

The Incentives of Providers

19. The Commission wants to ensure not only that the VRS program is available and fully responsive to the needs of people with hearing and speech disabilities, but also that the use of VRS is driven by real demand, not artificial stimulation. The Commission seeks comment on what measures it should take to better realize the goal of reimbursing VRS providers for the costs of providing relay service, to ensure that VRS providers have incentives to provide and promote use of VRS, without creating incentives for VRS providers to encourage high-volume use that VRS users would otherwise not incur. The Commission is particularly interested in knowing: (1) How it can encourage competition that would reduce the costs of VRS; (2) how it can channel the efforts of VRS providers to foster innovation and improve services for VRS users; (3) what data or analyses are particularly important to understand in choosing how to restructure the VRS market to improve its efficiency and effectiveness; (4) if the Commission decides to modify either what constitutes VRS or the regulation of VRS, how it should structure the transition to avoid service disruptions; and (5) what institutional oversight is required at the federal and state level, and how extensive must that oversight be to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

20. *Choice of VRS Provider.* The Commission seeks comment on whether, if it decided to use competitive bids to award VRS contracts to a single provider or a limited number of providers, there are ways to ensure that consumers would still be able to receive functionally equivalent service. In addition, it seeks comment on whether competitive bidding or a single contract model could work for certain components of VRS communications, such as the relay interpreter component. Furthermore, it solicits comment on how, if such a contract were to be awarded, the contract should pay the winning bidder (*e.g.*, using a flat, fixed fee for service, a per-minute compensation rate, a per-user compensation rate, or some other method).

21. *Other Models.* The Commission seeks comment on the merits of applying rate-of-return regulation, modified price cap regulation, forward-looking cost model support, or reverse auctions to the provision of VRS. The Commission also seeks comment on whether structural and accounting safeguards might be effective at encouraging efficiency in the VRS market. Finally, the Commission seeks

comment on issues related to jurisdictional separations, insofar as the Commission has thus far treated all VRS calls as interstate calls paid for by the Fund.

The Incentives and Needs of VRS Users

22. The Commission seeks comment in this section on how to better align the incentives of VRS users with cost-causation principles. The Commission first seeks input on how to ensure that it properly identifies functionally equivalent voice services and rates. The Commission then seeks comment on how to structure any federal subsidies to ensure that VRS providers meet the needs of VRS users without over-compensating VRS providers.

23. *Videophone Equipment.* In Part I, the Commission asks numerous questions concerning the current functionalities, costs, and distribution of videophone equipment. These same questions equally apply to the Commission's consideration of changes to the structure of the VRS program in the future, and are inherently intertwined with questions regarding what is the most effective, efficient, and sustainable structure.

24. *Individual Subsidies and Vouchers.* The Commission seeks comment on whether VRS users would be better served if the Commission did not subsidize particular components of VRS communications, but instead directly subsidized the VRS needs of those individuals. The Commission also seeks input on whether it should issue vouchers directly to deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to spend on the end user equipment and other components of the TRS program, such as broadband Internet access service.

25. *Consumer Incentives.* The Commission seeks comment on whether, if this is not already the case, the incentives for VRS use need to be aligned with the cost of providing the service in a way that makes the use of this service comparable to the use of voice communications services. In this regard, the Commission seeks comment on whether the lack of usage restrictions on VRS creates any incentives for VRS use that do not exist for voice telephone use. The Commission also seeks comment on whether the cost of broadband service as a prerequisite for VRS use is a disincentive for potential VRS users to use VRS.

Other Regulations Affecting VRS Communications

The Commission seeks input on the effect of its VRS user registration requirements on competition among VRS providers in the various

components. In addition, it asks whether it should impose additional reporting requirements on VRS providers, for example separately reporting each driver of the Fund (number of users, compensable minutes of use per user, and estimated cost per minute of use). Finally, the Commission seeks comment on what other VRS regulations it should adopt or modify now to prepare for the future.

Ordering Clause

Pursuant to sections 4(i)–(j), 201(b), 225, and 303(r), 47 U.S.C. 154(i)–(j), 201(b), 225, and 303(r), document FCC 10–111 is adopted.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010–17575 Filed 7–16–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. 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 the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than August 12, 2010.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Dennis Denney, Assistant Vice

President) 1 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Carroll County Bancshares, Inc.*, Carrollton, Missouri; to acquire 20 percent of the voting shares of Adams Dairy Bank, Blue Springs, Missouri, and thereby engage in the operation of a savings association, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 14, 2010.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2010-17482 Filed 7-16-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act; Notice of Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 1 p.m. (Eastern Time) July 19, 2010.

PLACE: 4th Floor Conference Room, 1250 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

STATUS: All parts will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Parts Open to the Public

1. Approval of the minutes of the June 21, 2010 Board member meeting.
2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.
 - a. Monthly Participant Activity Report
 - b. Legislative Report
3. Quarterly Reports.
 - a. Investment Policy Review
 - b. Vendor Financial Report

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Dated: July 9, 2010.

Thomas K. Emswiler,

Secretary, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 2010-17588 Filed 7-15-10; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Request for Information on Development of an Inventory of Comparative Effectiveness Research

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

ACTION: Request for Information.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning Evaluation (ASPE) is developing a national inventory of comparative effectiveness research (CER) and CER-related information. This initiative is driven by the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) which provided \$1.1 billion for research and development in the area of CER. ARRA allocated \$400 million to the Office of the Secretary (OS) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), \$400 million to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$300 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. ARRA also established the Federal Coordinating Council for CER, which, after significant public input, developed a strategic framework and recommended high-level priorities for OS funds. While the FCC's Report to Congress drew on an initial CER inventory focused on federal investments, the process of cataloguing CER activities and infrastructure will be critical to tracking ongoing and future investments in CER. An important component of this effort is creating an inventory of CER to ensure that patients, clinicians, and other decision makers can identify and locate relevant CER in a timely manner.

ASPE seeks input on approaches to developing a CER Inventory that capture ongoing and existing CER in the United States. This inventory will be accessible to the public, including patients, clinicians, and policymakers, through a web-based system. Comments should focus on appropriate resources and approaches for developing the CER Inventory, rather than the methodology of CER or suggestions for particular CER studies that should be included in the CER Inventory. Requested information includes suggestions regarding sources of CER and ways to encourage participation in the inventory; comments related to categorizing content; and approaches to ensure the CER Inventory is useful and sustainable over time.

DATES: Submit comments by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 9, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written or electronic comments should be submitted to HHS as directed below.

Comments should be identified by referring to the "CER Inventory", and may be submitted to the Department of HHS by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Written comments (one original and two copies) may be mailed to: Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CER Inventory, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 447-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.
- *Hand or courier delivery:* Comments may be delivered to Room 447-D, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CER

Inventory, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 447-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., and Washington, DC 20201. Because access to the interior of the HHH Building is not readily available to persons without Federal Government identification, commenters are encouraged to leave their comments in the CER Inventory drop box located in the main lobby of the building. A stamp-in clock is available for persons wishing to retain proof of filing by stamping in and retaining an extra copy of the comments being filed.

Written submissions should be brief (no more than three pages per submission), and should be in the form of a letter. Please do not submit duplicate comments. Please do not include any personally identifiable information (such as name, address, or other contact information) or confidential business information that you do not want publicly disclosed. Consequently, comments should not include any sensitive health information from medical records or other individually identifiable health information, or any non-public, corporate or trade association information, such as trade secrets or other proprietary information. Comments may be submitted anonymously.

Inspection of Public Comments: All comments received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. All comments will be made available publicly on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the search instructions on that Web site to view public comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pierre Yong, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services, (202) 690-8384, Pierre.Yong@hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provided funding of \$1.1 billion for CER and related activities, and established the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research, which defined CER as the:

Conduct and synthesis of research comparing the benefits and harms of different interventions and strategies to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor health conditions in "real world" settings. The purpose of CER