

This cadre of health care experts can serve as a “frontline” source of information to NHSC senior level management. NAC is committed to effectively implementing its mandate to advise the Secretary and, by designation, the Administrator, HRSA.

The NAC:

- Serves as a forum to identify the priorities for the NHSC and bring forward and anticipate future program issues and concerns through ongoing communication with program staff, professional organizations, communities and program participants;

- Functions as a sounding board for proposed policy changes by utilizing the varying levels of expertise represented on the Council to advise on specific program areas; and

- Develops and distributes White Papers and briefs that clearly state issues and/or concerns relating to the NHSC with specific recommendations for necessary policy revisions.

Interested persons may nominate one or more qualified persons for membership on NAC. Nominations shall state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of NAC and appears to have no conflicts of interest that would preclude the NAC membership. Potential candidates will be asked to provide detailed information concerning consultancies, research grants, or contracts to permit evaluation of possible sources of conflicts of interest. A curriculum vitae or resume should be submitted with the nomination.

The Department of Health and Human Services has special interest in assuring that women, minority groups, and the physically disabled are adequately represented on advisory committees; and therefore, extends particular encouragement to nominations for appropriately qualified female, minority, or disabled candidates.

Dated: May 11, 2007.

Caroline Lewis,

Associate Administrator for Management.

[FR Doc. E7-9545 Filed 5-17-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

“Low Income Levels” Used for Various Health Professions and Nursing Programs Included in Titles III, VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is updating income levels used to identify a “low income family” for the purpose of determining eligibility for programs that provide health professions and nursing training for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. These various programs are included in Titles III, VII and VIII of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act.

The Department periodically publishes in the **Federal Register** low-income levels used to determine eligibility for grants and cooperative agreements to institutions providing training for (1) disadvantaged individuals, (2) individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, or (3) individuals from “low-income” families.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The various health professions and nursing grant and cooperative agreement programs that use the low income levels to determine whether an individual is from an economically disadvantaged background in making eligibility and funding determinations generally make awards to: Accredited schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health podiatric medicine, nursing, chiropractic, public or private nonprofit schools which offer graduate programs in behavioral health and mental health practice, and other public or private nonprofit health or education entities to assist the disadvantaged to enter and graduate from health professions and nursing schools. Some programs provide for the repayment of health professions or nursing education loans for disadvantaged students.

Low-Income Levels

The Secretary defines a “low income family” for programs included in Titles III, VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act as a family having an annual income that does not exceed 200 percent of the Department’s poverty guidelines. A “family” is a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together or an individual who is not living with any relatives. Most HRSA programs use the income of the student’s parents to compute low income status. However, a few programs, depending upon the legislative intent of the program, programmatic purpose of the low income level, as well as the age and circumstances of the average participant, will use the student’s family income, as long as he or she is not listed as a dependent upon the parents’ tax

form. Each program will announce the rationale and choice of methodology for determining low income levels in their program guidance. The Department’s poverty guidelines are based on poverty thresholds published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

The Secretary annually adjusts the low income levels based on the Department’s poverty guidelines and makes them available to persons responsible for administering the applicable programs. The income figures below have been updated to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index through December 31, 2006.

Size of parents’ family*	Income level**
1	\$20,420
2	27,380
3	34,340
4	41,300
5	48,260
6	55,220
7	62,180
8	69,140

* Includes only dependents listed on Federal income tax forms. Some programs will use the student’s family rather than his or her parents’ family.

** Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2006.

Dated: May 10, 2007.

Elizabeth M. Duke,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), notice is hereby given of the following meeting:

Name: Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV).

Date And Time: June 7, 2007, 1 p.m.—5 p.m., EST.

Place: (Audio Conference Call).

The ACCV will meet on Thursday, June 7, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., (EST). The public can join the meeting via audio conference call by dialing 1-888-324-8527 on June 7 and providing the following information:

Leader’s Name: Dr. Geoffrey Evans.

Password: ACCV.

