One Step Forward, Two Bites Less...Mississippians Get Moving at 65x65 Race Events in Commemorating National Health Center Week 2019

Community Health Centers and CHCAMS took the obesity prevention challenge on August 10th. The races were held across the state promoting health and fun. The 65x65 races were culminating events for Mississippi Community Health Center week. Mississippi Community Health Center celebrations coincided with National Health Center week. Below are scenes from some of the 2019 race events. Thanks to all the health centers that participated in #NHCW19 and 65x65.
Innovations in Mississippi Community Health Centers Showcased, Recognized

The first poster presentation was held at the 32nd annual CHCAMS conference. Eighteen posters were on display and evaluated by an independent panel of judges. Posters featured innovations that Mississippi Community Health Centers had implemented. Award recipients are:

First Place: ACCESS Family Health Services for The Farmacy Indoor Farmers' Market--Meeting a Community's Need, presented by Marilyn Sumerford, MS and Tammy Shelton, BSN, RN

2nd Place: Coastal Family Health Center for All Hands on Deck: Combating Diabetes and Hypertension Takes a Team, presented by Rachael Butler, PharmD

3rd Place: G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center Family Centered Nutrition and Physical Activity Intervention to Decrease BMI and Sedentary Habits in Children ages 7-13 presented by Kyskie Bolton, MS, RDN, LDN, CLC

Facilitated by CHCAMS Clinical Quality Director Dr. Sonja Fuqua, the poster presentations have created an opportunity to share innovations to help improve health outcomes for Mississippians. Thanks to all who participated and shared ideas.

UnitedHealthcare and Molina CCOs for CHIP as of November 1, 2019

According to the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Molina Healthcare will become one of the two CCOs beginning November 1, 2019. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will continue to serve as a CHIP vendor. Molina, Magnolia, and UnitedHealthcare will continue to participate in MississippiCAN. Learn more here.
Medicaid Response to the Opioid Crisis
Pharmacy changes and Claims System edits made as of August 1, 2019

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid has implemented a new opioid initiative, effective August 1, 2019. The initiative affects pharmacy point-of-sale claims and applies to beneficiaries enrolled in fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid and all three MississippiCAN coordinated care plans. Four changes that directly impact Medicaid pharmacy/prescribing providers are:

1. New opioid prescriptions for opiate-naïve patients must be for short-acting (SA) opioid.*

2. SA opioid prescriptions for opiate-naïve patients can be filled for a maximum of two 7-day supplies in a 30-day period.*

3. Opioid doses of Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) ≥ 90 will require prior authorization (PA).*

* Patients with a diagnosis of cancer or sickle-cell disease are exempt from the three edits above. The patient's diagnosis code should be entered on the prescription to ensure that prescriptions process.

4. Concomitant use of opioids and benzodiazepines will require PA.
   For details of exceptions and on the edits, click here.

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PrEP Use and Awareness Increases from 2014 to 2017, CDC Reports

What's the news? From 2014 to 2017, awareness of the use of a preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk for HIV infection increased from 60% to 90% in 20 urban areas among men who have sex with men (MSM), according to a July 12, 2019, issue of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Additionally, PrEP use increased from 6% to 35% in almost all demographic subgroups but remains lower among MSM who are black or Hispanic.

Why it matters. One major strategy of the CDC's Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative is increasing PrEP use. Providers should routinely test patients for HIV, the report says, and assess HIV-negative patients for behaviors that may put them at risk, as well as prescribing PrEP as needed.

How ECRI Institute can help. The Infection Control Toolkit includes information on preventing certain infections such as those caused by bloodborne pathogens like HIV.

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Congress Needs to Hear from You! Please Ask Members of the Mississippi Delegation to Support Community Health Center Funding

The funding cliff is September 30th. This means health center funding has not yet been signed into law. Keep those cards, letters, tweets, and calls coming to your congressional members. Click below to contact your members of Congress to ask for their support on legislation.
A Note from NACHC on the July Budget Deal Passed By Congress

Before leaving Washington for the August recess period, Congress passed a budget deal that
- Increases spending limits by $320 billion in FY19 & FY20; and,
- Lifts the cap on federal borrowing, known as the “debt ceiling,” for two years.

The budget deal does not contain provisions to renew any “must pass” bills nor does it extend the Community Health Center Fund. This is why health centers must continue advocacy efforts during August recess. Congress must still act by September 30 to ensure that Community Health Center funding continues uninterrupted. Click here to read more about the two-year budget deal that passed last month.

News to Use

- $42 Million to Expand Health Information Technology In Health Centers Nationwide
- Proposed Rule Proposes Price Transparency in Hospital Billing, says CMS
- U.S. Panel Recommends Screening Adults for Illicit Drug Use
- New Rules to Limit Green Card to Legal Immigrants Who Used Social Services, Medicaid

Funding Opportunities

HRSA Releases Notices of Funding Opportunity for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program’s Role in the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America. As part of this funding opportunity, HRSA plans to fund up to 47 awards to ultimately reduce new HIV infections in the United States to less than 3,000 per year by 2030. Read more here.

CMS Funding Opportunity: SUPPORT Act, Section 1003 Demonstration Projects for States
CMS recently announced a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) asking that states apply to participate in a Demonstration Project to Increase Substance Use Provider Capacity under the Medicaid program. According to the NOFO, CMCS will award 18-month planning grants to at least 10 states and will then select no more than 5 states to participate in the actual 36 month-demonstration project. As the demonstration project will require that states consult with relevant stakeholders including Medicaid beneficiaries, health care providers, and plans, advocates are encouraged to keep this...
Deadline: August 27, 2019

Rural Health Fellows Program
This is a year-long, intensive fellowship program designed to develop a community of rural health leaders.

Deadline: August 28, 2019

AgriSafe Nurse Scholar Program
This is a distance learning opportunity available to rural nurses designed to increase knowledge base in prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. A 50% nonprofit registration rate is available for nurses working for nonprofit organizations, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, government agencies, and educational institutions.

Deadline: August 30, 2019

Call for Interest Letters on Opioid Response Initiatives from Pew Charitable Trusts
The Pew Charitable Trusts is pleased to announce the Community Opioid Response and Evaluation (CORE) project, an effort to help communities on the front lines of the opioid crisis conduct evaluations of existing programs. With support from and in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the CORE awards will provide funding and assistance for up to six community-based initiatives, composed of a lead applicant organization and their selected evaluation partner, to conduct evaluations of established programs. Learn more.

Deadline: August 30, 2019

Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program
The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program provides funding to support the training of residents in new or expanded primary care residency training programs in community-based settings, such as health centers. Awards will be made for: HRSA-funded filled resident positions at existing HRSA THCGME Programs; and new resident positions at new teaching health centers. HRSA anticipates $120 million to be available to fund an estimated 61 awards (56 continuation and up to five new awards) to support residencies for academic year 2020-2021. The period of performance is four years from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.

Reminder: Diabetes Coalition Quarterly Meeting August 23rd
The Diabetes Coalition quarterly meeting "Engagement in Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPP) and Diabetes Camps" will explore three important areas:
- Clinical Engagement in DPP
- Community Engagement in DPP
- Recruitment and Retention in DPP and DSMES

Date: August 23, 2019
Location: William Carey Tradition Campus, Jody Fail Nursing Building, Biloxi, Miss.

HRSA Updates

NHSC Starts New Rural Loan Repayment Program for Providers
The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) launched a Rural Community Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for providers working to combat the opioid epidemic in rural communities. The application cycle will open soon, and you can sign up for email notices. Learn more.
more at the [NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#) website. All FQHCs are automatically qualified sites, but only those in rural areas will be considered for this program.