

# Operations Peer Group News

The latest information for Community Health Center Operations Staff



April 7, 2021

## Need to Know

**OPCA All Peer Group Spring Plenary:** This year's focus is a call to action – how do we achieve equity in health? How can health centers, narrow racial health disparities? Hear from guest speaker, Dr. Juan Jaime de Zengotita, Medical Director, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center. There is no charge for this event, however, **registration is required. Wednesday, April 28, 11:30am–2:30pm PT.**

[Learn more and register here](#)

**OPAC Operation Directors Peer Group Gathering:** We will continue the conversation on how we achieve equity in health. Bring your health center innovations, challenges, and insights to share with peers. There is no charge for this event, however, registration is required. Thursday, April 29, 1-3pm PT.

[Register here](#)

## HRSA Tidbits

**American Rescue Plan Act to Invest \$6 Billion Into HRSA-Funded Health Centers to Expand COVID-19 Vaccinations, Testing, Treatment for Vulnerable Populations:** FQHCs will have 60 days following the 2021 *American Rescue Plan Act (H8F) Funding for Health Centers* award release to submit information about planned activities and costs. [H8F technical assistance page](#)

**Q&A session Thursday, April 8, 10-11am PT:**

[Join the day of the session](#) or by phone: 833-568-8864; meeting/webinar ID: 160 299 2757

**Announcing the Health Center COVID-19 Testing Supply Distribution Program:** The Health Center COVID-19 Testing Supply Distribution Program will supply FQHCs and LALs with free rapid testing supplies, point-of-care analyzers, and test kits. HRSA will send a communication by April 9 to project directors with instructions on ordering. See the [COVID-19 FAQs webpage](#).

**Fiscal Year 2022 Project/Designation Period Extensions:** HRSA will extend the project/designation periods of health centers in a 2- or 3-year project/designation period that ends in fiscal year (FY) 2022. Health centers receiving this extension will complete an FY 2022 Budget Period Progress Report/Annual Certification instead of a Service Area Competition/Renewal of Designation (SAC/RD) application. For questions about extensions and FY 2022 required applications/submissions, contact the SAC or RD TA Teams via the [BPHC Contact Form](#).

**HHS Mask Distribution Program Update:** The Department of Defense, in partnership with HHS, [is delivering free masks](#) to FQHCs and LALs. Delivery will begin by late April. To opt out, [contact Health Center Program Support online](#) or via phone at 877-464-4772, Monday through Friday, 7am-8pm ET.

**New Grant for Behavioral Health Training Programs:** HRSA is accepting applications for the [FY 2021 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals](#). The application closes on Monday, April 12. [Download the Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

**SPEED Enrollment Guide for FQHCs:** [The Special Projects for Equitable and Efficient Distribution \(SPEED\) of COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics program](#). Any FQHC with the capability to administer

monoclonal antibodies, or who can partner with local hospitals or community infusion centers is eligible to participate in SPEED.

**Quarterly 340B Program Registration:** [Quarterly 340B Program site registration is open from April 1 to 15](#). Health centers will be able to register a site that has been verified as implemented and with a site status reflected as “active” in EHBs Form 5B through Friday, May 28. [Email the 340B Prime Vendor Program](#) or call 888-340-2787 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm ET) to register a new site or ask questions.

**Learn About Changes to the Federal Definitions of Rural:** [Download the slides or the recording](#) of a webinar hosted by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health that explores the recent changes to the rural definition HRSA uses to determine eligibility for grants.

## Training & Learning Opportunities

**OPCA COVID-19 Member Briefing:** OPCA is hosting a twice-monthly COVID-19 briefing to provide information and resources for CHCs. **First Tuesdays and third Wednesdays of the month at 2pm PT.** For questions, or to get this series added to your calendar, contact [events@orpca.org](mailto:events@orpca.org)

**All-Hazards Emergency Preparedness and Response for Community Health Centers:** Discussion of all-hazards, multidisciplinary preparedness approach, measures to take to comply with the CMS Rule for Emergency Preparedness. Co-hosted by the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium and NACHC. [Learn more or register now](#).

