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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HIT Standards Committee; Schedule for the Assessment of HIT Policy Committee Recommendations

AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 3003(b)(3) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 mandates that the HIT Standards Committee develop a schedule for the assessment of policy recommendations developed by the HIT Policy Committee and publish it in the **Federal Register**. This notice fulfills the requirements of Section 3003(b)(3) and updates the schedule posted in the **Federal Register** on May 4, 2011. In anticipation of receiving recommendations originally developed by the HIT Policy Committee, the HIT Standards Committee has created four (4) workgroups to analyze the areas of clinical quality, clinical operations, implementation, and privacy and security. Other groups are convened to address specific issues as needed, such as the Nationwide Health Information Network Power Team, the Consumer/Patient Engagement Power Team, and the Vocabulary Task Force.

HIT Standards Committee's Schedule for the Assessment of HIT Policy Committee Recommendations is as follows:

The National Coordinator will establish priority areas based in part on recommendations received from the HIT Policy Committee regarding health information technology standards, implementation specifications, and/or certification criteria. Once the HIT Standards Committee is informed of those priority areas, it will:

(A) Direct the appropriate workgroup or other special group to develop a report for the HIT Standards Committee, to the extent possible, within 90 days, which will include, among other items, the following:

(1) An assessment of what standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria are currently available to meet the priority area;

(2) an assessment of where gaps exist (*i.e.*, no standard is available or harmonization is required because more

than one standard exists) and identify potential organizations that have the capability to address those gaps; and

(3) a timeline, which may also account for NIST testing, where appropriate, and include dates when the HIT Standards Committee is expected to issue recommendation(s) to the National Coordinator.

(B) Upon receipt of a report from a workgroup or other special group, the HIT Standards Committee will:

(1) Accept the timeline provided by the subcommittee, and, if necessary, revise it; and

(2) Assign subcommittee(s) to conduct research and solicit testimony, where appropriate, and issue recommendations to the full committee in a timely manner.

(C) Advise the National Coordinator, consistent with the accepted timeline in (B)(1) and after NIST testing, where appropriate, on standards, implementation specifications, and/or certification criteria, for the National Coordinator's review and determination whether or not to endorse the recommendations, and possible adoption of the proposed recommendations by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The standards and related topics which the HIT Standards Committee is expected to address over the coming year include, but may not be limited to: Quality measurement; the extended portfolio of standards for the nationwide health information network; distributed queries and results; radiology; consumer-mediated information exchange; public health; data portability; and a process for the maintenance of standards.

For a listing of upcoming HIT Standards Committee meetings, please visit the ONC web site at <http://healthit.hhs.gov>.

Notice of this schedule is given under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5), section 3003.

Dated: April 11, 2012.

MacKenzie Robertson,

FACA Program Manager, Office of Policy and Planning, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority; Administration for Community Living

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services establishes the Administration for Community Living in order to achieve several important objectives: reduce the fragmentation that currently exists in Federal programs addressing the community living service and support needs of both the aging and disability populations; enhance access to quality health care and long-term services and supports for all individuals; promote consistency in community living policy across other areas of the Federal government; and complement the community infrastructure, as supported by both Medicaid and other Federal programs, in order to better respond to the full spectrum of needs of seniors and persons with disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Berger, Administration for Community Living, 1 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20201, 202-357-3419

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice amends Part B of the Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration on Aging, as last amended at 75 FR 18219-18228, dated April 9, 2010, and 76 FR 5178, dated January 28, 2011; Part K of the Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, at Chapter K, Administration on Children and Families, as last amended at 75 FR 60471-60473, dated September 30, 2010, and at Chapter KC, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, as last amended at 76 FR 72418-72420, dated November 23, 2011; Part A of the Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Immediate Office of the Secretary, at Chapter AA, Immediate Office of the Secretary, as last amended at 76 FR 42710-11, dated July 19, 2011, and at Chapter AAC, Office on Disability, as last amended at 67 FR 70433, dated November 22, 2002; as follows:

I. Delete Part B, “The Administration on Aging”; in its entirety and replace with the following:

- B.00 Mission
- B.10 Organization
- B.20 Functions

B.00 Mission. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) provides national leadership and direction to plan, manage, develop, and raise awareness of comprehensive and coordinated systems of long-term services and supports that enable older Americans and individuals with disabilities, including intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities, to maintain their health and independence in their homes and communities. ACL programs support strong State, Tribal, and local community networks designed to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities, older Americans, and their families through advocacy, systems change and capacity building to ensure access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

ACL advises the Secretary, Departmental components and other Federal departments and agencies on the development and implementation of policies to improve access to community living services and supports and enhance opportunities for persons with disabilities and older Americans, while retaining discrete policy and programmatic operations that respond to the unique needs of these populations. ACL’s visibility within the Department of Health and Human Services and with other Federal agencies helps ensure that Federal policies and programs allow all individuals across the lifespan to live with respect and dignity as full members of their communities.

