Sept. 2, 2020

Need to Know

The OPCA Fall All Executive Peer Group Gathering will take place virtually over two days:
Monday, Sept. 14, 1-4pm: Kick-Off + Plenary
Monday, Sept. 21, 1-4pm: Operation Director’s Peer Group
Click here to register by Sept. 8

HRSA Tidbits

Two New Publications from NACHC:

- Guidance: Sliding Coinsurance for CMS/Medicare Care Management Services: For health centers on managing CMS/Medicare care management services commensurate with sliding fee policies.
- COVID-19: CHC Finance Toolkit: Topics include cash flow planning, CARES Act guidance, and remote work best practices.

Health Professional Shortage Areas Scoring Criteria: The deadline is approaching to provide public feedback to inform policy considerations for changes to Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) scoring criteria as described in this Request for Information (RFI). HRSA will accept feedback or suggestions through Sept.18.

Stakeholder Input Requested: HRSA is looking for input on possible additions or alternative approaches to HPSA scoring, such as new factors, components, or point weighting. They will not accept proposals to expand NHSC eligibility to new provider types or proposals that go beyond the purview of HPSA scoring. Email responses to RFIComments@hrsa.gov and reference “Health Professional Shortage Area Scoring Criteria RFI” in the subject line. Information regarding current scoring is located in a notice published in the Federal Register, 68 Fed. Reg. 32531 (May 30, 2003).

New “Catch-Up to Get Ahead” Campaign to Promote Childhood Immunizations: In support of National Immunization Awareness Month, HRSA urges health centers and health care providers to “catch-up to get ahead” on childhood immunizations. Catch-Up to Get Ahead Toolkit

New Resource to Help Health Center Staff Prepare for Site Visits: HRSA has released the Health Center Program Site Visit Protocol: Sampling Review Resource Guide, in conjunction with the Site Visit Protocol and other resources available online to support a successful and smooth site visit. Per the Today with Macrae webinar on Aug. 20, all site visits will be virtual through the end of the calendar year. For more information, please contact your project officer.

Training & Learning Opportunities

Clinical Best Practices and the Art of the Tele-Physical Exam: Part of the HHS Telemedicine Hack Learning Community, the webinar takes place today, Sept. 2, 9-10am PT. Learn more or register.
Listening to Connect: Patient-Centered Needs Screening Using Empathic Inquiry webinar: Sept. 3 at noon PT. Join the California Improvement Network in conversation with OPCA’s Ariel Singer, director of CHC transformation, and Stephanie Castaño, transformation manager, about how the Empathic Inquiry approach was developed, lessons learned and advise for organizations interested in implementing social needs screening with patients at the center. Register here.

Health Center Leadership Webinar Series: Sept. 10-Oct.1, 11-12:30 PT. A four-part series from NACHC and SkillPath. Register now for one or more sessions in the series.

The New Normal: Tips to Make Telemedicine Part of Your Permanent Practice: Sept. 16, 9-10am PT. Part of the HHS Telemedicine Hack Learning Community. Learn more or register.

STAR² Center High-Functioning Managers Learning Collaborative begins Sept. 23. The Association for Clinicians for the Underserved STAR² Center invites health center managers to apply for the collaborative.

Other Resources

Deadlines Chart of Federal Funding Sources for COVID-19: This chart summarizes upcoming deadlines related to BPHC grant funds, Paycheck Protection Loans, Provider Relief Fund allotments, and other Federal funding sources related to COVID-19.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices updated its recommendations for prevention and control of seasonal flu with vaccines for the 2020-2021 flu season. Influenza vaccination of persons aged ≥6 months to reduce prevalence of illness caused by influenza will reduce symptoms that might be confused with those of COVID-19.

Natural Disaster Reporting: HRSA has asked Primary Care Associations (PCAs) to take the lead in gathering critical health center information and reporting impact data back to them on the operational status of delivery sites. Please visit the HRSA Health Center Program Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Resources website for important guidance documents and resources.