



**President and CEO
Monthly Report
to
CHC Board of Directors
January 22, 2024**

Reporting period: December 13, 2023 through January 19, 2024

*really good reasons
to look forward to
this new year*

HilaryBerentson.com

Health Center Reauthorization and Funding

Caught in the neverending chain of stop-gap funding!!

Both mandatory and appropriated funding for Section 330 (i.e. CHCs), the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), and Teaching Health Centers (THCs) have been **extended at FY23 levels through March 8**, as part of FY2024 Continuing Resolution (CR) passed last night. We've heard that Democratic leadership pushed to include increased Section 330 funding in this CR, but were unsuccessful, as it was ultimately decided to add no new health provisions in the bill. However, the fact that increased CHC funding was a high Democratic priority bodes well for what might be negotiated in the final FY24 package – and highlights the **value of continued outreach to Congress**.

**Advocacy and
Health Policy
Federal Focus**

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New Developments:

- The court decision in the Genesis case has shifted focus to inclusion of a narrow “patient definition” in any reform language.
- We face a serious risk of losing the ability to provide integrated 340B pharmacy services for our patients across the continuum of care.

Activity of the 340B Working Table:

- Submitted a draft of legislative language to the Senate “Gang of Six” (G6) and received their proposed draft in response.
- 2-hour in person meeting with G6 staff to outline and discuss discrepancies, alignment, strategies, and timeline.
- One 4-hour in person work session, followed by three 2-hour work sessions over the last 10 days and the Working Table returned a detailed proposal, including a suggested communications plan, back to the G6 on their requested deadline of Friday, January 19th.
- Working against the clock on several fronts!

NACHC’s Partnership with Alliance to Save America’s 340B Program:

- Board approved final detail on each of the principles; no further information about progress on the Hill.



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**340B
SPOTLIGHT**

- Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-District 3) has announced that he will not run for re-election.
- We have heard from very trusted resources that Congressman Ralph Norman (R District 5) will not run for re-election.
- Congressman Nancy Mace (R District 1) has serious challengers (and challenges).
- Outside of SC we are losing the following health center champions:
 - Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan)
 - Senator Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia)
 - Senator Mitt Romney (R-Utah)
 - Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Virginia)
 - Rep Larry Bucshon (R-Indiana)

Upcoming changes ...
announced, expected, and
possible ...on South
Carolina's Congressional
Chessboard



- The United States Supreme Court stands poised to overrule the 40-year-old “Chevron Deference.”
- Chevron, which has presided in 19,000 cases over 40 years, is about the power of administrative agencies relative to the courts. It requires courts to defer to a federal agency’s interpretation of an unclear statute, so long as the agency interpretation is reasonable.
- Following the rules of deference creates more predictability, stability, and accountability than a case-by-case approach.
- Overruling Chevron may strip federal agencies of effectively regulating programs, empower various entities to ignore their oversight authority, and result in increased litigation. IT WOULD GET MESSY!

Other important developments:



- Board approved the proposed the 2024 Legislative Agenda.
- State Policy and Issues Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd and Wednesday January 24th. CHC will be represented by Rachel Manner and Director of Behavioral Health, Jessica Jacobs. Rachel is coordinating meetings with our delegates on the General Assembly.
- The South Carolina Hospital Association has asked the SCPHCA to join them in developing state legislation addressing restrictions to contract pharmacy and creating further controls on PBM. As Chair of the SCPHCA Legislative Committee I was asked to begin a discussion draft, a copy of which was distributed with this report.

Advocacy and Health Policy State Focus



Proposed for SCPHCA 2024 Legislative Agenda

Proposed Legislative and Policy Priorities

Maintain Robust Medicaid Program

- Maintain and expand services for beneficiaries
- Monitor FQHC Reimbursement
- Support Medicaid Expansion

Invest in Community Health Center Infrastructure- Capital

Broadening/Expansion of Pharmacy Services Provided

- Protect 340B Program to strengthen existing statutes that protect against the discriminate treatment of independent pharmacies
- Expand access to clinical pharmacy services and reimbursement to sustain the services

Expansion of Health Care Workforce

- Incentivize clinician recruitment for practice in the health center setting
- Expand reimbursable provider types (and support staff)
- Expand the multidisciplinary health care team
 - Supportive regulatory and scope of practice policies

Advancement in the Utilization/Adoption of Technology and Data to Support and Drive the Provision of Quality and Comprehensive Care

- Expand access to and utilization of broadband connectivity
- Advance telehealth service utilization
- Secure exchange of data to improve health outcomes

Integration of Services for Comprehensive Care and Improved Health outcomes

- Expand access to services and resources to address behavioral health issues
 - Mental health crisis
 - Opioid/Substance use prevention and treatment

Create Equitable Outcomes for All People in South Carolina

- Support policy and legislation that ensure all communities of people are treated equitably and inclusively to advance and improve health outcomes that may be impacted by various social determinants/drivers of health

- Leadership and Staff Development:
 - Working on a realignment of the role of Risk Manager.
- Funding:
 - Brooke Holloway and Jessica Jacobs coordinated on development of application for Greenwood County Planning Grant for OUD. To be addressed under olds business.
- Administration Department:
 - Continuing the realignment of roles in the Finance Department with Takeria Jones assuming greater responsibility for Board of Directors support functions.

