

Persons wishing to submit views to the Council on any of the above topics may do so by sending written statements to Ann Bistay, Secretary of the Consumer Advisory Council, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. Information about this meeting may be obtained from Ms. Bistay, 202-452-6470.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 28, 2005.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

[Document Identifier: OS-0990-New]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning & Evaluation.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of a proposed collection for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection

Request: Regular Clearance;

Title of Information Collection:

Survey of Frontline Supervisors of Direct Service Workers Participating in the Better Jobs Better Care Demonstration;

Form/OMB No.: OS-0990-New;

Use: The President's New Freedom Initiative specifies goals for enhancing the direct service workforce availability and capability. There is currently a major shortage of direct care workers—

nursing assistants, home health aides, and personal care attendants—who provide care and support to elderly people with chronic diseases and disabilities. Worker shortages are certain to grow as the demand for long-term care increases with the aging population. Thus, recruitment and retention of direct care workers has become an issue of great interest to policymakers, regulators and industry leaders. The proposed survey will ensure that HHS and other Federal, state, and local agencies have timely data available on the central role of frontline supervisors in direct care workers job quality and turnover.

Frequency: Reporting, on occasion;

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for profit, not for profit institutions;

Annual Number of Respondents: 845;

Total Annual Responses: 845;

Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes;

Total Annual Hours: 1,005;

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access the HHS Web site address at <http://www.hhs.gov/oirm/infocollect/pending/> or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and OS document identifier, to naomi.cook@hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (202) 690-6162.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received within 30-days, of this notice directly to the Desk Officer at the address below: OMB Desk Officer: John Kraemer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: (OMB #OS-0990-NEW), New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington DC 20503.

Dated: September 21, 2005.

Robert E. Polson,

Office of the Secretary, Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Recommendations for Regulatory Reform

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: The House Appropriations Committee Report 108-636 includes a

provision for the Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (HHS/ASPE) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish an interagency committee, to be coordinated by HHS. The committee's role is to examine major federal regulations governing the health care industry and to make suggestions regarding how health care regulation could be coordinated and simplified to reduce costs and burdens and improve translation of biomedical research into medical practice, while continuing to protect patients. This committee will examine the economic impact of the major federal regulations governing the health care industry, and will explore both immediate steps and longer-term proposals for reducing regulatory burden, while maintaining the highest quality health care and other patient protections.

In accord with the House Appropriations Committee's intent, ASPE and OMB are undertaking several complementary activities. First, we are establishing an interagency committee to undertake a comprehensive review of federal health care regulations, guidance, and paperwork requirements in order to identify areas for reform. Second, we are planning to hold a series of public meetings in order to hear directly from health care administrators, institutional providers, physicians, practitioners, patients, and others about the impact of regulations, and to identify other potential areas for reform. The public meetings will be held in several cities across the country to provide an opportunity for input. Individuals may also submit written comments, regardless of their ability to attend the public meetings, for consideration by the interagency committee. Information about the schedule of public meetings and registration procedures will be available on the Web site <http://aspe.hhs.gov/arrb>.

In order to assist the committee in studying regulatory impact and reform, in this notice ASPE is also requesting public nominations of federal health care regulations that could be coordinated and simplified to reduce costs and burdens and improve the translation of biomedical research into medical practice. In particular, commenters are requested to suggest specific reforms to regulations, guidance documents, or paperwork requirements that would improve the delivery of health care by increasing efficiency, reducing unnecessary costs, removing uncertainty, and increasing flexibility, while maintaining or improving patient