write, "I would like to participate in this month's educational conference call." Please make sure to provide your name and email address. *Prior to the call, you will be sent materials relevant to the topic being discussed.*

MISSISSIPPI & MEMBER NEWS

June 16, 2011

Hope for the Delta-Cancer Education Conversation Celebration 5th Annual Cancer Conference

Leflore County Civic Center

[Click here for more information](#)

May 5, 2011

Hinds County Community Meeting

The Family Resource Center

301 Adelle Street

Jackson, MS 39202

The [Foundation for the Mid South](#) and the [Women's Fund of Mississippi](#) cordially invite you to a community meeting to explore bringing Nurse-Family Partnership to Hinds County. Nurse-Family Partnership helps change the lives of vulnerable first-time moms and their babies through ongoing home visits from registered nurses. This evidence-based, community health program has proven results including long-term family improvements in health, education and economic self-sufficiency.

Nationally, some of the following outcomes have been achieved:

- 35% fewer hypertensive disorders of pregnancy
- 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect
- 83% increase in labor force participation by child's 4th birthday

67% reduction in behavioral/intellectual problems at child's 6th birthday

Please register online by clicking [here](#) or go to:
<http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/communities/Mississippi-RSVP>

Contact Kim Williams at 225-772-1054 for questions or visit www.nursefamilypartnership.org

POLICY & REGULATION

Health Centers and Medicaid: What's the Big Deal?

We've been [blogging a lot about Medicaid lately](#), partly because Congress is discussing reducing the federal deficit by limiting entitlement spending (which includes Medicaid spending), but also because health centers and Medicaid have an important connection. Put very simply: a strong Medicaid program is essential to: 1) health centers' financial stability; 2) their ability to serve as high-quality, comprehensive health homes; and 3) health center capacity to improve the health of their communities. And a strong health center program is critical to reducing Medicaid spending specifically and government spending in general. We've added new materials to our [Medicaid webpage on the NACHC website](#) to provide more of the ins and outs of the relationship between health centers and Medicaid, but this blog is a good introduction to why the Medicaid program is important to health centers. – **Alex Sange**, [Health Centers on the Hill](#)

FY2012 Appropriations Process Expected to Soon Get Underway

We expect to see FY2012 appropriations get underway in the coming weeks. Several House Appropriations Subcommittee have released guidelines for Members who wish to convey their support of various programs; most have set May 13th or May 20th as the deadlines for submission of individual Member programmatic requests. NACHC grassroots advocates should be aware we may have [a different approach for generating Member support for health centers in the FY2012 appropriations process](#). In light of this, we'd ask that all advocates stay tuned as more information about FY2012 appropriations becomes available and be prepared to weigh in with your Representative and Senators about the importance of supporting the continued expansion of health centers in FY2012 – and likely on short notice – **Anne Morris**, [Health Centers on the Hill](#)

NACHC Tele-Town Hall Meeting: Tuesday, May 10th @ 3:00PM EST

Join us for the latest NACHC Tele-Town Hall to hear NACHC CEO Tom Van Coverden and the NACHC Team speak to the latest information on health center appropriations and critical updates on how recent federal policy proposals could impact the Health Centers Program. The Tele-Town Hall is FREE, in fact we'll call YOU – [just enter your direct telephone line into your NACHC Advocate profile in the 'tele-town hall phone number' field to participate](#). Don't miss this great opportunity to hear the latest information from Washington DC and get your questions answered. – **Amanda Pears**

More on the ACO Proposed Rule

As we mentioned last week, we have prepared a summary and analysis of the ACO proposed rules and it effectively leaves health centers from meaningful participation in ACOs. We are preparing our comments now and will be sharing a draft with health centers and PCAs shortly. It is critically important that health centers and PCAs become familiar with these proposed rules and prepare to submit their own comments, which are due June 6, 2011. [For more information, check out the analyses on the Policy Shop](#). – **Susan Sumrell**, [NACHC Policy Shop](#)

Grassroots Blue print from the Midwest

Washington, DC is not the only place where funding for health centers has been under attack. In state capitals around the country, budget cutters have looked at health centers and the patients they serve as ripe for cutting. Two states, Missouri and Ohio, where health centers, led by their Primary Care Associations (PCAs), offer outstanding examples of how, even in the fiscal and political climates of states with significant budget issues, effective grassroots organizing can lead to victory. [To read the full story, visit the Health Center Advocacy in Action blog.](#) – **Marc Wetherhorn, *Health Center Advocacy in Action***

Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) for Volunteers Bill Introduced in the House

Just before Congress began its two-week Spring Recess, Congressman Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Congressman Gene Green (D-TX) introduced H.R.1629, the Family Health Care Accessibility Act of 2011 (also known as the “FTCA for Volunteers” bill). H.R. 1629 would extend Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) malpractice coverage to health practitioners volunteering at Section 330-funded health centers. Legislation that is virtually identical to H.R. 1629 [passed the House](#) by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 417 to 1 during the 111th Congress but was [not considered by the Senate.](#) = ***Anne Morris, Health Centers on the Hill***

FINANCE & PAYMENT

HEALTHCARE HEADLINES... BUSINESS NEWS, TRENDS & ANALYSIS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

[AAFP Calls for 'Robust Investment' in Primary Care Physician Workforce](#)

Federal investment in health care is necessary to "transform health care to achieve optimal, cost-efficient health for everyone," said the AAFP in recent written testimony (4-page PDF; About PDFs) to the House Appropriations Committee. That is why the Academy is urging the committee to make a robust investment in the nation's primary care physician workforce by financially supporting programs critical to building and strengthening the nation's primary care physician pipeline.

CLINICAL QUALITY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Steady Progress on HIT Incentive Payments in the States

Since registration opened on January 3, 2011, 13 states have officially launched their Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive programs (Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and most recently, Alabama and Missouri). Many of these, although not all, have begun making payments to eligible providers (including health centers) and hospitals. While states technically have until 2016 to launch their programs, according to information provided to CMS by states, the vast majority intend to begin their programs in 2011. For more information visit the NACHC Policy Shop blog. – **Rob Kidney, *The Policy Shop***

FUNDING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

RESOURCES

New Reports Examine Potential for Expanded Primary Care Capacity in Medicaid under Health Reform

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes provisions that will extend coverage to an estimated 32 million individuals through an expansion of Medicaid and subsidies for private coverage offered on new health insurance exchanges. This expansion of coverage will intensify current pressures on primary care resources. The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured has issued two new papers that examine opportunities and challenges related to ensuring access to primary care in Medicaid as millions of low-income uninsured individuals, mostly adults, gain eligibility beginning in 2014.

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[Physician Willingness and Resources to Serve More Medicaid Patients: Perspectives from Primary Care Physicians](#) analyzes data from a nationally representative survey of physicians to assess which adult-care primary care physicians are most likely to respond to health reform's changes by serving additional Medicaid beneficiaries, and profiles key aspects of their practices, patient care resources, and constraints on their capacity.

[Improving Access to Adult Primary Care in Medicaid: Exploring the Potential Role of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants](#) looks at the potential of these health professionals to increase the supply of primary care in Medicaid, as well as overall. The ACA makes investments that support a larger role for nurse practitioners and physician assistants. This brief reviews their role in providing primary care today, the evolution of federal policy regarding their role in public insurance programs, evidence on the cost and quality of their care, regulatory barriers preventing their full deployment, and steps that can clear the way for them to participate fully and help bridge gaps in access to primary care under health reform.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible information and analysis on health issues.

Mississippi Primary Health Care Association distributes the MPHCA E-Update 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.