

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Agency for Health Care Policy and Research****General Reorganization; Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority**

Part E, Chapter E (Agency for Health Care Policy and Research), of the Statement of Organization, functions, and Delegations of Authority for the Department of Health and Human Service (61 FR 15955–58, April 10, 1996, and 62 FR 61511–12, November 18, 1997) is amended to reflect organizational changes within the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR). This action is necessitated by a reordering of Agency priorities and the need to more effectively align and utilize Agency resources. The principal organizational and functional changes required by this action involve:

A. Abolishing the Office of Planning and Evaluation, with certain functions being reassigned to other components in AHCPR;

B. Abolishing the Center for Information Technology, with a limited number of its functions absorbed by other components of the Agency;

C. Retitling the Office of Scientific Affairs to be more reflective of expanded functions, and;

D. Establishing a staff-level office within the Office of the Administrator to carry out the functions of the Center for Health Information Dissemination, which will subsequently be abolished by this action.

Other minor changes have been made consistent with this reorganization.

Under *Section E-10, Organization*, delete entries A. through M. and insert the following:

- A. Immediate Office of the Administrator
 - B. Office of Management
 - C. Office of Policy Analysis
 - D. Office of Research Review, Education, and Policy
 - E. Office of Health Care Information
 - F. Center for Cost and Financing Studies
 - G. Center for Organization and Delivery Studies
 - H. Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research
 - I. Center for Primary Care Research
 - J. Center for Quality Measurement and Improvement
 - K. Center for Practice and Technology Assessment
- Under *Section E-20, Functions*, delete the titles and statements for the *Office of Planning and Evaluation (EAB)*, the

Office of Scientific Affairs (EAE), the *Center for Health Information Dissemination (EF)*, and the *Center for Information Technology (EG)*.

Within the statement for the *Immediate Office of the Administrator (EA)*, delete (2) and insert the following: “(2) plans, directs, coordinates, and evaluates the Agency’s research, training programs, and dissemination activities, including particular focus areas, such as special populations, initiatives, and administrative policies and procedures;”.

Within the statement for the *Office of Policy Analysis (EAC)*, make the following changes:

Delete (6) and insert the following: “(6) coordinates the legislative activities of the Agency including the development of legislative proposals and analysis of health legislative initiatives, and reports to Congress;”

Following (8), insert the following: “(9) coordinates review and clearance of Department and other Federal policies and regulations; and” and renumber the old (9) as (10).

Following the statement for the *Office of Policy Analysis (EAC)*, insert the following:

Office of Research Review, Education, and Policy (EAE). Directs the scientific review process for grants and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contracts, the assignment of applications to Agency Centers, manages Agency research training programs, and evaluates the scientific contribution of proposed and on-going research, demonstrations, and evaluations. Specifically: (1) directs the process for selecting, reviewing, and funding grants and reviewing SBIR contracts for scientific merit and program relevance; (2) assigns grant applications to Centers for administrative action; (3) manages the process for making funding decisions for grants; (4) directs Agency research training programs and implementation of the National Research Service Award authority; (5) manages the committee management and scientific integrity processes for the intramural and extramural programs of the Agency; (6) develops and coordinates clearance of peer review regulations, as required, policy notices and program announcements; (7) facilitates Agency-wide communication and coordination regarding extramural policy, planning, and analysis; and (8) represents the Agency in meetings with experts and organizations on issues related to the administration of the Agency’s scientific programs.

Office of Health Care Information (EAF). Designs, develops, implements,

and manages programs for disseminating the results of Agency activities. Specifically: (1) Communicates the results and significance of health services research and other AHCPR initiatives to the health care industry, health care providers, consumers and patients, policy makers, researchers, and the media with particular emphasis on communicating AHCPR initiatives in the ways each of these constituencies are most interested; (2) manages the editing, publication, and information distribution processes of the Agency, including Freedom of Information Act administration; (3) provides the administrative support for reference services and the distribution of technical information to Agency staff; (4) manages the public affairs activities of the Agency, Agency clearinghouse for responding to requests for information and technical assistance, and a program for consumer information about health care research findings; (5) directs a user liaison program to provide health care research and policy findings to Federal, State and local public officials, and other audiences as appropriate; (6) evaluates the effectiveness of Agency dissemination strategies and implements changes indicated by such evaluations; and (7) represents the Agency in meetings with Department and Public Health Service representatives on press releases, media events, and publication clearance.

All delegations and redelegations of authority to officers and employees of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research which were in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this reorganization shall continue in effect pending further redelegation, provided they are consistent with this reorganization.

These changes are effective upon date of signature.

Dated: June 18, 1998.

**John M. Eisenberg,
Administrator.**

[FR Doc. 98-17923 Filed 7-6-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160-90-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC): Meeting**

Name: CLIAC, Workgroup on Genetic Testing.

Times and Dates: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., July 30, 1998; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., July 31, 1998.