

**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/](http://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 December 6, 2004.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta** (Sue Costello, Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30303:

1. *CBS Financial Corporation*, Smyrna, Georgia; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Community Bank of the South, Smyrna, Georgia.

**B. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** (Randal C. Sumner, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-2034:

1. *Centennial Bancshares, Inc.*, Little Rock, Arkansas; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Pine State Bancshares, Inc., Kingsland, Arkansas, and thereby indirectly acquire Pine State Bank, Kingsland, Arkansas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 8, 2004.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

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**BILLING CODE 6210-01-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; Development and Adoption of a National Health Information Network**

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** Public comment is sought regarding considerations in implementing the President's call for widespread adoption of interoperable electronic health records (EHRs) within 10 years. On April 27, 2004, President Bush established the position of the National Health Information Technology Coordinator. On May 6, 2004, Secretary Tommy G. Thompson appointed David J. Brailer, MD, PhD to serve as National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. The Executive Order signed by the President required the National Coordinator to report within 90 days of operation on the development and implementation of a strategic plan. This Framework for Strategic Action entitled: "The Decade of Health Information Technology: Delivering Consumer-centric and Information-rich Health Care" (the Framework), was presented at the Health Information Technology Secretarial Summit II on July 21, 2004. The Framework is posted for reference at: [<http://www.hhs.gov/onchit/framework/>]. The Framework outlines an approach toward the nationwide implementation of interoperable health information technology in both the public and the private sectors.

In order to realize a new vision for health care through the use of information technology, the report called for a sustained set of strategic actions, embraced by the public and the private health sectors, which will be taken over many years. The Framework outlined four major goals: inform clinical practice with use of EHRs, interconnect clinicians so that they can exchange health information using advanced and secure electronic communication, personalize care with consumer-based health records and better information for consumers, and improve public health through advanced biosurveillance methods and

streamlined collection of data for quality measurement and research.

This Request for Information (RFI) addresses the goal of interconnecting clinicians by seeking public comment and input regarding how widespread interoperability of health information technologies and health information exchange can be achieved. This RFI is intended to inform policy discussions about possible methods by which widespread interoperability and health information exchange could be deployed and operated on a sustainable basis.

**DATES:** Responses should be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT), on or before 5 p.m. e.s.t. on January 18, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic responses are preferred and should be addressed to: [NHINRFI@hhs.gov](mailto:NHINRFI@hhs.gov) in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services. Include NHIN RFI Responses in the subject line. Non-electronic responses will also be accepted. Please send to: Office of the National Coordinator Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: NHIN RFI Responses, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 517D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** On December 6, 2004, there will be a technical assistance conference call to answer questions from potential responders. More details will be provided on how to participate in this call on the ONCHIT Web site [<http://www.hhs.gov/onchit/>]. Additionally, a public, online Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page will be provided to answer questions throughout the response period on ONCHIT's Web site.

Please direct e-mail inquiries and responses to [NHINRFI@hhs.gov](mailto:NHINRFI@hhs.gov). For additional information, contact Lee Jones or Lori Evans, in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at toll free (877) 474-3918.

**Background:** As the nation embarks on the widespread deployment of EHRs, a variety of concomitant challenges and barriers must be addressed. One of these is interoperability, or the ability to exchange patient health information among disparate clinicians and other authorized entities in real time and under stringent security, privacy and other protections. Interoperability is an essential factor in using health information technology to improve the