

To protect robust future competition in markets trending towards increased consolidation, each most recent Commission order has included prior approval and/or notice provisions for acquisitions proximate to existing and future Compassion-First/NVA emergency and specialty clinics. The prior notice provision from the 2020 Compassion-First/NVA order has already had a beneficial effect in preventing acquisitions that may have substantially lessened competition. NVA filed a prior notice for a subsequent acquisition following the issuance of that order, and, after FTC staff raised concern about potential anticompetitive concerns about the deal, NVA abandoned the acquisition.

III. Entry

Entry into the relevant markets would not be timely, likely, or sufficient in magnitude, character, and scope to deter or counteract the anticompetitive effects of the Acquisition. For *de novo* entrants, obtaining financing to build a new specialty or emergency veterinary facility and acquiring or leasing necessary equipment can be expensive and time consuming. The investment is risky for specialists that do not have established practices and bases of referrals in the area. Further, to become a licensed veterinary specialist requires extensive education and training, significantly beyond that required to become a general practitioner veterinarian. Consequently, veterinary specialists are often in short supply, and recruiting them to move to a new area frequently takes more than two years, making timely expansion by existing specialty clinics particularly difficult.

IV. Effects of the Acquisition

The Acquisition, if consummated, may substantially lessen competition in each of the relevant markets by eliminating close, head-to-head competition between Compassion-First/NVA and Ethos for the provision of specialty and emergency veterinary services. In one market, the Acquisition will result in a merger to monopoly. The Acquisition increases the likelihood that Compassion-First/NVA will unilaterally exercise market power and cause customers to pay higher prices for, or receive lower quality, relevant services.

V. The Proposed Decision and Order

The proposed D&O remedies the Acquisition's anticompetitive effects in each market by requiring the parties to divest five facilities¹ to UVC and

Veritas. The divestitures will preserve competition between the divested clinics and the combined firm's clinics. UVC and Veritas are qualified acquirers of the divested assets with experience acquiring, integrating, and operating specialty and emergency veterinary clinics. Neither UVC nor Veritas currently operate or have plans to operate any specialty and emergency veterinary clinics in the relevant markets.

The D&O requires the divestiture of all regulatory permits and approvals, confidential business information, including customer information, and other assets associated with providing specialty and emergency veterinary care at the divested clinics. To ensure the divestiture is successful, the D&O also requires Compassion-First/NVA and Ethos to secure all third-party consents, assignments, releases, and waivers necessary to conduct business at the divested clinics.

The D&O also requires Compassion-First/NVA and Ethos to provide reasonable financial incentives to certain employees to encourage them to stay in their current positions. Such incentives may include guaranteed retention bonuses for specialty veterinarians at divestiture clinics. These incentives will encourage veterinarians to continue working at the divestiture clinics, which will ensure that UVC and Veritas are able to continue operating the clinics in a competitive manner.

Finally, the D&O contains other provisions to ensure that the divestitures are successful. For example, Compassion-First/NVA will be required to provide transitional services for a period of up to one year to ensure UVC and Veritas continue to operate the divested clinics effectively as it implements its own quality care, billing, and supply systems.

Additionally, because of the growing trend towards consolidation in specialty and emergency veterinary services markets across the country, as well as the likelihood of future acquisitions by Compassion-First/NVA in these markets, many of which may be non-HSR reportable, the D&O includes (1) a statewide prior approval by the parties in California, Colorado, Virginia,

to UVC); (2) The Oncology Service-Springfield and The Oncology Service-Leesburg in the DC Metro area (divested to UVC); (3) Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in the Denver, Colorado area (divested to Veritas); and (4) Pet Emergency + Specialty Center of Marin near San Francisco (divested to Veritas). The divestitures include all expansion or relocation efforts related to these facilities. The divestitures include all assets, including equipment and intellectual property, necessary to compete effectively in each relevant market.

Maryland, and throughout the District of Columbia for acquisitions proximate to existing and future NVA emergency and specialty clinics, and (2) a nationwide prior notice for proposed acquisitions proximate to existing and future Compassion-First/NVA emergency and specialty clinics. These provisions are effective for ten years. UVC and Veritas will also be required to obtain prior approval from the Commission before transferring any of the divested assets to any buyer for a full ten years after UVC and Veritas each acquire the respective divestiture assets, except in the case of a sale of all or substantially all of UVC's or Veritas's businesses.