B.10 Organization. ACL is an Operating Division of the Department of Health and Human Services. ACL is headed by an Administrator, who reports directly to the Secretary. The Administrator is also the Assistant Secretary for Aging. In addition to the Administrator, the ACL consists of the Principal Deputy Administrator, who also serves as the senior advisor to the Secretary on HHS activities relating to disabilities, and Staff and Program Offices. ACL is organized as follows:

- Office of the Administrator (BA)
- Administration on Aging (BB)
- Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (BC)
- Center for Disability and Aging Policy (BD)
- Center for Management and Budget (BE)

B.20 Functions. ACL is the principal agency designated to lead aging and disability programs. More specifically, the provisions of the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965 are carried out by its subcomponent, the Administration on Aging; and the provisions of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) of 2000 are carried out by its subcomponent, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. ACL also administers programs authorized under Section 398, Title XVII and Title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), as amended, Section 262 and 292 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Section 6021(d) of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, and implementation and administration of certain provisions of the Elder Justice Act (EJA), as well as continuing support for the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Develops, recommends and issues policies, procedures, standards and guidelines to provide direction for the programs it administers. Approves or disapproves plans and funding applications for national programs providing community-based long-term services and supports. Administers programs for training, research, demonstration, evaluation and information dissemination. Administers programs related to advocacy, systems change and capacity building. Administers national centers for service development and provides technical assistance to States, Tribal Organizations, local communities and service providers. Serves as the lead Federal agency for adult protection services.

Assists the Secretary in all matters pertaining to opportunities and challenges of persons with disabilities, older Americans, and Americans of all ages about their current and potential future need for information and access to long-term services and supports. Advocates for the needs of these constituencies in program planning and policy development within the Department and in other Federal agencies. Advises the Secretary, Departmental components and other Federal departments and agencies on the characteristics, circumstances and needs of these populations and develops policies, plans and programs designed to promote their welfare.

The functions of the organizational units of ACL are described in detail in the succeeding Chapters.

- A. Office of the Administrator (BA):
 - BA.00 Mission
 - BA.10 Organization
 - BA.20 Functions

BA.00 Mission. The Office of the Administrator provides executive direction, leadership, and guidance for ACL programs, and serves as the focal point for the development, coordination and administration of those programs nationwide. The Office advises the Secretary on issues affecting seniors and persons with disabilities.

BA.10 Organization. The Office of the Administrator is headed by the Administrator, who reports directly to the Secretary. The Office of the Administrator includes the Principal Deputy Administrator, who also serves as an advisor to the Secretary on HHS activities relating to disabilities, and the following components:

- Immediate Office of the Administrator (BAA)
- Office of External Affairs (BAB)
- Office of Regional Operations (BAC1–BACX)

BA.20 Functions

1. Immediate Office of the Administrator (BAA). The Immediate Office of the Administrator (IOA) is responsible to the Secretary for carrying out ACL’s mission and provides executive supervision to the major components of ACL. The Administrator and Principal Deputy both serve as members of the Secretary’s senior leadership team, ensuring that Federal policies and programs support the goal of enabling all individuals to live with respect and dignity as fully participating members of their communities.

Sets national policies, establishes national priorities, ensures policy consistency, and directs plans and programs conducted by ACL. Advises the Secretary, HHS Operating Divisions, and other Federal agencies on the characteristics, circumstances, and needs of persons with disabilities, older Americans, and their families and on policies, plans and programs designed to promote their welfare.

Coordinates the development of legislative proposals, testimony, background statements, and other policy documents in activities related to legislation. In coordination with the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, analyzes proposed and enacted legislation related directly or indirectly to older people and persons with disabilities, including legislation directly affecting ACL programs.

