

reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michelle A. Smith, Director, Office of Board Members; 202-452-2955.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** You may call (202) 452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: October 17, 2003.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 03-26715 Filed 10-20-03; 9:31 am]

**BILLING CODE 6210-01-U**

## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

### Updated OGE Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board

**AGENCY:** Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the appointment of members of the updated OGE Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Review Board.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 22, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Daniel D. Dunning, Deputy Director for Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3917; Telephone: (202) 482-9300; TDD: (202) 208-9293; FAX: (202) 482-9237.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 5 U.S.C. 4314(c) requires each agency to establish, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management at 5 CFR part 430, subpart C and § 430.310 thereof in particular, one or more Senior Executive Service performance review boards. As a small executive branch agency, OGE has just one board. In order to ensure an adequate level of staffing and to avoid a constant series of recusals, the designated members of OGE's SES Performance Review Board are being drawn, as in the past, largely from the ranks of other agencies. The board shall review and evaluate the initial appraisal

of each OGE senior executive's performance by his or her supervisor, along with any recommendations in each instance to the appointing authority relative to the performance of the senior executive. This notice updates the membership of OGE's SES Performance Review Board as it was last published at 66 FR 57106 (November 14, 2001).

Approved: October 16, 2003.

**Amy L. Comstock,**

*Director, Office of Government Ethics.*

The following have been selected as regular members of the SES Performance Review Board of the Office of Government Ethics:

Marilyn L. Glynn [Chair], General Counsel, Office of Government Ethics; John J. Covaleski, Deputy Director for Agency Programs, Office of Government Ethics; Joseph E. Gangloff, Senior Counsel, Office of International Affairs, Department of Justice; Rosalind A. Knapp, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Transportation; Steven Y. Winnick, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 03-26655 Filed 10-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6345-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Amendment of Statement of Organization Functions and Delegations of Authority for the Office for Human Research Protections

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment revises the description of the immediate Office of the Director, Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), to include support functions for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections; changes the name and expands the functions of the former Division of Policy Planning and Special Projects; expands the functions of the Division of Education and Development; and dissolves the current Division of Assurances and Quality Improvement.

Part A, Office of the Secretary (OS), of the Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Chapter AC, Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS), Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), as last amended at 67 FR 10216, dated March 6, 2002, is being amended as follows:

I. Amend Part L, subpart 1, as follows:  
A. Delete "and" before "(8)."  
B. Delete "." at the end of subpart 1,  
C. Add to the end of subpart 1 the following:

; and (9) provides staff support for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections.

II. Amend Part L, subpart 2, by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

2. Division of Policy and Assurances (ACN 2)—(1) Maintains, develops, promulgates, and updates policy and guidance documents regarding regulatory requirements and ethical issues for biomedical and behavioral research involving human subjects; (2) coordinates appropriate DHHS regulations, policies and procedures with other Departments and agencies in the Federal Government; (3) organizes and coordinates consultations with panels of experts for research involving prisoners and children, when required by DHHS regulations for the protection of human subjects at 45 CFR 46.306 and 46.407, respectively; (4) coordinates responses to requests for information, technical assistance, and guidance from Congress, other DHHS agencies, other Federal Departments and agencies, and non-governmental entities; (5) coordinates responses to requests for OHRP documents and information under the Freedom of Information Act; (6) Negotiates Assurances of Compliance with research entities; (7) provides liaison, guidance, and regulatory interpretation to research entities, investigators, Federal officials, and the public; (8) maintains and modifies, as necessary, existing assurance mechanisms; and (9) operates and maintains a registration system for institutional review boards; and (10) develops and implements new procedures to ensure that DHHS human subjects protection regulations are appropriately and effectively applied to the changing needs of the research community.

III. Amend Part L, subpart 4 by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

4. Division of Education and Development (ACN4)—(1) Develops and conducts education conferences, workshops and other training tools, and quality improvement activities to improve protections for human research subjects; (2) provides liaison to Federal officials and guidance and regulatory interpretation to research entities, investigators, and the public regarding ethical issues in biomedical and behavioral research involving human subjects; (3) provides technical assistance to institutions engaged in

DHHS-conducted or sponsored research involving human subjects; (4) maintains, promulgates, and updates educational guidance materials and quality improvement activities and materials related to protection of human research subjects; (5) conducts public outreach and education or information programs to promote and enhance public awareness of the activities of OHRP and human subject protections; and (6) provides staff support to the Human Subjects Research Subcommittee, Committee on Science, National Science and Technology Council.

