

disclosure and use of the information, require adequate security, impose sanctions for violations, and increase reliance on non-identifiable information whenever possible.

The Committee strongly supports the use of health records for health research, subject to independent review of research protocols and other procedural protections for patients. The Committee also strongly supports the use of health records for public health purposes, subject to substantive and procedural barriers commensurate with the importance of the public health functions. The Committee believes that patients need strong substantive and procedural protections if their health records are to be disclosed to law enforcement officials.

The Committee strongly supports limiting use and disclosure of identifiable information to the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the purpose. The Committee also strongly believes that when identifiable health information is made available for non-health uses, patients deserve a strong assurance that the data will not be used to harm them.

Contact Person for More Information:

Information about the Committee as well as the text of the HIPAA recommendations is available on the NCVHS website or from James Scanlon, NCVHS Executive Staff Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS, Room 440-D, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, telephone (202) 690-7100, or Marjorie S. Greenberg, Executive Secretary, NCVHS, NCHS, Room 1100, Presidential Building, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 436-7050.

Dated: July 18, 1997.

James Scanlon,

Director, Division of Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency For Health Care Policy and Research

Notice of Health Care Policy and Research Special Emphasis Panel Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), announcement is made of the following special emphasis panel scheduled to meet during the month of August 1997:

Name: Health Care Policy and Research Special Emphasis Panel

Date and Time: August 1, 1997, 9:30 a.m.

Place: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 2101 E. Jefferson Street, Suite 400, Rockville, MD 20852.

Open August 1, 1997, 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Closed for remainder of meeting.

Purpose: This Panel is charged with conducting the initial review of grant applications proposing analytical and theoretical research on costs, quality, access, and efficiency of the delivery of health services for the research grant program administered by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR).

Agenda: The open session of the meeting on August 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m., will be devoted to a business meeting covering administrative matters. During the closed session, the panel will be reviewing and discussing grant applications dealing with health services research issues. 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), the Administrator, AHCPR, has made a formal determination that this latter session will be closed because the discussions are likely to reveal personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications. This information is exempt from mandatory disclosure.

Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members or other relevant information should contact Carmen Johnson, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, Suite 400, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Telephone (301) 594-1449 x1613.

Agenda items for this meeting are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: July 17, 1997.

John Eisenberg,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service Activities and Research at Department of Energy (DOE) Sites: Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announce the following meeting.

Name: Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service Activities and Research at DOE Sites: Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee.

Times and Dates: 1 p.m.-9 p.m., August 20, 1997; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., August 21, 1997.

Place: The Plantation, 9660 Dry Fork Road, Harrison, Ohio 45020, telephone 513/367-5610.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 50 people.

Background: Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in December 1990 with DOE and replaced by an MOU signed in 1996, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was given the responsibility and resources for conducting analytic epidemiologic investigations of residents of communities in the vicinity of DOE facilities, workers at DOE facilities, and other persons potentially exposed to radiation or to potential hazards from non-nuclear energy production use. HHS delegated program responsibility to CDC.

In addition, an MOU was signed in October 1990 and renewed in November 1992 between ATSDR and DOE. The MOU delineates the responsibilities and procedures for ATSDR's public health activities at DOE sites required under sections 104, 105, 107, and 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). These activities include health consultations and public health assessments at DOE sites listed on, or proposed for, the Superfund National Priorities List and at sites that are the subject of petitions from the public; and other health-related activities such as epidemiologic studies, health surveillance, exposure and disease registries, health education, substance-specific applied research, emergency response, and preparation of toxicological profiles.

Purpose: This subcommittee is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Director, CDC, and the Administrator, ATSDR, regarding community, American Indian Tribes, and labor concerns pertaining to CDC's and ATSDR's public health activities and research at this DOE site. The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum for community, American Indian Tribal, and labor interaction and serve as a vehicle for community concern to be expressed as advice and recommendations to CDC and ATSDR.

Matters To Be Discussed: Agenda items include: presentations from the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) regarding current activities; the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and ATSDR will provide updates on the progress of current studies, and an overview of FHES mission and activities will be part of the evening session.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Contact Persons For More Information: Steven A. Adams or Nadine Dickerson, Radiation Studies Branch, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health, NCEH, CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, NE (M/S F-35), Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3724, telephone 770/488-7040, FAX 770/488-7044.

Dated: July 18, 1997.

John C. Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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