DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nominations Requested/Open for the 2006 Secretary’s Innovation in Prevention Awards

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) seeks nominations of public and private sector organizations to receive the 2006 Secretary’s Innovation in Prevention Awards Initiative. This activity is part of a broader Departmental initiative called Steps to a Healthier U.S. that advances President George W. Bush’s HealthierUS goal of helping Americans live longer, better and healthier lives. The statutory authority for this health promotion activity is Section 1703 (42 U.S.C. 300u–2) from Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act. The Secretary’s Innovation in Prevention Awards Initiative will identify and celebrate outstanding organizations that have implemented innovative and creative chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs. To be nominated, a program must address at least one of the following risk factors:

(1) Obesity;
(2) Physical activity; and
(3) Nutrition.

The Department intends that these awards will provide an opportunity to increase public awareness of creative approaches to develop and expand innovative health programs and duplication of successful strategies. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- Health Care Delivery
- Healthy Workplace
  - Large Employer >500 employees
  - Small Employer <500 employees
- Non-Profit
- Public Sector
- Schools (K–12)

The following criteria will be taken into consideration upon review:

- Creativity/Innovation
- Leadership
- Sustainability
- Replicability
- Effectiveness
- Receipt of other national award(s)/recognition

DATES: Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. EDT, June 15, 2006.

Nominations: Partnership for Prevention, a 501(c)(3) focused on health promotion, is coordinating the nomination process for the Innovation in Prevention Awards on behalf of the HHS. Nominations can only be made online at http://www.prevent.org/awards2006. For more information, contact Partnership for Prevention at (202) 785–4943 or 2006innovationsawards@prevent.org. Partnership for Prevention may request additional information as necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: HHS is the U.S. government’s principal agency for promoting and protecting the health of all Americans. HHS manages many programs, covering a broad spectrum of health promotion and disease prevention services and activities. Leaders in the business community, State and local government officials, tribes and tribal entities and charitable, faith-based, and community organizations have expressed an interest in working with the Department to promote healthy choices and behaviors. The Secretary welcomes this interest.

With this notice, the Secretary outlines opportunities to identify and celebrate outstanding organizations that have implemented innovative and creative chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs.


John O. Agwunobi,
Assistant Secretary for Health.

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 a meeting 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 Sunday, April 30, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Monday, May 1, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1900 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009 in the Sequoia Room. The meeting is open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline Taplin, Citizens’ Health Care Working Group, at (301) 443–1514 or Caroline.Taplin@ahrq.hhs.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.citizenhealthcare.gov. Also available at that site is a roster of Working Group members. When a summary of this meeting is completed, it will also be available on the Web site.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1014 of Pub. L. 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. 299 n., 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 April 30th and May 1st will be devoted to ongoing Working Group business. Topics to be addressed are expected to include: a summary of citizen input to date, the development of interim recommendations, and the process for obtaining public comments on these interim recommendations.

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. Separate submissions by topic will facilitate review of ideas submitted on each topic by the Working Group and the public.

Dated: April 12, 2006.
Carolyn M. Clancy,
Director.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Notice of Meetings

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as amended (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announces meetings of scientific peer review groups. The subcommittees listed below are part of the Agency’s Health Services Research Initial Review Group Committee.

The subcommittee meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, section 10(d) of 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2 and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6). Grant applications are to be reviewed and discussed at these meetings. These discussions are likely to involve information concerning individuals associated with the applications, including assessments of their personal qualifications to conduct their proposed projects. This information is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the above-cited statutes.

1. Name of Subcommittee: Health Research Dissemination and Implementation Date: June 15–16, 2006 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on June 15 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

2. Name of Subcommittee: Health Systems Research Date: June 15–16, 2006 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on June 15 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

3. Name of Subcommittee: Health Care Quality and Effectiveness Research Date: June 22–23, 2006 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on June 22 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

4. Name of Subcommittee: Health Care Technology and Decision Sciences Date: June 22–23, 2006 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on June 22 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

5. Name of Subcommittee: Health Care Research Training Date: June 29–30, 2006 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on June 29 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

All the meetings above will take place at: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, John Eisenberg Conference Center, 540 Gaither Road, Rockville Maryland 20850.

Contact Person: Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members, agenda or minutes of the nonconfidential portions of the meetings should contact Mrs. Bonnie Campbell, Committee Management Officer, Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations, AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Suite 2000, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Telephone (301) 427–1554.

Agenda items for these meetings are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Carolyn M. Clancy,
Director.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Summary of Special Exposure Cohort Petitions and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Findings

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the requirements of 42 CFR 83.15(a), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice of petitions to add classes of employees to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) and the findings of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) from evaluating these petitions that are to be considered by the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health April 25–27, 2006 (see notice: Federal Register/ Vol. 71, No. 66/Thursday, April 6, 2006/ Notices. p. 17470).

Summary of petitions and NIOSH findings:

1. Y–12 Plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Qualified Petitioners: Survivors of Y–12 Plant Department of Energy (DOE) contractor employees.

Initial Proposed Class Definition, Subject to Revision as Warranted by the Evaluation: All steamfitters, pipefitters, and plumbers who worked at Y–12 from October, 1944 through December, 1957.

Basis of the Petition: Documentation or statements provided by affidavit indicating that radiation exposures and doses to members of the proposed class were not monitored either through personal or area monitoring.

NIOSH Finding and NIOSH Proposed Class Definition: NIOSH does not have access to sufficient information to estimate radiation dose with sufficient accuracy for employees of the DOE or DOE contractors or subcontractors who were monitored or should have been monitored for thorium exposures while working in Building 9202, 9204–1, 9204–3, 9206, or 9212 at Y–12 during the period January 1948 through December 1957. NIOSH has determined that health was endangered for those workers who were employed for at least 250 aggregated work days within the parameters established for this class or in combination with work days within the parameters for one or more classes of employees in the SEC.

2. Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, Colorado

Qualified Petitioner: Labor organization representing or formerly having represented DOE or DOE contractor or subcontractor employees who would be included in the proposed class of employees.

Initial Proposed Class Definition, Subject to Revision as Warranted by the Evaluation: All represented members, past, present and current, of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8031 and its predecessors, that worked at the Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, Colorado, from April 1952 to February 15, 2005.

Bases of the Petition:

a. Documents or statements provided by affidavit indicating that radiation exposures and doses to members of the proposed class were not monitored, either through personal or area monitoring.