

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852 (Virtual Meeting).

*Closed:* September 15, 2021, 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications and/or proposals.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Tracy Lynn Waldeck, Ph.D., Director, Division of Extramural Activities, National Institute of Mental Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 4133, Rockville, MD 20892, (301) 480-6833, [waldeckt@mail.nih.gov](mailto:waldeckt@mail.nih.gov).

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: [www.nimh.nih.gov/about/advisory-boards-and-groups/namhc/index.shtml](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/advisory-boards-and-groups/namhc/index.shtml), where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available. (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.242, Mental Health Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 9, 2021.

**Melanie J. Pantoja,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17323 Filed 8-12-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Special Emphasis Panel; Integrative Neuroscience

Initiative on Alcoholism (INIA) Consortia (RFA AA 21-011,012,013) Review Panel B.

*Date:* October 19, 2021.

*Time:* 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Beata Buzas, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Extramural Project Review Branch, Office of Extramural Activities, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Room 2116, MSC 6902, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 443-0800, [bbuzas@mail.nih.gov](mailto:bbuzas@mail.nih.gov). (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.271, Alcohol Research Career Development Awards for Scientists and Clinicians; 93.272, Alcohol National Research Service Awards for Research Training; 93.273, Alcohol Research Programs; 93.891, Alcohol Research Center Grants; 93.701, ARRA Related Biomedical Research and Research Support Awards., National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 9, 2021.

**Melanie J. Pantoja,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17301 Filed 8-12-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 concerning opportunity for public comment on proposed collections of information, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the information collection plans, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer at (240) 276-0361.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden 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 through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Project: Minority AIDS Initiative-Management Reporting Tools (MAI-MRTs)—(OMB No. 0930-0357)—Revision

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the revised Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) monitoring tools, which includes both youth and adult questionnaires, as well as the quarterly progress report. This revision includes the inclusion of new cohorts, substantial revisions to the youth and adult questionnaires, updates to the data used to estimate response rates and expected numbers of participants by service duration (see Table 1 below).

The cohorts of grantees funded by the MAI and included in this clearance request are:

- Capacity Building Initiative 2017
- Capacity Building Initiative 2018
- Prevention Navigators 2017
- Prevention Navigators 2019
- Prevention Navigators 2020
- Prevention Navigators 2021

The target population for the grantees will be at-risk minority adolescents and young adults. All MAI grantees are expected to report their monitoring data using SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) and to target minority populations, as well as other high-risk groups residing in communities of color with high prevalence of Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS. The primary objectives of the monitoring tools include:

- Assess the success of the MAI in reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors associated with the transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD).
- Measure the effectiveness of evidence-based programs and infrastructure development activities such as: Outreach and training, mobilization of key stakeholders, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS counseling and education, testing, referrals to appropriate medical treatment and/or other intervention strategies (*i.e.*, cultural enrichment activities, educational and vocational resources, social marketing campaigns, and computer-based curricula).
- Investigate intervention types and features that yield the best outcomes for specific population groups.

- Assess the extent to which access to health care was enhanced for population groups and individuals vulnerable to behavioral health

disparities residing in communities targeted by funded interventions.

- Assess the process of adopting and implementing the SPF with the target populations.

- Added questions to capture details on the intervention and the referrals to the record management section (completed by grantee staff).

TABLE 1—ESTIMATES OF ANNUALIZED HOUR BURDEN

Type of respondent activity	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Total responses	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Quarterly Progress Report .....	197	4	732	4	2,928
Adult questionnaire .....	10,000	2	20,000	.20	4,000
Youth questionnaire .....	2,500	2	5,000	.20	1000
Total .....	12,697	.....	25,732	.....	7,928

Send comments to Carlos Graham, SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 15E57–A, Rockville, Maryland 20857, *OR* email a copy to [carlos.graham@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:carlos.graham@samhsa.hhs.gov). Written comments should be received by October 12, 2021.

**Carlos Graham,**  
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021–17290 Filed 8–12–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4162–20–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–6278–N–01]

### HUD Program Evaluation Policy—Policy Statement

**AGENCY:** Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This policy statement articulates the core principles and practices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's evaluation and research activities. This policy reaffirms HUD's commitment to conducting rigorous, relevant evaluations and to using evidence from evaluations to inform policy and practice.

**DATES:** August 13, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about this notice, contact Todd M. Richardson, Evaluation Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 402–5922. The listed telephone number is not a toll-free number. Persons with hearing- or speech- impairments may access this number through TTY by calling Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 (this is a toll-free number).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Background

Evaluation activity occurs in several offices at HUD, but the special mission of HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) is to inform HUD policy development and implementation to improve life in American communities through conducting, supporting, and sharing research, surveys, demonstrations, program evaluations, and best practices. Within HUD, PD&R is responsible for most, but not all, program evaluations. The office provides reliable and objective data and analysis to help inform policy decisions.

In July 2016, GAO issued a report entitled “Department of Housing and Urban Development: Actions Needed to Incorporate Key Practices into Management Functions and Program Oversight,” (GAO 16–497) in which GAO presented a broad assessment of HUD's management of its operations and programs.<sup>1</sup> In the report, GAO examined HUD efforts to: (1) Meet Federal requirements and implement key practices for management functions, including performance planning and reporting and human capital, financial, acquisition, and information technology (IT) management; and (2) oversee and evaluate programs.

PD&R is the primary office within HUD responsible for data analysis, research, program evaluations, and policy studies that inform the development and implementation of programs and policies across HUD offices. PD&R undertakes program evaluations, often by using a process that includes convening expert panels. However, GAO found that PD&R had neither developed agency-wide, written policies for its program evaluations, nor documented the criteria used to select

the expert panels and review the quality of program evaluations.

On December 6, 2016 (81 FR 87949), HUD issued a policy statement in the **Federal Register**<sup>2</sup> responding to the GAO report by setting out the core principles and practices of PD&R's evaluation and research activities. This statement incorporated some language from a policy statement by the Office of Policy, Research, and Evaluation of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

On January 14, 2019, the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (“Evidence Act”), Public Law 115–435, was enacted.<sup>3</sup> Section 101 of the Evidence Act created 5 U.S.C. 311–315 and mandated that the head of each agency appoint an Evaluation Officer, including at HUD. This officer must establish common standards for all HUD evaluations, whether performed by PD&R or another office. This issuance articulates department-wide evaluation standards and states other new principles based on PD&R's experience since the November 2016 publication.

### II. HUD Program Evaluation Policy

Section 101 of the Evidence Act defines “evaluation” to mean “an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency.”

HUD has identified the following core principles and practices as fundamental to ensuring high-quality and consistent evaluation results: Rigor, relevance, transparency, independence, ethics, and technical innovation. This policy applies to all HUD-sponsored

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-29215>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ435/PLAW-115publ435.pdf>. See also the website, at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174>, on the bill, H.R. 4174 of the 115th Congress, that became the Act.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678551.pdf>.