In collaboration with other Federal agencies, develops and implements interagency agreements to advance the concerns and interests of persons with disabilities, older adults, and families of such individuals. Provides liaison to Federal advisory committees. Works with national organizations, professional societies, and academic organizations to identify mutual

interests and plan voluntary and funded approaches to enhance opportunities for community living.

Receives, assesses, and controls incoming correspondence and makes assignments to the appropriate ACL component(s) for response and action; provides assistance and advice to ACL staff on the development of responses to correspondence; and tracks development of periodic reports and facilitates departmental clearance. Maintains official copies of all policy and information issuances and data collection instruments, ensuring adherence to requirements for records management and disposition and Freedom of Information Act.

2. *Office of External Affairs (BAB)*. The External Affairs (OEA) supports the Immediate Office of the Administrator in the effective communication of ACL policies, goals, and objectives. In coordination with the Department, manages ACL's media relations and external outreach activities.

Coordinates with the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, including planning and implementing strategy for relations with the news and other information media. Initiates media outreach activities; responds to all media inquiries concerning ACL programs and related issues; develops news releases, feature articles for magazines and other publications on ACL programs and initiatives; and manages preparation and clearance of speeches and official statements on ACL programs.

Implements public education activities to support the achievement of program objectives; develops and distributes publications and audiovisual materials about older people and persons with disabilities and prepares and issues brochures, fact sheets, and exhibits on their needs and concerns and measures to improve the circumstances, available services, and environment for the older population. Develops special information campaigns to inform the general public about issues, problems and benefits important to persons with disabilities and older people. Fosters, plans and coordinates ceremonies and celebrations. Manages the content of ACL Web sites and oversees the development of other social media tools used to inform the public about ACL policies, programs and services. Implements the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information authorized under Section 6021(d) of the DRA of 2005.

3. *Office of Regional Operations (BAC1-BACX)*. The Office of Regional Operations (ORO) includes a coordinating central office liaison and

ten Regional Support Centers. The central office regional liaison coordinates the operations of the Regional Support Centers, each of which is headed by a Regional Administrator (RA).

The Regional Support Centers serve as the focal point for the development and coordination of ACL programs within the designated HHS region. Represent the Administrator within the region, providing information for, and contributing to the development of, national programs serving with the elderly and persons with disabilities. Serve as the effective and visible advocate to other Federal agencies in their geographic jurisdiction; advise, consult and cooperate with each Federal agency proposing or administering programs or services; coordinate and assist in the planning and development by public (including Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies) and private organizations of comprehensive and coordinated services and opportunities in each community of the nation; and conduct active public education of government officials and the public to ensure broad understanding of the need for community-based services and supports.

Monitor, assist and evaluate State Agencies and Tribal Organizations administering programs supported under the OAA and other authorizing legislation. Participates in the review of State Plans and recommend approval or disapproval, as appropriate. Participates in the review of applications for Tribal Programs and recommend approval or disapproval applications. Review grantee financial and program reports and provide technical assistance to recipients on fiscal operations. Provide assistance and support for programs authorized under the DD Act.

Advise the Administrator on problems and progress of programs; evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services in the Regions and recommend changes that would improve program operations and enhance effectiveness; and provide guidance to agencies and grantees in applications of policy to specific operational issues requiring resolution. Facilitate interagency cooperation at the Federal, Regional, State and Tribal levels to enhance resources and assistance available to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Disseminate and provide technical assistance regarding program guidelines and developments to States Agencies, Tribal Organizations, and local community service providers.

B. Administration on Aging (BB)

BB.00 Mission
BB.10 Organization
BB.20 Functions

BB.00 Mission. The Administration on Aging (AoA) carries out programs operated under the OAA, Section 398 and Title XVII of the PHSA and implementation and administration of certain provisions of the EJA, including, but not limited to, those concerning the Elder Justice Coordinating Council, the Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation, and Adult Protective Services. The Administration on Aging helps elderly individuals maintain their dignity and independence in their homes and communities through comprehensive, coordinated, and cost effective systems of long-term care, and livable communities across the United States.

BB.10 Organization. The Administration on Aging is headed by the Assistant Secretary, who is also the Administrator. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging supports the Assistant Secretary in overseeing the Administration on Aging. The Administration on Aging includes the following components:

Office of the Assistant Secretary on Aging (BBA)
Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services (BBB)
Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs (BBC)
Office of Elder Rights Protection (BBD)
Office of American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs (BBE)
Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (BBF)

BF.20 Functions

1. *Office of the Assistant Secretary on Aging (BBA)*. The Office of the Assistant Secretary on Aging (OASA) advises and supports the Administrator, the Secretary, and other elements of the Department in serving as the visible and effective advocate for older people within the Federal Government. Provides leadership and expertise on program development, advocacy and initiatives affecting seniors and their caregivers. Plans and directs grant programs designed to provide planning, coordination and services to older Americans as authorized under the OAA and other legislation.

