

Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

**James L. Witt,**

*Director.*

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## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Open Meeting, Technical Mapping Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice of teleconference meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 1, the Federal Emergency Management Agency gives notice that the following meeting will be held:

*Name:* Technical Mapping Advisory Council.

*Date of Meeting:* November 14, 2000.

*Place:* The FEMA Conference Operator in Washington, DC will administer the teleconference. Individuals interested in participating should call 1-800-320-4330 at the time of the teleconference. Callers will be prompted for the conference code, #17, and they will then be connected through to the teleconference.

*Time:* 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., EST.

*Proposed Agenda:*

1. Call to order.
2. Announcements.
3. Action on minutes from October 2000 teleconference meeting.
4. Review Annual and Year 2000 Report draft text.
5. New business.
6. Adjournment.

*Status:* This meeting is open to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sally P. Magee, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW., room 442, Washington, DC 20472, telephone (202) 646-8242 or by facsimile at (202) 646-4596.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Minutes of the meeting will be prepared and will be available upon request 30 days after they have been approved by the next Technical Mapping Advisory Council meeting in October 2000.

Dated: November 3, 2000.

**Michael K. Buckley,**

*Director, Technical Services Division,  
Mitigation Directorate.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

#### Nominations of Topics for Evidence- Based Practice Centers (EPCs)

**AGENCY:** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), formerly AHCPR.

**ACTION:** Nominations of topics for evidence reports and technology assessments.

**SUMMARY:** AHRQ invites a fourth round of nominations of topics for evidence reports and technology assessments relating to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of common diseases and clinical conditions, as well as topics relating to organization and financing of health care. AHRQ's previous requests for topic nominations were published in the **Federal Register** on December 23, 1996, November 28, 1997, and May 4, 1999.

**DATES:** Topic nominations should be submitted by January 12, 2001 in order to be considered for the next group of evidence reports and technology assessments. In addition to timely responses to this request for nominations, AHRQ also accepts topic nominations on an ongoing basis. AHRQ will not reply to individual responses, but will consider all nominations during the selection process. Topics selected will be announced from time to time in the **Federal Register** and AHRQ press releases.

**ADDRESSES:** Topic nominations should be submitted to Douglas B. Kamerow, M.D., MPH, Director, Center for Practice and Technology Assessment, AHRQ, 6010 Executive Boulevard, Suite 300, 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.

**Arrangement for Public Inspection:** All nominations will be available for public inspection at the Center for Practice and Technology Assessment, telephone (301) 594-4015, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Eastern time).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Background

Under Title IX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299a-299c) as amended by Pub. L. 106-129 (1999), AHRQ is charged with enhancing the

quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health care services and access to such services. AHRQ accomplishes these goals through scientific research and through promotion of improvements in clinical practice and health systems practices including the prevention of diseases and other health conditions.

##### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this **Federal Register** notice is to encourage participation and collaboration of professional societies, health systems, payors, and providers, with AHRQ as it carries out its mission to promote the practice of evidence-based health care. AHRQ serves as the science partner with private-sector and public organizations in their efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of health care delivery in the United States, and to expedite the translation of evidence-based research findings into improved health care services. AHRQ awards task order contracts to its Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs) to undertake scientific analyses and evidence syntheses on high-priority topics. The EPCs produce science syntheses—evidence reports and technology assessments—that provide to public and private organizations the foundation for developing and implementing their own practice guidelines, performance measures, educational programs, and other strategies to improve the quality of health care and decision-making related to the effectiveness and appropriateness of specific health care technologies and services. The evidence reports and technology assessments also may be used to inform coverage and reimbursement policies.

As the body of scientific studies related to the organization and financing of health care grows, systematic review and analyses of these studies can provide health system organizations with a scientific foundation for developing system-wide policies and practices. These reports may address and evaluate topics such as risk adjustment methodologies, market performance measures, provider payment mechanisms, and insurance purchasing tools, as well as provider integration of new scientific findings regarding health care and delivery innovations.

##### Evidence-Based Practice Centers (EPCs)

The EPCs prepare evidence reports and technology assessments on topics for which there is significant demand for information by health care providers, insurers, purchasers, health-related societies, and patient advocacy