Strategic & Operational Updates



Clinical Departments:

- Department of Pediatrics:
 - Recruitment! Recruitment! Recruitment
- Department of Family Medicine:
 - Recruitment! Recruitment! Recruitment
 - Dr. Simons and team continue to develop the organizational infrastructure for the Infectious Disease Service.
- Department of Pharmacy:
 - No specific operational updates to report.
- Department of Behavioral Health:
 - No specific activity to report.
- Department of Quality and Population Health:
 - A change of leadership at the Director level created an opportunity to assess the department organizational structure, workflow, and accountability. An internal interim director has been assigned and we will be consulting with a health center that is a high performer in this area for an external assessment.



Board Development and Community Engagement



- CALENDAR
- CONTACT US
- LOGIN
- SEARCH

- About NACHC
- Community Health Centers
- State/Regional Affiliates & Networks
- Resources & Research
- Training & Events
- Policy & Advocacy
- Newsroom
- Membership

online videos and modules, and essential resources are available.

center success.

Upcoming Events

16 JANUARY
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Training Workshop ●

Health Center Board Roles And Responsibilities ● Virtual

[VIEW DETAIL](#)

23 JANUARY
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
 Training Workshop ●

Board Chair Leadership Program
5 Virtual Sessions
January 23 - March 19, 2024

Board Chair Leadership Program 2024 ● Virtual

[VIEW DETAIL](#)

10 - 15 FEBRUARY
All Day
 Marriot Marquis
 Conference ●

2024 P&I FORUM POLICY & ISSUES
CONFERENCE: February 12-15
COMMITTEE MEETINGS: February 10-11
Marriott Marquis
Washington, DC

Policy & Issues Forum 2024 ●

[VIEW DETAIL](#)

<https://www.nachc.org/training-events/training-for-health-center-professionals/health-center-governance/>

- NACHC Executive Committee meets on 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- Two virtual meetings of the 340B Work Group to finalize the detail under each of the shared principles for ASAP 340B legislative language.
- Two meeting of the Membership Committee to continue developing proposal for updated membership and dues structure. Goals are to increase membership to 60% by June 2024, and be at least budget neutral to NACHC. 5-year membership goal = 75% of all health centers in the country in order to have a strong and unified voice.
- Forced to abort participation in the NACHC 2024 Winter Strategy Session due to contracting COVID.

External Partnerships , Affiliations, and Civic Activities

National Association of Community Health Centers

NACHC

Secretary of the Board of Directors/Member of the Executive Committee

Chair, Membership Committee

Co-chair, Subcommittee for Pharmacy Policy and Operations

Member of Legislative, Health Policy , and Clinical Practice

Committees

Member of Task Force on Undoing Racism

Member of the Oversight Team for Organizational Assessment

Member of ASAP340B Work Group

- OCHIN:
 - Regularly attend monthly CEO Steering Committee Meeting
- SCPHCA:
 - Monthly meetings of Legislative Committee, 330 Network, and Board of Directors.
 - Finalized retirement package for exiting CEO and named Dr. Vicki Young the Interim CEO.
- CIMS:
 - Monthly meeting of Managing Partners and Clinical and Care Coordination Committee
 - Annual Meeting planned for January 29th – 31st.
- Community Voices for 340B (CV340B)
 - Monthly Steering Committee meeting
- Greenwood Promise
 - Expanding CHC's partnership to include strategies for introducing health care careers to students in local schools.

External Partnerships , Affiliations, and Civic Activities

Community Integrated Management Services (CIMS)

- Managing Partner – Parliamentarian
- Chair of the Clinical and Care Coordination Committee

South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA)

- Board Member
- Chair of Legislative Committee

Beckman Center for Mental Health Services

- Partnership overseen by Director of Behavioral Health

OCHIN CEO Steering Committee

- Community Voices for 340B
- Member of CV340B Steering Committee

Consulting Activities

- 340B consultant contract with Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHCACT) expired.
- Planning for the 340B Coalition 2024 Winter Conference is complete and will be invoiced after the conference.
 - I will not be attending in person.
 - We subcontracted with a health center Director of Education to assist with the planning and 50% of fees invoiced will be paid to him.
- Contract has been secured between Cornell Scott Hill Health Centers in New haven CT and Hudson Headwaters 340B LLC for a strategic and operational assessment of their pharmacy program. I will be serving as an adjunct consultant providing a high level of oversight of the project.

SV Personal Leave Time

PTO: 20 hours
Sick Leave: 26 hours



Please don't hesitate to email or call with any questions you may have or additional information needed:
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