Governor Phil Bryant proclaimed August 4 - 10, 2019 as Mississippi Community Health Center Week. This week-long celebration coincides with National Health Center Week, where 1400 community health centers across the U.S. are taking part. "Rooted in Communities" is this year's theme with a special emphasis on the social determinants of health. Many of Mississippi's 21 Community Health Centers have special events planned, including the 65x65 obesity prevention races. This week is the opportunity to call attention to the role of health centers as a patient's medical home to receive primary health care. Federally funded community health centers have a more than 50-year history in the U.S. and Mississippi. The first health center in the U.S. seeing patients was in Mound Bayou, Miss. Now, the 21 non-profit community-governed health centers in Mississippi have more than 200 access points for primary health care, taking care of more than 300,000 Mississippians. Community Health Centers see patients no matter what their insurance status is or their ability to pay and provide quality health care to all. To learn more about the Mississippi events, visit healthcenterweek.org/events, and follow the events on social media at the hashtag #NHCW2019 and #ValueCHCs.

Take the Obesity Prevention Challenge August 10th with 65x65

There is still time to register for the annual 65x65 races hosted by Community Health Centers across the state. This one-day, statewide effort provides a chance to have fun while calling attention to the disease of obesity and the healthy ways to fight it.

All 65x65 race events are scheduled for this Saturday, August 10th to celebrate Mississippi Community Health Center Week. Contact your health center for more information on local events throughout the week or visit healthcenterweek.org/events for activities in your area.

65x65 Metro-area 5K/10K Race Details
7:30 a.m. Race Time
Saturday, August 10, 2019
The 32nd annual CHCAMS conference "Advancing Population Health: Community Health Centers Leading the Charge" brought approximately 300 health care professionals and community leaders in the health center movement together July 30 - August 2, 2019 at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Miss.

Among the highlights of the event were a panel discussion by statewide healthcare leaders around the topic of population health and health outcomes, a presentation by Darrin Bowden of HRSA, and keynote speech by Dr. Soma Stout from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement.

A new element of the conference was a poster presentation showcasing innovation at health centers.

This year's annual social event was a Vegas Night, where there was line dancing, Elvis impersonators, karaoke, and a contest for building the tallest house of cards.

Next year's conference is scheduled for August 2 - 4, 2020 at the Beau Rivage.
Tweet, Call, or Write!
Federal Health Center Funding Bill Advances in House, but the Congressional Delegation Still Needs to Hear from You

Please keep the advocacy going through August and September for federal health center funding. The 30th of September deadline for Congress to pass funding legislation is quickly approaching. PLEASE do NOT take federal funding for health centers for granted. Click below to contact your members of Congress to ask for their support on legislation that supports Community Health Center funding.

Click Here to Take Action!
Attending CHI Next Week?  
Sign up for the  
Grassroots Advocacy Leadership Program

The fall/winter cohort of The Grassroots Advocacy Leadership Program (ALP) is currently recruiting participants. The ALP is an extended skills-building program that will begin before the Community Health Institute and Expo (CHI) on August 16, 2019, and continue through February 2020. It will provide intensive training and hands-on experience in all aspects of Health Center Advocacy.

Click here to learn more and register to attend the breakout sessions before CHI. Contact Kristin St. John at advocacy@nachc.org.

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.

Open Season Announcement for Certified Designated Organizations-Application Link Now Live!

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) invites applications from organizations that would like to become Certified Application Counselor Designated Organizations (CDOs). Applications are accepted during CMS’s Open Season now through September 16, 2019. Any organization seeking to provide CAC enrollment assistance to consumers for Plan Year 2020 must be a certified CDO. Organizations that completed the CDO refresh process last year and received a new CDO identification number and a welcome packet do not need to reapply. The CDO application link is now live and can be accessed here: https://mats.secure.force.com/CDOApplication/ For additional questions, contact CACQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.

HRSA Updates

Virtual Job Fair
When? Wednesday, August 7, 2019
What time? 5:45 p.m. -9:15 p.m. CST
Employers: Looking for top talent to join your organization? Register to participate as a recruiter.
Clinicians: Are you seeking employment? Register to participate.
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 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.

Free Training On 340B Specifically For FQHCs Saturday, August 17th
As part of its on-going partnership with NACHC, Apexus -- the 340B Prime Vendor -- is offering a full-day version of its 340B University focusing exclusively on the needs and challenges of health centers. The session will be held on Saturday, August 17th in Chicago - the day before, and in the same hotel, as the CHI. Participation is free, but pre-registration is required. This training is appropriate for all C-suite, operations (clinical and administrative), and quality/compliance staff from health centers.

Of Note: Interested in the CHCAMS Pharmacy Work Group? Email krodenmeyer@chcams.org for more information.

Connect with us