Performs functions under Title II of the OAA related to consultation with other Federal agencies and the provision of information about aging services, programs and policies in order to enhance coordination and delivery. Supports the Administrator in implementing Section 203(1) of the OAA by coordinating, advising, consulting with and cooperating with

the head of each department, agency and instrumentality of the Federal Government proposing or administering programs or services substantially related to the objectives of the OAA. Oversees the consultation process by which agency heads must consult with AoA before establishing programs or services related to the OAA. Plans and implements the process for the collaboration of all Federal agencies with AoA in the execution by those agencies of programs and services related to the OAA.

Consults with and provides technical assistance to and education for State and Area Agencies on Aging, Tribal grantees, and local community service providers in the development of plans, goals, and system development activities. Ensures that statutory requirements, regulations, policies, and instructions are implemented for mandatory grant programs under Titles III, VI and VII of the OAA, and for the discretionary grant programs under Title II and Title IV of the OAA, as well as Section 398 of the PHSA and the EJA. Oversees disaster assistance and reimbursement activities pursuant to Section 310 of the OAA.

Provides oversight and leadership to the Nutrition Officer established in Title II of the OAA who provides technical assistance and guidance to Regional Support Centers, States, Area Agencies on Aging and community service providers. Provides technical guidance to the Regional Support Centers as they implement the national programs of the OAA and ensures that clear and consistent guidance is given on program and policy directives. Issues substantive operating procedures to guide Central Office and Regional staff in the conduct of their programmatic responsibilities.

At all levels, from national to the local service delivery level, develops methods and collaborations to articulate the problems and concerns of the elderly to organizations beyond the traditional network of agencies and works with these organizations to be more sensitive and responsive to age-related needs and issues. Oversees the international liaison functions of AoA, coordinating AoA international activities with Departmental as well as other Federal agencies, States and national organizations concerned with international aging matters.

2. Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services (BBB). The Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services (OSCS) serves as the focal point for the operation, administration, and assessment of the programs authorized under Titles III–B and III–E of the OAA and Section 398 of the PHSA, as well as activities under

Titles II and IV of the OAA that are designed to provide information and referral services to seniors and caregivers, and to support technical assistance, outreach, and information dissemination that are culturally and linguistically appropriate in order to meet the needs of diverse populations of older individuals. In addition, the Office performs the functions under Title II of the OAA related to consultation with other Federal agencies and the provision of information about supportive and caregiver services in order to enhance service coordination and delivery.

Implements Titles III–B and III–E of the OAA through the development of regulations, policies and guidance governing the development and enhancement by State and Area Agencies on Aging of comprehensive and coordinated systems of home and community-based supportive and caregiver services. This includes implementing and enhancing systems for home and community-based supportive services, the operation of multi-purpose senior centers, and caregiver support and assistance services.

In coordination with the Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs, provides guidance regarding State Plan processing and approval, the process and criteria for approval of States' Intrastate Funding Formulas for the allocation and targeting of resources within States, and implementation of the Interstate Funding Formula for distribution of Title III–B and III–E funds among States. Through the analysis of State Plans, evaluation findings and other relevant material, identifies potential program and management issues and develops recommendations on possible solutions.

Fosters, oversees, and ensures accountability for the implementation of programs by States and Area Agencies through guidance and direction to Regional staff regarding program reviews and system development and enhancements. Designs and provides training and technical assistance for program compliance, effectiveness, and enhancement. Provides technical and subject matter expertise targeted at enhancing the capabilities of State and Area Agencies and local communities to improve service delivery to older people.

Directs and assesses the development of State-administered home and community-based long-term care systems providing supportive services for the elderly and caregivers. Initiates and encourages expansion of the capacities of home and community-based supportive and caregiver services

to deliver comprehensive services to the elderly.

Implements programs under Section 398 of the PHSA, as well as activities under Titles II and IV of the OAA, through the development of demonstrations designed to test the efficacy of new and innovative models in improving the delivery and effectiveness of community-based supportive services for seniors and caregivers. Prepares the planning documents for and develops discretionary grant program announcements. Evaluates demonstration grant and contract proposals; and recommends approval/disapproval. Monitors progress, gives technical guidance to, and evaluates the performance of grantees and contractors.

