

Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than January 18, 2012.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Jacqueline G. King, Community Affairs Officer) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Gladys E. Youse Trust and Madolyn Y. Babcock both of Minneapolis, Minnesota*, to acquire additional shares of Metro North Bancshares, Inc. and thereby indirectly acquire control of The Bank of Elk River, both of Elk River, Minnesota. Additionally, The Gladys E. Youse Trust, and its trustee, Madolyn Y. Babcock, propose to join the Babcock family shareholder group, which controls 25% or more of Metro North Bancshares, Inc.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 28, 2011.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2011-33697 Filed 1-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

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.

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 January 27, 2012.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Adam M. Drimer, Assistant Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23261-4528:

1. *First Financial Holdings, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina*, to become a bank holding company upon the conversion of First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Charleston, South Carolina, to a state chartered commercial bank. In connection with this application, First Financial Holdings, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina has also applied to acquire First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Charleston, South Carolina and thereby engage in financial and investment activities and agency transactional services for customer investments.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 28, 2011.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2011-33698 Filed 1-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals To Engage in or To Acquire Companies Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 18, 2012.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (E. Ann Worthy, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Triumph Consolidated Cos., LLC, Dallas, Texas*, to engage *de novo* through the establishment of Triumph CRA Holdings, LLC, Dallas, Texas, as a nonbanking subsidiary in lending activities and community development, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 28, 2011.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2011-33699 Filed 1-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals To Engage in or To Acquire Companies Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 18, 2012.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (Glenda Wilson, Community Affairs Officer), P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-2034:

1. *First Arkansas BancShares, Inc., Jacksonville, Arkansas*, to acquire 20 percent of the voting shares of FAS

Capital, LLC, Atlanta, Georgia, and thereby indirectly acquire FAS Capital, LLC, Atlanta, Georgia, and thereby engage in lending activities pursuant to section 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 28, 2011.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2011-33700 Filed 1-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

[CMS-2420-FN]

Medicaid Program: Initial Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid-Eligible Adults

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: This final notice announces the initial core set of health care quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults, as required by section 2701 of the Affordable Care Act, for voluntary use by State programs administered under title XIX of the Social Security Act, health insurance issuers and managed care entities that enter into contracts with Medicaid, and providers of items and services under these programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Llanos, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, (410) 786-9071.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 2701 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act) (Pub. L. 111-148) added new section 1139B to the Social Security Act (the Act). Section 1139B(a) of the Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify and publish for public comment a recommended initial core set of health care quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults, and section 1139B(b)(1) of the Act requires that an initial core set be published by January 1, 2012. Additionally, the statute requires the initial core set recommendation to consist of existing adult health care quality measures in use under public and privately sponsored health care coverage arrangements or that are part of reporting systems that measure both the presence and duration of health insurance coverage over time and that may be applicable to Medicaid-eligible adults.

Section 1139B of the Act also requires the Secretary to complete the following actions:

—By January 1, 2012:

- Establish a Medicaid Quality Measurement Program to fund development, testing, and validation of emerging and innovative evidence-based measures.

—By January 1, 2013:

- Develop a standardized reporting format for the core set of adult quality measures and procedures to encourage voluntary reporting by the States.

—By January 1, 2014:

- Annually publish recommended changes to the initial core set that shall reflect the results of the testing, validation, and consensus process for the development of adult health quality measures.

- Include in the report to Congress mandated under section 1139A(a)(6) of the Act on the quality of health care of children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) similar information for adult health quality with respect to measures established under section 1139B of the Act. This report must be published every 3 years thereafter in accordance with the statute.

—By September 30, 2014:

- Collect, analyze, and make publicly available the information reported by the States as required in section 1139B(d)(1) of the Act.

Identification of the initial core set of measures for Medicaid-eligible adults is an important first step in an overall strategy to encourage and enhance quality improvement. States that chose to collect the initial core set will be better positioned to measure their performance and develop action plans to achieve the three part aims of better care, healthier people, and affordable care as identified in HHS' National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care. Additional information about the National Quality Strategy can be found at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/workingforquality/nqs/>.

The initial core set of quality measures for voluntary annual reporting by States has been determined based on recommendations from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Subcommittee to the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality, as well as public comments, before being finalized by the Secretary. These core set measures will support HHS and its State partners in developing a quality-driven, evidence-based, national system for measuring the quality of health care provided to Medicaid-eligible adults.

Over the next year, CMS will phase in components of the Medicaid Adult Quality Measures Program that will help to further identify measurement gap areas and begin testing the collection of some of the initial core measures. The Medicaid Adult Quality Measures Program will focus on developing and refining measures, where needed, so that future updates to the initial core set can meet a wider range of States' health care quality measurement needs. By September 2012, CMS will release technical specifications as a resource for States that seek to voluntarily collect and report the initial core set of health care quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults. Additionally, as required in statute, by January 1, 2013, CMS will issue guidance for submitting the initial core set to CMS in a standardized format. Lastly, much like activities conducted under section 1139A of the Act for the initial core child health care quality measures, the Secretary will launch a Technical Assistance and Analytic Support Program to help States collect, report, and use the voluntary core set of adult measures.

II. Method for Determining the Initial Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid-Eligible Adults

The Affordable Care Act requires the development of a core set of health quality measures for adults eligible for benefits under Medicaid. The statute parallels the requirement under section 1139A of the Act to identify and publish a recommended initial core set of quality measures for children in Medicaid and the CHIP. HHS used a similar process to identify the initial set of health care quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) partnered with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to collaborate on the identification of the initial core set of health care quality measures for adults. Working through its National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality, which provides advice and recommendations to the Director of AHRQ and to the Secretary of HHS on priorities for a national health services research agenda, AHRQ created a Subcommittee in the fall of 2010 to evaluate candidate measures for the initial core set. The Subcommittee consisted of State Medicaid representatives, health care quality experts, and representatives of health professional organizations and associations, and was charged with considering the health care quality needs of adults (ages 18 and older) enrolled in Medicaid in its