Dated: July 8, 2005.

Elizabeth S. Woodruff,
Secretary to the Board, Federal Retirement
Thrift Investment Board.

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 and
hearing.

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

DATES: The meeting will be held on
Thursday, July 21, 2005, from 1 p.m. to
5 p.m. The hearing will be held Friday,
July 22, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30
p.m.

DAYS: The meeting will be held at
Intermountain Health Care, Board Room
22, 22nd Floor, 36 South State Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. The hearing
will be held at the Salt State Capitol,
Room 125 West Building, 350 North
Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.
The meeting and hearing are open to the
public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Caroline Taplin, Citizens’ Health Care
Working Group, at (301) 443–1514 or
citaplin@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 and roster is available on
the Citizens’ Working Group Web site

Submission of Written Information

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.hhs.gov.

The Working Group invites submissions that
address the topics to be addressed at
the July 21 meeting listed above. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
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 hearing.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Inniss, Director, Office of Equal
Employment Opportunity Program,
Program Support Center, on (301) 443–
1144.

The agenda and roster is available on
the Citizens’ Working Group Web site,

When a transcription of the Group
hearing is completed, it will 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. 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
equality, 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 the statute and the
Comptroller General of the U.S.
Government Accountability Office
(GAO) was directed to appoint the
remaining 14 members. The Comptroller
General announced the 14 appointments
on February 28, 2005. A list of the
Working group members is available on
the Citizens’ Working Group Web site

Agenda

The meeting on July 21 will be
devoted to ongoing Working Group
business. Topics to be addressed at the
meeting include the work plan for the
Working Group, its required Report to
the American People and continuing
discussion regarding approaches for
conducting the community meetings
also required by the statute.

At the hearing on July 22, David
Walker, Comptroller General of the
United States, will give the first
presentation. His remarks will be
followed by three panels on these
topics: health care quality; health
information technology and employer/
employee initiatives addressing health
care quality.