



December 23, 2020

Dear NACHC Members:

On behalf of the NACHC Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your steadfast support and participation this past year.

No one could have imagined how profoundly 2020 would affect our world from issues and events surrounding social justice and inequality --- to a contentious endless presidential campaign and the emergence of a deeply divided citizenry ---- to the ongoing devastation of millions of lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

America's Health Centers have served courageously during this stressful and tumultuous year. NACHC has been proud to support your mission's work as health centers have transitioned to meet the challenging demands of the pandemic. A few highlights underscore the scope and breadth of actions taken by NACHC to ensure strong collaboration, coordination, and planning in moving forward priorities to safeguard the health of our patients, staffs, and communities.

1. Policy and Grassroots Advocacy to Preserve, Strengthen and Expand Community Health Centers

- Advocacy with the Administration, Members of Congress, and other policy makers on critical issues that impact health centers -- mandatory health center funding, 340B, COVID-19 funding and supply needs, telehealth, workforce, capital funding, access to relief funding for larger health centers with over 500 employees and FQHC Look-Alikes, etc. Efforts resulted in:
 - Availability of more than \$5.5 billion in COVID-19 related support for health centers to date.
 - Stable 3-year mandatory funding totaling over \$15 billion for the health centers, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers programs; as well as continued level discretionary funding for FY'21.
 - Extending telehealth provisions and the Public Health Emergency.
- Legal actions to protect health centers against attacks on the 340B program.
- The filing of an Amicus Brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the preservation of the Affordable Care Act
- Introduction of urgent health center issues, as well as longer term needs, to incoming Administration Officials.
- Collaboration with partners, coalitions, and outside entities such as PCAs, HCCNs, CHV, HRSA/BPHC, CDC, other government agencies, Direct Relief International, Capital Link, National

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Association of Medicaid Directors, 340B Coalition, Medicaid Coalition, Partnership for Medicaid, Lenders Coalition for Community Health Centers, and others who share similar priorities.

2. Enhanced Tools, Information, Trainings and Technical Assistance

- **Close coordination and work with CDC and HRSA and numerous federal agencies** in efforts to reach underserved communities and identify the need for additional support with education, testing, and vaccination. Community health center data was provided directly to HHS and the White House on a weekly basis.
- **COVID-19 Membership E-Newsletter:** Providing members with the most up-to-date information on the coronavirus.
- **COVID-19 Priority Page on the Health Center Resource Clearinghouse:** carefully curating the most relevant materials from HRSA-funded training and technical assistance partners.
- **Leadership Coaching for Health Center, PCA and HCCN staff:** designed to help combat crisis fatigue by providing a safe space to recharge, while gaining fresh perspectives and solutions to leadership challenges.
- **COVID-19 Finance Toolkit, National Finance Office Hours and New CFO Leadership Institute:** to support improvement operational performance and understanding of the many funding and financing strategies emerging during the public health emergency.
- **Board Governance articles:** designed to provide quick tips and guidance to busy Boards of Directors seeking to implement virtual board meetings, undertake strategic planning and improve communication with CEOs during times of crisis and emerging science.
- **“Ask Me Anything” Q&A weekly calls: Featuring** Claire Hannan, Executive Director, Association of Immunization Managers to answer member questions about microplanning for both flu and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Ongoing work via the **CDC COVID-19 Adult Immunizations and Vaccine Hesitancy projects.**
- **Preparation of a COVID-19 Vaccine Action Guide** coming soon to walk health centers through procurement, storage and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Interactive discussions with frontline health center staff through our **Elevate Forum** to support health center transformation.
- Scheduled meetings, webinars and calls enabling all parts of our organization from Committees, Task Forces, State/Regional PCAs and Networks, Health Center Board and Staffs to be involved – to understand the rationale behind actions -- and to pinpoint problems areas and develop unified strategies in response.
- New opportunities to share knowledge, learn from each other and support decision making through **Noddlepod/PowerNoodle** and Pop-up opportunities - Health Center Vaccine Preparation & Distribution *Seasonal Flu & COVID-19.*
- Monthly **340B Pharmacy Office Hours** webinars to answer questions about operational issues related to pharmacy and the 340B program.

3. Promoting the Value and Work of Health Centers for Greater Investment

- Strategic use of social media, media briefings and interviews, research-based fact sheets, blogs and other vehicles to spread the word out about the important role health centers play in key health delivery areas, including testing and the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines.

Today, national leaders such as HHS Secretary Azar, Drs. Francis Collins and Anthony Fauci at the NIH, Surgeon General Jerome Adams, and Congressional representatives of both parties recognize health centers as key partners in fighting COVID-19. With the incoming Administration, we have already and will work to further strengthen workforce and the capacity of health centers in our continuing efforts to

bring greater equity into the nation's health system. We will also continue on course, building a stronger NACHC for the future, reflective of inclusiveness and diversity.

Many lessons have been learned in 2020 about the resilience, flexibility, and unity of community health centers. Also, we have learned much from the close coordination and consistent communication between NACHC, PCAs, HCCNs and our health centers. This includes the closely coordinated sharing of data, information and strategies which will serve us well in the future. With this in mind, we all look forward to brighter days ahead --- and one day we will remember how everyone in the Health Center Movement rallied to make it possible.

Best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Van Coverden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Van Coverden
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Community Health Centers