Promotes the coordination of innovation and demonstration activities with other national, field and local programs related to aging. Develops standards and identifies successful service and systems development strategies and best practice models for use by the Aging Network. Provides technical assistance to Aging Network partners in utilizing the findings from program demonstrations to inform policy and program development and enhance service delivery and coordination at the Federal, State and local level.

3. Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs (BBC). The Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs (ONHPP) serves as the focal point for the operation, administration, and assessment of the programs authorized under Titles III–C and III–D of the OAA, as well as the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program under Title XVII of the PHSA and other activities under Titles II and IV of the OAA designed to promote healthy behaviors and improved health status for older people. In addition, the Office performs the functions under Title II of the OAA related to consultation with other Federal agencies and the provision of information about nutrition and preventive health services in order to enhance service coordination and delivery.

Implements Titles III–C and III–D of the OAA through the development of regulations, policies and guidance governing the development and enhancement by State and Area Agencies on Aging of comprehensive and coordinated systems of home and community-based nutrition and preventive health services. Carries out the functions of the designated Nutrition Officer, who coordinates nutritional services under the OAA, develops the regulations and guidelines,

and provides technical assistance regarding nutrition to State and Area Agencies, nutrition service providers, and other organizations. Serves as the liaison to the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies and organizations related to nutrition policy and program issues.

In coordination with the Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services, provides guidance regarding State Plan processing and approval, the process and criteria for approval of States' Intrastate Funding Formulas for the allocation and targeting of resources within States, and implementation of the Interstate Funding Formula for distribution of Title III-C and III-D funds among States. Through the analysis of State Plans, evaluation findings and other relevant material, identifies potential program and management issues and develops recommendations on possible solutions.

Fosters, oversees, and ensures accountability for the implementation of programs by States and Area Agencies through guidance and direction to Regional staff regarding program reviews and system development and enhancements. Designs and provides training and technical assistance for program compliance, effectiveness, and enhancement. Provides technical and subject matter expertise targeted at enhancing the capabilities of State and Area Agencies and local communities to improve service delivery to older people.

Directs and assesses the development of State-administered home and community-based long-term care systems providing nutrition and preventive health services for the elderly and caregivers. Initiates and encourages expansion of the capacities of home and community-based nutrition and preventive health services to deliver comprehensive services to the elderly.

Implements the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program under Title XVII of the PHSA as well as other activities under Titles II and IV of the OAA, through the development of demonstrations designed to test the efficacy of new and innovative models in improving the delivery and effectiveness of community-based nutrition, health promotion, and evidenced-based disease prevention. Prepares the planning documents for and develops discretionary grant program announcements. Evaluates demonstration grant and contract proposals; and recommends approval/disapproval. Monitors progress, gives technical guidance to, and evaluates the performance of grantees and contractors.

Promotes the coordination of innovation and demonstration activities with other national, field and local programs related to aging. Develops standards and identifies successful service and systems development strategies and best practice models for use by the Aging Network. Provides technical assistance to Aging Network partners in utilizing the findings from program demonstrations to inform policy and program development and enhance service delivery and coordination at the Federal, State and local level.

4. *Office of Elder Rights Protection (BBD)*. The Office of Elder Rights (OERP) serves as the focal point for the operation, administration, and assessment of the elder abuse prevention, legal assistance development, and pension counseling programs under Titles II and VII of the OAA. In addition, OERP administers the Senior Medicare Patrol projects and related activities under Title IV of the OAA and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1997, and serves as the Federal focal point for Adult Protective Services and related activities carried out under the EJA. The Office also works with the Office of the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman to carry out the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the National Ombudsman Resource Center.

Reviews State Plans to determine eligibility for funding under the OAA and recommends approval or disapproval. Implements Title VII in the field, in coordination with the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman, through the provision to Regional Support Centers of guidance and information, and the development and interpretation of Title VII program regulations and policy. Ensures the implementation of guidance and instructions concerning prevention of elder abuse, elder rights and legal assistance development programs. Provides guidance and leadership in the development of the pension counseling program and effective models for nationwide replication.

