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 1014 of the Medicare Modernization Act, this notice announces a meeting and hearing of the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group mandated by 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.

ADDRESSES: 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 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 and roster is available on the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group Web site http://www.citizenshealth.ahrq.gov. When transcriptions of the Group’s July 21 and 22 meeting and hearing are completed, they will be available on the website.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1014 of the Medicare Modernization Act (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 (AHRQ), 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 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 http://www.citizenshealth.ahrq.gov.

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.

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.

Dated: July 8, 2005.

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

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Agenda

The hearing on July 26 will consist of four panels addressing these topics: Hispanic health issues, rural health, institutional-based care and home and community care, and retiree health care issues.

Dated: July 7, 2005.
Caroline M. Clancy, Director.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Notice of Meeting

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), announcement is made of a Health Care Policy and Research Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting.

A Special Emphasis Panel is a group of experts in fields related to health care research who are invited by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and agree to be available, to conduct on an as needed basis, scientific reviews of applications for AHRQ support. Individual members of the Panel do not attend regularly-scheduled meetings and do not serve for fixed terms or a long period of time. Rather, they are asked to participate in particular review meetings which require their type of expertise.

Substantial segments of the upcoming SEP meeting listed below 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). Fellowship grant applications will be reviewed and discussed at this meeting. These discussions are likely to reveal personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications. This information is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the above-cited statutes.

SEP Meeting on: Fellowship applications (F31 & F32).

Date: July 11, 2005 (open on July 11 from 11 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. and closed for the remainder of the telephone conference call meeting).

Place: John M. Eisenberg Building, 540 Gaither Road, Room 2038, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Contact Person: Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members, agenda or minutes of the non-confidential portions of this meeting should contact Mrs. Bonnie Campbell, Committee Management Officer, Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations, AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Room 2038, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Telephone (301) 427-1554.

Agenda items for this meeting are subject to change as priorities dictate. This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the July 11 meeting, due to the time constraints of reviews and funding cycles.

Dated: June 30, 2005.
Caroline M. Clancy, Director.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hematologic Cancer Healthcare Provider Education Program

Announcement Type: New.

Funding Opportunity Number: AA191.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93.283.

Key Dates:

Application Deadline: August 11, 2005.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority: This program is authorized under Sections 301(a) and 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 241(a) and 247b(k)(2) as amended.

Purpose: The purpose of the program is to provide information and education among healthcare providers with respect to hematologic cancers. The successful implementation of this program will result in increased efforts to address hematologic cancer education, awareness and survivorship among healthcare providers. This program addresses the “Healthy People 2010” focus area 3, Cancer:

Objective 3–1 Reduce the overall cancer death rate; and

Objective 3–15 Increase the proportion of cancer survivors who are living five years or longer after diagnosis.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following overarching CDC health promotion objectives: To reduce the health and economic consequences of the leading causes of death and disability and ensure a long, productive, healthy life for all people.

This announcement is only for non-research activities supported by CDC/ATSDR. If research is proposed, the application will not be reviewed. For the definition of research, please see the CDC Web site at the following Internet address: http://www.cdc.gov/od/ads/opspoll1.htm.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Grant.

Fiscal Year Funds: 2005.

Approximate Total Funding: $1,000,000 (This amount is an estimate, and is subject to availability of funds).