- Module 1: Setting the Stage for All-Hazards Preparedness: April 6, 11am-12:30pm PT
- Module 2: Tools for Implementing and Assessing Preparedness Efforts: April 13, 11am-12:30pm PT
- Module 3: Community Engagement & Communication: April 20, 11am-12:30pm PT
- Module 4: Building a Culture of Preparedness: April 27, 11am-12:30pm PT

**Mitigating Burnout and Maintaining Provider Satisfaction during Vaccination Rollouts:** Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) explores strategies to minimize burnout and maintain provider satisfaction in the next several months. Wednesdays, April 7 and April 21, 9-10am PT. [Register for the series](#)

**SDOH and Addressing Health Disparities in Integrated Care Settings:** Speakers present recent epidemiological data outlining health disparities and strategies to simultaneously integrate behavioral health needs while reducing health disparities. April 7, noon-1pm PT. [Register here](#)

**Mental Health Needs of Migratory and Seasonal Agriculture Workers Learning Collaborative:** A four-session learning collaborative focused on mental health among migratory and seasonal agriculture workers (MSAWs), starts April 8. [Register here](#)

**Virginia Garcia's 2021 Health Care Symposium:** [The COVID Truth - Examining Racial, Social and Health Injustice](#), will reflect on this past year, critically examining COVID-19's disproportionate consequences in vulnerable communities. April 8, noon-1pm PT.

**Promoting Vaccine Confidence in Older Adults:** The National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE) will review approaches to build trust through tailored interventions that incorporate community norms and address barriers to vaccine uptake. April 8, 10-11am PT. [Register here](#)

**Promoting Equitable Vaccine Rollout:** Discuss strategies to advocate for under-represented, high-risk communities including individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). April 10 at noon PT. [Click here to register](#)

**Expanding Access to Medication-Based Treatment for OUD in Underserved Rural Areas Utilizing Telehealth:** HRSA's Office of Regional Operations will discuss tips and promising strategies for addressing SUD among rural vulnerable populations. April 15, 9-10am PT. [Register here](#)

## School-Based Health Alliance Offering Two Learning Collaboratives this Spring:

- **Improving Health Center SDOH Care for Children & Adolescents:** The goal of this learning collaborative is to aid health centers in improving and expanding existing SDOH screening for children and adolescents. Presented by School-Based Health Alliance. [Learn more or apply by Friday, April 16.](#)
- **SDOH Screening in School-Based Health Centers:** This learning collaborative is for school-based health centers interested in developing a sustainable screening practice in school-based health settings. Presented by School-Based Health Alliance. [Learn more or apply by Friday, April 16.](#) For questions about either learning collaborative, please contact Miranda Robinson-Perez via email at [mrobinson-perez@sbh4all.org](mailto:mrobinson-perez@sbh4all.org).

**Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy through Community Engagement:** Nursing experts share on-the-ground initiatives in BIPOC communities, services that promote culturally competent care and successful Public Service Announcements. April 16, 10am PT. [Click here to register](#)

**OHA REALD Learning Series:** “[REALD](#) Lessons Learned for Phase 1 Organizations”; replaces the REALD Technical Workgroup. Contact [Renee Harger](#) or [Craig Mosbaek](#) for more information. Go to [REALD Webpage](#) for information related to REALD reporting for COVID-19 encounters. April 29, 1-2 pm PT. [Register here](#)

**2021 NWRPCA Virtual Spring Summit:** Formerly known as the Spring Primary Care Conference, this year's theme, [Illuminating Innovations in the Health Center Community](#), emphasizes the remarkable developments that emerged from COVID-19 response. May 19-21. [More information and registration.](#)

## Other Resources

**CDC Side-by-Side Comparison Document:** [This document](#) provides quick and easy access to storage and transport temperatures, dosages, and other useful information regarding available vaccines.

**Community Health Workers and Peer Specialists:** [Issue brief](#) on the important role of front-line CHWs/peer specialists to leveraging connections with communities for diabetes control in response to COVID-19.

**SDOH Academy 2021 Breakthrough Series:** The SDOH Academy offers webinars and office hours to provide tools needed to increase competency in four core SDOH response strategies. [Learn more or register for the series](#)

**Northwest Regional Primary Care Association 2020 Region X Salary & Benefit Survey Report:** [Available for purchase](#)

**Capital Link Released Three New Resources:** These [reports](#) focus specifically on FQHCs serving rural communities, including “Financial Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Federally Qualified Health Centers.”

**New REALD Report:** OHA published a [new report on Race, Ethnicity, Language and Disability \(REALD\)](#), highlighting the inequitable impact of COVID-19 on specific racial and ethnic groups in Oregon as well as the challenges faced by those with language, disability and health access barriers.