

# How to Prepare for the P&I

## Tips and Tricks for a Successful Conference



February 27, 2018



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Health Centers

# Today's Agenda


- Things to do before you come to DC
- How to have a successful conference/how to support your colleagues from back home
- Post-conference activities



# Preparing for DC

- Let your state primary care association (PCA) know if you're coming to the conference, so they can coordinate Hill meetings appropriately
  - Please do NOT set up meetings on your own
- You will receive national (and in many cases, state-level) data and materials at the conference, but things like patient stories that you can bring with you would be valuable

# NACHC's 2018 Legislative Agenda – 5 Key Areas



## Community Health Centers 2018 Federal Policy Agenda

**Background:**  
For more than 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided access to high quality and affordable comprehensive primary and preventive health care to millions of uninsured and medically underserved people. Today, there are almost 1,400 health centers with more than 10,000 sites. Together, they serve over 27 million patients, including eight million children, nearly 1.3 million homeless patients, 330,000 veterans, and more than 1 in 6 Medicaid beneficiaries.

**Health centers have a unique role in the health care system.**  
By mission and mandate they are required to:

- Be located in high need areas
- Serve all, regardless of insurance or ability to pay
- Provide a comprehensive set of services
- Be governed by a patient-majority board

**Health Centers are an American success story.**  
But there is much more that federal policymakers can do to build off the successes of the past and sustain and strengthen health centers' ability to improve access to and delivery of high quality, cost effective health care.

**CHC FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING:** Health centers rely on Section 330 grants to offset the cost of providing care to uninsured and underinsured patients, to support service expansions, and to expand health center locations into medically underserved areas.

**MEDICAID:** Medicaid is a critical program for health centers and their patients. Nationally, 49% of health center patients are covered by Medicaid and Medicaid payments represent 43% of health centers' total revenue, making it their largest revenue source.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT:** Health centers are leaders in integrating medical care, behavioral health, substance use treatment, dental care, pharmacy, and other services all under one roof. As communities across America cope with a dramatic increase in the prevalence of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid addiction, health centers are meeting this challenge by providing much needed SUD services to their patients.

**TELEHEALTH:** While particularly important in rural areas where providers are scarce, telehealth also offers tremendous benefits to patients and providers in urban areas, especially where workforce shortages and geography present barriers to access.

**340B DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM:** Health centers successfully utilize the 340B program, which ensures health center patients are able to buy their medications at affordable prices. Health centers are able to reinvest the savings they would otherwise have spent on purchasing expensive drugs into improving quality of care, extending hours, hiring additional staff, and expanding services.

National Association of Community Health Centers, Public Policy and Research Division, 2018  
For more information, please contact [federal@nachs.org](mailto:federal@nachs.org).  
Visit [www.nachs.org/policy-matters/federal-issues/](http://www.nachs.org/policy-matters/federal-issues/).

## • Federal Grant Funding

- FY19 Appropriations; Long term stability for cliff

## • Medicaid

- State-federal connection; Protections for program at large and FQHC PPS specifically

## • Behavioral Health/SUD Treatment

- Targeted grant funding; Adding billable providers

## • 340B Drug Pricing Program

- Maintaining health center access

## • Telehealth

- Reimbursing CHCs as distant and originating sites

**\*\*Workforce issues included throughout agenda\*\***

# At the conference- important sessions

- **Tuesday, March 13**

10:00am- Congressional briefing

- **Wednesday, March 14**

12:30-2:45pm- Be Ready to Head to the Hill prep session

5:45-6:45pm & 7:00-8:00pm- State Delegation Meetings

- **Thursday, March 15**

8:00am-5:00pm- Hill Day!

6:00-8:00pm- Healthcare Leadership Reception & Awards



# At the conference- important sessions

- **Friday, March 16**

Education sessions, general session, and receptions

- **Saturday, March 17**

Geiger-Gibson awards symposium, don't forget to wear green!



# Supporting colleagues from back home

**Can't travel to DC but still want to participate in the conference?**

Attend virtually!

Visit <http://www.nachc.org/conferences/policy-and-issues/pi-registration/>

**Thursday, March 15**

Organize a day of action to echo the message of your colleagues on the Hill! Send emails to the Hill, or share pictures/video on social media and tag your elected officials!



# Post-conference activities

- Follow-up/thank your congressional offices
- Share meeting feedback with NACHC\*
- Stay engaged with NACHC advocacy! Check out our website [www.hcadvocacy.org](http://www.hcadvocacy.org) for more information, including upcoming webinars



*\*Online or hard copy*



# Hear from your peer!

**Rich Napolitano**

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, MA

Contact Rich: [rnapolitano@glfhc.org](mailto:rnapolitano@glfhc.org)

# Helpful resources

[www.hcadvocacy.org/hillday2018](http://www.hcadvocacy.org/hillday2018)

- Policy information
- State Delegation Meeting schedule
- Hill visit report form
- State & congressional district maps and fact sheets
- Guides and maps of DC and Capitol Hill



Questions?