VI. Amend Part L, subpart 5 by deleting it in its entirety.

G. Effective Date: The foregoing amendments to the organization and functions of the Office for Human Research Protections are effective immediately.

Dated: October 14, 2003.

**Cristina V. Beato,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Health.*

[FR Doc. 03-26627 Filed 10-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-36-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Partners Invited To Participate in Steps to a HealthierUS

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) seeks to work with other public and private sector organizations to support a new Federal initiative to promote better health for all Americans. This initiative is called *Steps to a HealthierUS* and is part of the President's HealthierUS Initiative to help Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives. This *Steps Partnership* initiative is not a grant or contract award program and each partner will be responsible for supporting its own activities. Working together, it is intended that these partnerships will provide innovative opportunities to promote healthier living and successfully promote the principles and efforts of the *Steps* initiative. More information about *Steps* is available at: <http://www.healthierus.gov/steps/>. Partnerships are not limited to any existing list of priority projects.

**DATES:** Comments expressing or affirming an interest in the *Steps to a HealthierUS Partnerships* initiative will be most useful if received within three months of the publication of this notice. Contact identification information to

permit further discussion and consideration of ideas of mutual interest may be sent to either the street address or the email address set out in the next paragraph.

**ADDRESSES:** Expressions of interest, comments and questions may be sent to the following email address, [StepsPartnerships@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:StepsPartnerships@osophs.dhhs.gov), or by regular mail with contact information, as appropriate, to: Steps to a HealthierUS Partnerships, c/o Office of Public Health & Science, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 738G, Washington DC 20201.

Organization representatives may also call the following information line: 1(800) 631-0926. Callers will be directed to appropriate agency officials or to other collaborating partners with similar or complementary interests for further discussions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** HHS is the United States government's principal agency for promoting and protecting the health of all Americans. HHS manages many programs, covering a broad spectrum of health promotion and disease prevention services and activities. Leaders in the business community, State and local government officials, tribes and tribal entities and charitable, faith-based, and community organizations have expressed an interest in partnering with the Department to promote healthy choices and behaviors. The Secretary welcomes this interest. With this notice, the Secretary outlines opportunities for these and other entities to partner with HHS, in order to address health promotion and chronic disease prevention and control activities. The *Steps* program will be carried out consistent with HHS's broad statutory authorities found in 42 U.S.C. 238, 241, 280e-11, 280h-280h-3, and 300u-300u-3 and, in some cases, pursuant to more particular, pertinent Public Health Service Act provisions or other HHS program statutes.

In recent years, the public has become more aware of the burden of illness and death caused by chronic diseases such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and stroke—and of the connection between these chronic diseases and lifestyle choices involving tobacco use, improper diet, and lack of exercise. Despite this new understanding and awareness, more than 1.7 million Americans die of a chronic disease each year, accounting for about 70% of all U.S. deaths. In addition, more than 175 million Americans live with chronic conditions, with millions of new cases diagnosed each year. These serious diseases are

often treatable, but not generally curable. Thus, the Secretary believes it is important and timely for the Nation to increase prevention efforts to fight chronic disease.

The *Steps to a HealthierUS* initiative focuses on *both* health promotion and chronic disease prevention and control through the following activities:

1. Community-based education programs highlighting steps that can be taken to prevent or reduce the incidence of chronic diseases;
2. Health promoting programs and environments in school, worksite, faith-based and community-based settings;
3. Improved access to preventive, diagnostic and treatment services;
4. The elimination of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic-based health disparities;
5. Improved delivery of evidence-based clinical preventive services and chronic disease management; and
6. Evaluation of chronic disease prevention and health promotion interventions.

### Introduction

Federal health promotion and chronic disease prevention goals cannot be achieved without

(a) Change in individual behavioral practices and change in organizational cultures and actions, both based on increased knowledge and understanding;

(b) Optimal utilization of preventive or treatment services; along with

(c) Improvement in prevention, diagnostic, and treatment technologies and systems.

HHS has limited resources with which to achieve implementation of large-scale nationwide changes. Moreover, to achieve such societal changes, the involvement of both public and private organizations is necessary. For efforts of this magnitude, the Department periodically invites outside organizations to join in carrying out activities of mutual interest to achieve shared objectives. These partnerships are voluntary. The parties work together to carry out their respective, consistent missions for the common good.

### Collaboration With Public and Private Sector Organizations

In order to implement the *Steps* nationwide initiative, HHS is interested in establishing partnerships with private corporations and other entities, including charitable, faith-based, and community organizations, as well as with State and local governments, that can help extend the program's reach to all Americans. In accordance with each entity's particular strengths and