

of the Loewenstein group; and Karl Randecker, Jr., Cozad, Nebraska, individually and as a member of the Randecker group; to acquire control of Stamford Banco, Inc., Stamford, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire control of Community Bank, Alma, Nebraska.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 21, 2007.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. E7-25158 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6210-01-S**

## 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 January 18, 2008.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York** (Anne MacEwen, Bank Applications Officer) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *National Australia Bank Limited*, Melbourne, Australia; to become a bank

holding company, by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Great Western Bancorporation, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Great Western Bank, Watertown, South Dakota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 21, 2007.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

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**BILLING CODE 6210-01-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed information collection project: "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of AHRQ's Grant-Supported Research on Healthcare Costs, Productivity, and Market Forces." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by February 26, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by E-mail at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477 or by E-mail at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Proposed Project

"Evaluation of the Effectiveness of AHRQ's Grant-Supported Research on Healthcare Costs, Productivity, and Market Forces"

The proposed information collection will support AHRQ's efforts to systematically review the effectiveness

of its grant-supported research on healthcare costs, productivity, and market forces since the late 1990s. In the first phase of its ongoing evaluation, AHRQ determined it had funded 149 grants in the area of cost, productivity, organization and market forces since the late 1990s (Krissik, Lake and Gold, 2007). Prior to this proposed information collection, no evaluation of these grants and their effects has been conducted. Collecting such information through a survey of the 149 grantees will assist AHRQ in its mission of supporting the synthesis and dissemination of available scientific evidence for use by patients, consumers, practitioners, providers, purchasers, policymakers, and educators. The survey will provide information on grant activities that is not currently available, including up-to-date information on grantee dissemination activities and feedback on AHRQ's role in supporting research and dissemination.

A survey of the universe of grantees who were funded to carry out the above-described health services research work offers a rational and scientific approach to collecting data on the impact of AHRQ's research in this area that is otherwise not currently available. The survey will be an integral part of AHRQ's overall evaluation, which attempts to describe the research and the pathways through which research findings that it has supported are disseminated and used. The survey interviews principal investigators about their grant research projects and will capture data that systematically track grant outcomes, providing information on: (1) The main substantive findings from the work and the ways they have been communicated; (2) known impacts of the work to date; (3) linkage of work to other research in the field; (4) grantee ratings of the support that AHRQ provided before, during, and after award and how AHRQ services for grantees could be improved; and, (5) grantee perceptions of AHRQ's role in research funding in this area and how sponsor interest influences the topics that are addressed.

##### Method of Collection

A web-based questionnaire will be used to conduct the survey with AHRQ grantees. A self-administered mode was selected for this survey because respondents may need to look up information in order to answer some questions. A self-administered mode allows respondents to complete the survey at their own pace and schedule. If requested, a hardcopy of the

questionnaire will be mailed to the respondent.

## ESTIMATED ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Form Name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
AHRQ Grantee Survey .....	149	1	2	298
Total .....	149	na	na	298

## ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED RESPONDENT COST BURDEN

Form Name	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate*	Total cost burden
AHRQ Grantee Survey .....	149	298	\$42.98	\$12,808
Total .....	149	298	na	\$12,808

\*Based upon the mean of the average wages for teachers (college and university), National Compensation Survey: Occupational Wages in the United States 2005, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Estimated Annual Costs to the Federal Government

The proposed information collection is part of a larger evaluation of the effectiveness of AHRQ's grant-supported research on healthcare costs, productivity, and market forces, which includes a systematic review of the research that AHRQ has funded, in-depth interviews with grantees and grant document review, case studies to assess the effects and dissemination pathways of market forces research, and preparation of reports and briefings. The cost to conduct the survey of identified grantees is \$38,962.

### Request for Comments

In accordance with the above-cited Paperwork Reduction Act legislation, comments on the AHRQ information collection proposal are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 17, 2007.

**Carolyn M. Clancy,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 07-6187 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4160-90-M**

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed information collection project: "Focus Groups on Consumer Engagement in Developing Electronic Health Information Systems." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by February 26, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by e-mail at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by e-mail at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Proposed Project

"Focus Groups on Consumer Engagement in Developing Electronic Health Information Systems"

This project will consist of focus groups to gain insights into healthcare consumers' awareness and perceptions of Health Information Technology (IT), and how best to engage consumers in the development of these technologies. AHRQ has so far invested significant resources in initiatives to promote the planning and development of new Health IT that should improve healthcare, lower healthcare costs, and improve patient safety. For such benefits to be maximized, it is important to understand how consumers view Health IT and how to engage them in the design and implementation of future innovations.

AHRQ will conduct 20 focus groups (in addition to two pretest groups) with healthcare consumers, that is persons who have visited a healthcare provider (either for their own health or the health of a family member) in the previous two years. For the most part, the groups will be homogenous with respect to the presence or absence of either of the following characteristics: (a) Managing a chronic health condition (or the condition of a close family member), or (b) Having visited at least three healthcare providers in the past two years.

Participants will be covered by a range of health insurance plans, and persons not covered by health insurance will also be recruited. Some groups will include only persons enrolled in a