

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**Announcement of Joint Public Forum on the Advertising and Marketing of Dial-Around and Other Long-Distance Telecommunications Services**

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission plan to hold a public forum in November 4, 1999, to discuss the advertising and marketing of dial-around and other long-distance telecommunications services. This Federal Register Notice outlines the topics to be addressed at the forum and the procedures to be followed by those who wish to participate in the forum.

DATES: The public forum will be held on November 4, 1999, in Washington, D.C., from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Notification of interest in participating in the forum must be submitted on or before October 20, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Notification of interest in participating in the public forum should be submitted in writing to Lynn Vermillera, Enforcement Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. The public forum will be held at the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Commission Meeting Room, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Vermillera, Ivermill@fcc.gov, (202) 418-7120, Enforcement Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554; or Marianne Schwanke, mschwanke@ftc.gov, (202) 326-3165, Division of Marketing Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Section A. Background**

As a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996¹ and the subsequent increase in competition in the long-distance telecommunications market, many companies are offering consumers a variety of choices in long-distance calling. Numerous long-distance carriers, both large and small, heavily promote, through national television, print, and direct mail advertising campaigns, the use of their own long-distance telecommunications services,

including dial-around services. These advertisements urge consumers to dial a long-distance provider's access code (or "10-10" number) before dialing a long-distance number to bypass or "dial around" the consumer's chosen long-distance carrier and to get a better rate. Other advertisements promote "calling plans" that offer a fixed per-minute rate during certain hours or on particular days. The increased competition for long-distance call volume through dial-around and other services has given consumers greater choice in deciding which carrier to use and a greater diversity in the prices charged for those calls. With accurate information, consumers will benefit from being able to choose the particular carrier that meets their long-distance calling needs at the most economical price.

Conversely, if consumers are deceived by the advertising claims, they cannot make informed purchasing decisions and ultimately the growth of competition in the long-distance market will be inhibited. Since consumers of dial-around services must rely on the information contained in the advertisements as the basis for determining whether to choose a particular dial-around service, it is even more critical that such advertising claims be truthful and not misleading.

Because of the proliferation of advertisements for these new services, as well as the increased number of complaints by consumers regarding how dial-around and other long-distance services are marketed, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") and Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") have concluded that a public forum would be appropriate to afford staff and interested parties an opportunity to explore the issues raised by the advertising and marketing of dial-around and other telecommunications services. Based on the information provided at the forum, the agencies will determine whether future action is necessary regarding the advertising and marketing of long-distance telephone services.

Section B. Public Forum

The FCC and FTC staff will conduct a public forum to discuss issues raised by the advertising and marketing of dial-around and other long-distance services. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate a discussion among members of industry, consumer groups, and law enforcement about issues raised by claims made in many dial-around and other long-distance telephone service advertisements, and possible solutions to these concerns, including additional guidance to the industry. The forum

will be divided into two sessions. The morning session will begin with an overview of applicable advertising law, which prohibits deceptive representations. This overview will be followed by a discussion among representatives from industry, consumer organizations, and law enforcement, as well as marketing and advertising experts, regarding various issues, including consumers' need for cost information, the use of comparative claims, and the effectiveness of disclosures. The afternoon session will provide participants with the opportunity to analyze claims made in various mock advertisements illustrative of the issues raised by current advertisements for dial-around and other long-distance telephone services. Following this discussion, participants will have the opportunity to present possible solutions to the concerns raised by current advertising in this area. There also will be time for public comment following the afternoon session.

Section C. Request To Participate

The FCC and FTC invite members of the public, industry, and other interested parties to participate in the forum. To be eligible to participate, you must file a request to participate by October 20, 1999. If the number of parties who request to participate in the forum is so large that including all requesters would inhibit effective discussion among participants, staff of the FTC and FCC will select as participants a limited number of parties to represent the relevant interests. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. The party submitted a request to participate by October 20, 1999.
2. The party's participation would promote the representation of a balance of interests at the forum.
3. The party's participation would promote the consideration and discussion of the issues presented in the forum.
4. The party has expertise in issues raised in the forum.
5. The party adequately reflects the view of the affected interest(s) which it purports to represent.

If it is necessary to limit the number of participants, those who requested to participate but were not selected will be afforded an opportunity, if at all possible, to present statements during a limited time period at the end of the session. The time allotted for these statements will be based on the amount of time necessary for discussion of the issues by the selected parties, and on the number of persons who wish to

¹ 47 U.S.C. 228 and 15 U.S.C. 5714(1).

make statements. Requesters will be notified as soon as possible after October 20, 1999, if they have been selected to participate.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-25212 Filed 9-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Public Health and Science

Office of the Secretary

Request for Nomination for Members of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee

The Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) requests nominations for representatives to serve on the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee (CFSCC). Nominations are solicited for one biomedical research scientist with demonstrated achievements in biomedical research relating to chronic fatigue syndrome; and, one individual with expertise in health care services, disability issues, or a representative of private health care services insurers.

Information Required

Each nomination shall consist of a package that at a minimum includes:

A. A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the nominator's basis for the nomination, and the category for which the person is nominated;

B. The name, return address, and daytime telephone number at which the nominator may be contacted.

Organizational nominators must identify a principal contact person in addition to contact information.

C. A copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.

All nomination information for a nominee must be provided in a complete single package. Incomplete nominations cannot be considered. Nomination materials must bear original signatures; facsimile transmissions or copies are not acceptable.

DATES: All nominations must be received at the address below by no later than 4 p.m. EDT on October 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All nomination packages shall be submitted to Dr. David Morens, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Room 3258, 6700-B

Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. David Morens at the above address or at 301-496-7453 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. EDST.

Dated: September 20, 1999.

Anthony S. Fauci,

Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institute of Health.

[FR Doc. 99-25191 Filed 9-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Consultation and Review Directly Funded Community-Based Organization Program Summary Document; Meeting

The National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting:

Name: Consultation and review Directly-Funded Community-Based Organization Program Summary Document.

Times and Dates:

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., October 4, 1999

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., October 5, 1999

Place: Crown Plaza Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30346. Telephone, 770/395-7700.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by space available. The meeting space accommodates approximately 200 people.

Purpose: The purpose of this consultation is to provide a forum for obtaining expertise and feedback on specific components of the summary statement cited above.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda items include a discussion of the program goals, eligibility criteria; program requirements; evaluation criteria; and lessons learned from ongoing programs. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Contact Persons for More Information: Nikki Economou or Samuel Martinez, Community Assistance, Planning and National Partnerships Branch, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, NCHSTP, CDC, Mailstop E-58, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Telephone 404/639-5230, e-mail nxe0@cdc.gov or sbm5@cdc.gov.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services office has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: September 22, 1999.

Carolyn J. Russell,

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

[FR Doc. 99-25141 Filed 9-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99N-4068]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Advisory Opinions; Extension

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on requirements for parties seeking an advisory opinion from the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (the Commissioner).

DATES: Submit written comments on the collection of information by November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JonnaLynn P. Capezzuto, Office of Information Resources Management (HFA-250), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-4659.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR