

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION**Meetings; Sunshine Act**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Federal Maritime Commission.

TIME AND DATE: July 9, 2008—10 a.m.

PLACE: 800 North Capitol Street, NW., First Floor Hearing Room, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Closed Session.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Closed Session

(1) Export Cargo Issues Status Report.
(2) Internal Administrative Practices and Personnel Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Karen V. Gregory, Assistant Secretary, (202) 523-5725.

Karen V. Gregory,
Assistant Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Training of Latin American Health-Care Workers Through the Gorgas Memorial Institute, Republic of Panama**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

ACTION: Notice.

Funding Opportunity Title: Training of Latin American Health-Care Workers through the Gorgas Memorial Institute, Republic of Panama.

Announcement Type: Single-Source, Cooperative Agreement.

Funding Opportunity Number: Not applicable.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93.019.

DATES: To receive consideration, applications must be received by the Office of Grants Management within the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) no later than August 4, 2008. HHS will consider applications as meeting the deadline if the HHS/OPHS Office of Grants Management (c/o Grant Application Center, 1515 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209), receives them no later than 5 p.m., Eastern Time, on the application due date. HHS will accept applications electronically submitted through GrantSolutions.gov or Grants.Gov until 11 p.m., Eastern Time, on this date. HHS will not accept applications by fax, nor will HHS extend the submission deadline. The

application due date requirement specified in this announcement supersedes the instructions in the OPHS-1. HHS will return to the applicant, unread, applications that do not meet the deadline. See heading "Application and Submission Information" for information on mechanisms to submit applications.

SUMMARY: This project will support the Gorgas Memorial Institute (GMI) to: (a) Develop a regional training center in Panama and (b) train community health workers, clinicians (physicians, nurses, and auxiliary medical workers) and select public-health professionals from Central and South America (i.e., Latin America), (c) facilitate partnerships between U.S. universities and their Latin American counterparts to develop human resources for health in Latin America, and (d) harness the energies of U.S. and other non-governmental organizations by partnering with them to advance community health-training and program efforts in Latin America.

These efforts will help engage significantly more areas of these countries to prepare for and respond to public-health emergencies, such as pandemic influenza, and they will contribute to the improved and expanded provision of prevention and primary health care. This training of nurses, community health workers and physicians will focus on improving and expanding coverage and access to both public-health emergency care and preventive and primary health care in underserved parts of Latin America (i.e., both underserved rural and poor urban communities). A result of this project, the health-care work force in Central America should be better prepared to respond to public-health emergencies, including pandemic influenza. Key to the selection of recipients for this training will be their availability and willingness to provide their health and medical care skills in underserved areas within the region, especially rural and indigenous communities and those visited by U.S. Government humanitarian missions in the past year. In addition to all appropriate subjects in the fields of medical care and health education or communication, training supported by this project will emphasize infectious diseases, epidemiology, disease surveillance and outbreak response, so graduates of training programs will be prepared to play contributing roles in any pandemic preparation and response.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: While a number of Central and South American and Caribbean countries have made significant strides towards improving

the quality of health care for their citizens, and extending that care into underserved areas, a number of countries and regions still suffer from a shortage of appropriately trained health-care workers and clinicians. Though all levels of medical care (primary, secondary and tertiary) warrant further investment and effort to meet the present and growing need in Latin America and the Caribbean for medical care, this need is perhaps most acute among rural, indigenous and disadvantaged urban communities, where essential public health, prevention and primary care are absent or sparse. From a public-health perspective, focusing public investment on basic and essential primary care results in a maximization of benefits for the greatest number of people.

Compounding the pre-existing and wide ranging needs for basic community, preventive and primary health care in this region are new threats from emerging infectious diseases that are looming on the horizon. The H5N1 strain of avian flu has become the most threatening influenza virus in the world that could cause a pandemic, and any large-scale outbreak of this disease among humans would have grave consequences for global public health, including in Latin America. Influenza experts have warned that the re-assortment of different influenza viruses could greatly increase the potential for the viruses to transmit more easily from person to person. Medical practitioners have also discovered several other, new avian viruses transmissible to humans. In the fight against avian and pandemic influenza, early detection and response is the first line of defense, and greater numbers of appropriately trained community and clinical health-care workers would play a vital role in helping respond to such public-health emergencies.

No funds provided under this cooperative agreement may support any activity that duplicates another activity supported by any component of HHS. Funds provided under this cooperative agreement may not supplant funding provided by other sources. Grantees must coordinate all funded activities with the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Office of Global Health Affairs.

I. Funding Opportunity Description*Authority:*

Section 307(a) and (b) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 2421);