The Commission will appoint Dr. Michael Cavanaugh, DVM, to act as an independent Monitor to oversee the Respondents' compliance with the requirements of the Order, and to keep the Commission informed about the status of the transfer of the divested clinics to UVC and Veritas. The D&O requires Compassion-First/NVA and Ethos to divest the clinics no later than ten business days after the consummation of the Acquisition.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the Consent Agreement. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the Consent Agreement or to modify its terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

Joel Christie,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-16790 Filed 8-4-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Notice of Closed Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces 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, and the Determination of the Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, CDC, pursuant to Public Law 92-463.

Name of Committee: Safety and Occupational Health Study Section (SOHSS), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

¹ The divested clinics include (1) The Oncology Service-Richmond in Richmond, Virginia (divested

Dates: October 4–5, 2022.

Times: 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., EDT.

Place: Teleconference.

Agenda: The meeting will convene to address matters related to the conduct of Study Section business and for the Study Section to consider safety and occupational health-related grant applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Goldcamp, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, NIOSH, 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506; Telephone: (304) 285–5951; Email: MGoldcamp@cdc.gov.

The Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Kalwant Smagh,

Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2022–16806 Filed 8–4–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the CDC announces the following meeting for the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). This virtual meeting is open to the public, limited only by the number of audio and web conference lines (300 audio and web conference lines are available). Time will be available for public comment. Registration is required.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 23, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: To register for this web conference, please go to: www.cdc.gov/hicpac. All registered participants will receive the meeting link and instructions shortly before the meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1601692544?pwd=c0tVaHJoVUZSdHJxTGppWVFiUHNidz09>.

Meeting ID: 160 169 2544

Passcode: 07051018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sydnee Byrd, M.P.A., Program Analyst, HICPAC, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP), National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), CDC, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop H16–3, Atlanta, Georgia 30329–4027; Telephone: (404) 718–8039; Email: HICPAC@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose: The Committee is charged with providing advice and guidance to the Director, DHQP; the Director, NCEZID; the Director, CDC; and the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, regarding (1) the practice of healthcare infection prevention and control; (2) strategies for surveillance, prevention, and control of infections, antimicrobial resistance, and related events in settings where healthcare is provided; and (3) periodic updating of CDC guidelines and other policy statements regarding prevention of healthcare-associated infections and healthcare-related conditions.

Matters To Be Considered: The agenda will include the following updates: The Healthcare Personnel Guideline Workgroup; Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup; Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Guideline Workgroup; and Neonatal Pediatric Surveillance Workgroup. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Public Participation

Oral Public Comment: Time will be available for public comment. Members of the public who wish to provide public comments should plan to attend the public comment session at the start time listed. Please note that the public comment period may end before the time indicated, following the last call for comments.

Written Public Comment: The public may submit written comments in advance of the meeting. Comments should be submitted in writing by email to the contact person listed above. The deadline for receipt of written public comment is August 15, 2022. All requests must contain the submitter's name, address, and organizational affiliation, as well as the topic being addressed. Written comments should not exceed one single-spaced typed page in length. Written comments received in advance of the meeting will be included in the official record of the meeting.

The Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Kalwant Smagh,

Director, Strategic Business Initiatives Unit, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2022–16805 Filed 8–4–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Solicitation of Nominations for Appointment to the Safety and Occupational Health Study Section

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is seeking nominations for membership on the Safety and Occupational Health Study Section (SOHSS). The SOHSS consists of 20 experts in fields associated with occupational medicine and nursing, industrial hygiene, occupational safety and engineering, toxicology, chemistry, safety and health education, ergonomics, epidemiology, economic science, psychology, pulmonary pathology/physiology, and social science.

DATES: Nominations for membership on the SOHSS must be received no later than September 1, 2022. Packages received after this time will not be considered for the current membership cycle.

ADDRESSES: All nominations should be mailed to Dr. Michael Goldcamp, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, CDC, 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506, or emailed (recommended) to MGoldcamp@cdc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Goldcamp, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, CDC, 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506; Telephone: (304) 285–5951; Email: MGoldcamp@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Nominations are being sought for