

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the office 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 November 5, 2001.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (Michael E. Collins, Senior Vice President) 100 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105-1521:

1. *Albert V. Schulze, and Michelle A. Schulze*, both of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania; to acquire voting shares of Union Bancorp, Inc., Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Union Bank and Trust Company Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Elizabeth L. Kirch, Moorhead*, Minnesota; to acquire voting shares of State Bancshares of Ulen, Inc., Dilworth, Minnesota, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of The Northwestern State Bank of Ulen, Ulen, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 16, 2001.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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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/.

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 November 15, 2001.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Dakota Bancshares, Inc.*, Mendota Heights, Minnesota; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of The Midway National Bank of St. Paul, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 16, 2001.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 01-26480 Filed 10-19-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Public Comment on AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Program

AGENCY: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), DHHS.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: AHRQ will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in December 2001, to continue its Evidence-based Practice Centers Program (EPC Program). Prior to release of the RFP, AHRQ invites comments from interested parties about the EPC Program with respect to: (a) What has worked well; (b) What has not worked well; (c) What changes and improvements could be made.

AHRQ also is interested in suggestions about new opportunities. For example, what steps might AHRQ take to encourage more healthcare organizations and other relevant groups to translate EPC evidence reports into

clinical practice guidelines? What steps might AHRQ take to expand the number of performance measures, educational curricula, and other quality enhancement tools derived from EPC evidence reports? How might AHRQ better track implementation of the evidence-based tools and measures derived from EPC evidence reports, that impact on patient outcomes and quality of care? Are there information technology systems that AHRQ might utilize to broaden clinician access to and use of EPC products?

DATES: To be considered for incorporation in the planned RFP, comments must be received by Friday, November 9, 2001. Comments should be sent to Jacqueline Besteman via e-mail (preferred) jbestema@ahrq.gov; or fax number: 301-594-4027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacqueline Besteman, J.D., M.A., Director, EPC Program, Center for Practice and Technology Assessment, AHRQ, 6010 Executive Blvd., Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852; Phone: (301) 594-4017; Fax: (301) 594-4027; E-mail: jbestema@ahrq.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

AHRQ is the lead Federal agency for enhancing the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of healthcare services and access to such services. In carrying out this mission, AHRQ conducts and funds research that develops and presents evidence-based information on healthcare outcomes, quality, cost, use and access. Included in AHRQ's legislative mandate is support of syntheses and wide-spread dissemination of scientific evidence, including dissemination of methods or systems for rating the strength of scientific evidence. These research findings and syntheses assist providers, clinicians, payers, patients, and policymakers in making evidence-based decisions regarding the quality and effectiveness of health care.

In June 1997, AHRQ established the Evidence-based Practice Center Program (EPC Program) to better respond to significant changes within the health care industry. AHRQ became a science partner with private and public-sector organizations in their efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and appropriateness of clinical practice. AHRQ awarded 5-year contracts to 12 institutions and designated them as Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs). Since 1997, the EPCs have conducted more than 80 systematic reviews and analyses of scientific literature on a wide spectrum of topics, incorporating