Fosters, coordinates, and ensures accountability for the implementation of Title VII by States through guidance and direction to Regional staff regarding program reviews, and program and system development and enhancements. Designs and provides training and technical assistance for program compliance, effectiveness, and enhancement. Develops program plans and instructions for AoA Regional Support Centers and State and Area Agencies to improve the Title VII

protection and representational programs funded under the OAA.

Coordinates, implements, monitors, and promotes efforts to provide consumer information, education and protection designed to detect, prevent and report error, fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Provides in-depth expertise, information, leadership and technical assistance through the Regional Support Centers to the Senior Medicare Patrol network and serves as a reliable clearinghouse of information for the aging network, older persons and their families.

Implements demonstration activities under Titles II and IV of the OAA and the EJA designed to test the efficacy of new and innovative models in improving the delivery and effectiveness of elder rights activities. Prepares the planning documents for and develops discretionary grant program announcements. Evaluates demonstration grant and contract proposals; and recommends approval/disapproval. Monitors progress, gives technical guidance to, and evaluates the performance of grantees and contractors.

Promotes the coordination of innovation and demonstration activities with other national, field and local programs related to aging. Develops standards and identifies successful service and systems development strategies and best practice models for use by the Aging Network. Provides technical assistance to Aging Network partners in utilizing the findings from program demonstrations to inform policy and program development and enhance service delivery and coordination at the Federal, State and local level.

5. *Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs (BBE)*. The Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs (OAIANNHP) serves as the effective and visible advocate within the Department of Health and Human Services and with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government regarding all Federal policies affecting older individuals who are Native Americans. Works with State, local and Tribal governments providing leadership and coordination of activities, services and policies affecting American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian elders. Promotes linkages among national Indian organizations, national aging organizations, and national provider organizations with the goal of enhancing the interests of and services to Native American elders. Recommends policies and priorities

with respect to the development and operation of programs and activities relating to individuals who are older Native Americans. The Office coordinates activities among other Federal departments and agencies to ensure a continuum of improved services through memoranda of agreements or through other appropriate means of coordination.

Evaluates outreach under Title III and Title VI of the OAA and recommends necessary action to improve service delivery, outreach, and coordination between Title III and Title VI services. Encourages and assists with the provision of information to older Native Americans to assure a continuum of services. Develops research plans, conducts and arranges for research in the field of Native American aging; collects, analyzes, and disseminates information related to problems experienced by older Native Americans, including information on health status of older individuals who are Native Americans, elder abuse, in-home care, and other problems unique to Native Americans. Develops, implements, and oversees the uniform data collection procedures for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Organizations; and implements and oversees the consultation requirements of Title II as they apply to Native American issues.

Serves as the AoA focal point for the administration of the programs authorized under Title VI and the Native American Organization provisions of Title VII–B of the OAA, including administering grants, cooperative agreements and contracts. Coordinates with the Regional Support Centers to provide program guidance, policy direction, training, technical assistance, and monitoring of Title VI grantees. Oversees the development and operation of Resource Centers on Native American Elders under Title IV of the OAA, which gather information, perform research, provide for dissemination of results, and provide technical assistance and training to those who provide services to Native American elders. Arranges for and manages ongoing training and technical assistance for Title VI grantees. Coordinates additional training and technical assistance with other projects managed by other components of the agency.

6. *Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (BBF)*. The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (OLTCOP) carries out the functions established in Section 201(d)(1) of the OAA, serving as the effective and visible advocate regarding Federal policies and laws that

may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of residents of long-term care facilities.

Reviews Federal legislation, regulations, and policies regarding long-term care ombudsman programs and makes recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Aging. Coordinates the activities of ACL with other Federal, State and local entities relating to long-term care ombudsman programs; prepares an annual report to Congress on the effectiveness of services provided by State long-term care ombudsman programs; and establishes standards for the training of State long-term care ombudsman staff.

Works with the Office of Elder Rights to administer the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the National Ombudsman Resource Center. Makes recommendations to the Administrator regarding the operation of the National Ombudsman Resource Center, and the review and approval of the provisions in State plans submitted under section 307(a) of the OAA that relate to State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs.

C. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (BC)

- BC.00 Mission
- BC.10 Organization
- BC.20 Functions

BC.00 Mission. The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) advises the Secretary, through the Administrator on Community Living, on matters relating to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves as the focal point in the Department to support and encourage the provision of quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities supports States and communities in increasing the independence, productivity and community inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and ensuring that the rights of all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are protected.

