DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Meeting of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces meetings of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group (the Working Group) mandated by section 1014 of the Medicare Modernization Act.

DATES: A business meeting of the Working Group will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESS: The meeting will take place in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201 in Room 425-A.

The meeting is open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline Taplin, Citizens' Health Care Working Group, at (301) 443–1514 or ctaplin@ahrq.gov. If sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation for a disability is needed, please contact Mr. Donald L. Inniss, Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Program, Program Support Center, on (301) 443–1144.

The agenda for this Working Group meeting will be available on the Citizens' Working Group Web site, http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov. Also available at that site is a roster of Working Group members. When a transcript of the Group’s October 5th meeting is completed, it will also be available on the Web site.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1014 of Public Law 108–173, (known as the Medicare Modernization Act) directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), acting through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to establish a Citizens’ Health Care Working Group (Citizen Group). This statutory provision, codified at 42 U.S.C. 299n., directs the Working Group to: (1) Identify options for changing our health care system so that every American has the ability to obtain quality, affordable health care coverage; (2) provide for a nationwide public debate about improving the health care system; and (3) submit its recommendations to the President and the Congress.

The Citizens’ Health Care Working Group is composed of 15 members: The Secretary of DHHS is designated as a member by statute and the Comptroller General of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) was directed to name the remaining 14 members whose appointments were announced on February 28, 2005.

Working Group Meeting Agenda

The Working Group business meeting on October 5 will be devoted to ongoing Working Group business. Topics to be addressed are expected to include: introductions to Working Group contractors, reports from Working Group Committees, and plans for community meetings and other activities to engage the public.

Submission of Written Information

The Working Group invites written submissions on those topics to be addressed at the Working Group business meeting listed above. In general, individuals or organizations wishing to provide written information for consideration by the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group should submit information electronically to citizenshealth@ahrq.gov. Since all electronic submissions will be posted on the Working Group Web site, separate submissions by topic will facilitate review of ideas submitted on each topic by the Working Group and the public.

This notice is published less than 15 days in advance of the meeting due to logistical difficulties.


Carolyn M. Clancy,

Director.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day—05–0213]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call 404–371–5983 and send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS–D74, Atlanta, GA 30333 or send an e-mail to omb@cdc.gov.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Proposed Project


Background and Brief Description: The National Vital Statistics Report Forms project (0920–0213) is an approved collection and compilation of national vital statistics. This collection dates back to the beginning of the 20th century and has been conducted since 1960 by the Division of Vital Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC. The collection of the data is authorized by 42 U.S.C. 242k. The National Vital Statistics Report forms provide counts of monthly occurrences of births, deaths, infant deaths, marriages, and divorces. Similar data have been published since 1937 and are the sole source of these data at the national level. The data are used by the Department of Health and Human Services and by other government, academic, and private research and commercial organizations in tracking changes in trends of vital events.

Respondents for the National Vital Statistics Report Forms project (0920–0213) are registration officials in each State and Territory, the District of Columbia, and New York City. In addition, 33 local (county) officials in New Mexico who