

of Silverdale State Bank, Silverdale, Washington.

Comments on this application must be received by March 17, 2000.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 22, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-4547 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 23, 2000.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. Apalachicola State Banking Corporation, Apalachicola, Florida; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Apalachicola State Bank, Apalachicola, Florida.

2. First Central Bancshares, Inc., Lenoir City, Tennessee; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of First Central Bank of Monroe County, Sweetwater, Tennessee, a *de novo* bank.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. Indiana United Bancorp and FAB Merger Corporation, both of Greensburg, Indiana; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of First Affiliated Bancorp, Inc., Watseka, Illinois, and thereby indirectly acquire Capstone Bank, N.A., Watseka, Illinois. In connection with this application, FAB Merger Corporation has applied to become a bank holding company.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 22, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-4548 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Public Meeting on the Effect of Credentialing of Technologists and Sonographers on the Quality of Ultrasound Tests

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: As a first step in arranging for the conduct of a Congressionally mandated study, this Notice announces a public meeting for the purpose of receiving oral and written information on the subject of the effect of the credentialing of technologists and sonographers on the quality of ultrasound tests measured in terms of error rates, related complications, and patient outcomes, particularly with respect to the Medicare and Medicaid populations.

DATES: The meeting will be on March 29, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality conference center, 6010 Executive Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacqueline Besteman, J.D., M.A., Center for Practice and Technology

Assessment, AHRQ, 6010 Executive Blvd., Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852; Phone: (301) 594-4017; Fax: (301) 594-4027; E-mail: jbestema@ahrq.gov.

Arrangements for the Public Meeting

Representatives of organizations and other individuals are invited to provide relevant written comments and information to AHRQ, and to make a brief (10 minutes or less) oral statement at the meeting. Individuals and representatives who would like to attend must register with Jacqueline Besteman, AHRQ, at the address above 2 weeks prior to the date of meeting. One copy of the written materials should also be submitted to Ms. Besteman. On the day of the meeting, presenters are requested to bring 25 copies of their written materials for distribution.

If sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations for a disability is needed, please contact Linda Reeves, Assistant Administrator for Equal Opportunity, AHRQ, on (301) 594-6662 no later than (insert at least 3 days before the meeting).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

On December 6, 1999, the former Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, was reauthorized and renamed the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) by P.L. 106-129, the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999. The legislation directed AHRQ to improve the quality of health care, promote patient safety and reduce medical errors through research, including research on the use of health care services and outcomes research.

Shortly before the Agency became AHRQ, section 229 of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (incorporated by reference in, and enacted by section 1000(a) of Public Law 106-113) directed that the Agency (then AHCPR) provide for a study of differences in quality between ultrasound services furnished by individuals who are credentialed and ultrasound services furnished by those who are not so credentialed. This study is to examine and evaluate differences in error rates, resulting complications, and patient outcomes and determine any quality differences that can be correlated with the differences in credentialing. In particular, the Congress indicated that findings should be made with respect to the provision of ultrasound under the Medicare and Medicaid programs under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act. In