Agenda: The agenda items for the June meeting will include, but are not limited to: a summary of the “Vaccine

Safety Evaluation: Post-Marketing Surveillance" conference; and updates from the Division of Vaccine Injury Compensation (DVIC), Department of Justice, National Vaccine Program Office, Immunization Safety Office (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (National Institutes of Health), and Center for Biologics and Evaluation Research (Food and Drug Administration). Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Public Comments: Persons interested in providing an oral presentation should submit a written request, along with a copy of their presentation to: LCDR Delia Jones, Principal Staff Liaison, DVIC, Healthcare Systems Bureau (HSB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Room 11C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857 or e-mail: djones2@hrsa.gov. Requests should contain the name, address, telephone number, and any business or professional affiliation of the person desiring to make an oral presentation. Groups having similar interests are requested to combine their comments and present them through a single representative. The allocation of time may be adjusted to accommodate the level of expressed interest. DVIC will notify each presenter by mail or telephone of their assigned presentation time. Persons who do not file an advance request for a presentation, but desire to make an oral statement, may announce it at the time of the comment period. These persons will be allocated time as it permits.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anyone requiring information regarding the ACCV should contact LCDR Delia Jones, Principal Staff Liaison, DVIC, HSB, HRSA, Room 11C-26, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857; telephone (301) 443-6593 or e-mail: djones2@hrsa.gov.

Dated: May 11, 2007.

Caroline Lewis,

Associate Administrator for Management.
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program: National Cord Blood Inventory Related Cord Blood Donor Demonstration Project

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HHS.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: Public Law 109-129 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a 3-year demonstration project for qualified cord blood banks to collect and store at no charge to families, umbilical cord blood units for families where a first-degree relative has been diagnosed with a condition that may benefit from blood stem cell transplantation. Umbilical cord blood units collected through the demonstration project do not count toward the current National Cord Blood Inventory (NCBI) goal of 150,000 cord blood units to be made available through the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program. Qualified umbilical cord blood banks participating in the demonstration project must provide assurances that the cord blood units will be available for directed transplantation until such time as the cord blood unit is needed. Within 90 days of the termination of the demonstration project, the Secretary will submit to Congress a report on the outcomes of the project including recommendations with respect to the continuation of such a project.

HRSA's Healthcare Systems Bureau (HSB), Division of Transplantation (DoT) is in the process of information-gathering to assist in implementation of the related cord blood demonstration project. The purpose of this solicitation is to receive public input on the following: (1) The key questions that should be studied through this project; (2) the mechanism for funding this project; and, (3) umbilical cord blood bank liability.

HRSA has identified the following key study questions to be considered in the design of this demonstration project: (1) What is the value and feasibility of implementing a long-term program modeled after this demonstration project; (2) how often and for what clinical indications are cord blood units banked through this project used for transplantation; (3) what is the breakdown of cord blood units collected, stored, and transplanted by race, ethnicity, and disease; (4) do those

cord blood units, especially those released for transplant, represent rare Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) types such that the recipient would otherwise have been unable to find a matched unrelated donor; (5) how do transplant outcomes using these cord blood units compare to unrelated allogeneic umbilical cord blood transplants and unrelated allogeneic transplants using blood stem cells from adult donors; and, (6) what are the general physical characteristics of these units (e.g., total nucleated count, CD34+ content) and how does their quality compare to that of the general public inventory.

HRSA proposes to invite the first cohort of umbilical cord blood banks receiving NCBI contracts to submit competitive proposals for participation in this demonstration project with an emphasis on: (1) Establishment of nationwide collections; and, (2) encouraging banks to subcontract with other experienced, high-quality cord blood banks to assist in their education, collection, processing, and storing efforts. HRSA has approximately \$200,000 available for this demonstration project this fiscal year and anticipates selecting 2 or 3 banks to participate in this demonstration project to be funded through modification of their existing NCBI contracts with HRSA.

HRSA recognizes the need for this service is likely greater than what can be satisfied in a limited demonstration project. Because of the great diversity in HLA types among African-Americans, HRSA recognizes that patients from this population are significantly less likely to find a suitably matched unrelated blood stem cell donor than patients from other racial or ethnic groups. Therefore, HRSA invites comments on the desirability of limiting participation to African-American families in which a first-degree relative has been diagnosed with a condition that may benefit from blood stem cell transplantation.

HRSA understands that there may be special considerations associated with liability for those umbilical cord blood banks participating in this project. HRSA invites comment on how umbilical cord blood banks participating in this project may best address these concerns.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the key study questions, the funding approach, and umbilical cord blood bank liability for this demonstration project to the address below.

DATES: Written comments must be received at HRSA by June 18, 2007. Comments will be made publicly