BC.10 Organization. The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is headed by a Commissioner, who reports directly to the Administrator. The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities includes the following components:

- Office of the Commissioner on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (BCA)
- Office of Program Support (BCB)
- Office of Innovation (BCC)
- Office for the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (BCD)

BC.20 Functions

1. *Office of the Commissioner on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (BCA)*. The Office of the Commissioner on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OCIDD) provides executive leadership and management strategies for all components of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and serves as the principal advisor to the Administrator, the Secretary, and other elements of the Department for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Plans, coordinates and controls AIDD policy, planning and management activities which include the development of legislative proposals, regulations and policy issuances for AIDD.

Provides executive direction to AIDD's components and establishes goals and objectives for AIDD programs. Assists states, through the design and implementation of a comprehensive and continuing state plan, in making optimal use of existing Federal and state resources for the provision of services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to achieve these outcomes.

In concert with other components of ACL as well as other public, private, and voluntary sector partners, develops and implements research, demonstration and evaluation strategies for discretionary funding of activities designed to improve and enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Serves as a resource in the development of policies and programs to reduce or eliminate barriers experienced by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the identification of promising practices and dissemination of information. Supports and encourages programs or services and manages initiatives, involving the private and voluntary sectors, that benefit individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities and their families.

Initiates, executes and supports the development of interagency, intergovernmental and public-private sector agreements, committees, task forces, commissions or joint-funding efforts as appropriate. In coordination with the Office of External Affairs, develops strategies for increasing public awareness of the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and programs designed to address them.

2. *Office of Program Support (BCB).* The Office of Program Support (OPS) is responsible for the coordination, oversight, management and evaluation of the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the Protection and Advocacy Systems, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities grant programs as authorized by the DD Act. The Office is responsible for the development of procedures and performance standards that ensure compliance with the DD Act and that improve the outcomes of the programs in increasing the independence, productivity and community inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities as well as program outreach activities.

Conducts routine and special analyses of state plans of State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, statement of goals and objectives of State Protection and Advocacy Systems, and five-year plans of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, to assure consistent application of AIDD program goals and objectives. Provides program development services, develops and initiates guidelines, policy issuances and actions with team participation by other components of AIDD, ACL, HHS and other government agencies to fulfill the mission and goals of the DD Act, as amended.

Ensures the dissemination of grantee results, including project results and information produced by AIDD grantees, by coordinating with the Office of Innovation and the Office of the Commissioner on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for information sharing. Manages cross-cutting initiatives with other components of AIDD, ACL, HHS and other government agencies to promote and integrate the grant programs into cross-agency and cross-disability efforts.

3. *Office of Innovation (BCC).* The Office of Innovation is responsible for the coordination, oversight, management and evaluation of the Projects of National Significance, Family Support, and the Direct Support Workers grant programs as authorized by the DD Act. The Office is responsible for the development of procedures that ensure compliance with the DD Act and that improve the outcomes of the programs, grants and contracts in increasing the independence, productivity and community inclusion of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ensures the dissemination of project results and information produced by AIDD grantees.

OI also administers two formula grants under the HAVA (State and Local

Grants for Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities and Grants to Protection and Advocacy Systems) that improve accessibility for individuals with the full range of disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired, to polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits and voting facilities. Administers a training and technical assistance grant program under the HAVA that provides technical assistance to Protection and Advocacy Systems in their mission to promote the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with the full range of disabilities, including registering to vote, casting vote, and accessing polling places.

Originates and manages cross-cutting research, demonstration and evaluation initiatives with other components of AIDD, ACL, HHS and other government agencies. Coordinates information sharing and other activities related to national program trends with other ACL programs and HHS agencies and studies, reviews and analyzes other federal programs providing services applicable to persons with developmental disabilities for the purpose of integrating and coordinating program efforts.

4. *Office for the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (BCD).* The Office for the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) provides general staff support for a Presidential-level advisory body. It coordinates all meetings and Congressional hearing arrangements; provides such advice and assistance in the areas of intellectual disabilities as the President or the Secretary may request, through the AIDD Commissioner; and prepares and issues an annual report to the President concerning intellectual disabilities and such additional reports or recommendations as the President may require or as PCPID may deem appropriate.

D. Center for Disability and Aging Policy (BD):

- BD.00 Mission
- BD.10 Organization
- BD.20 Functions

BD.00 Mission. The Center for Disability and Aging Policy advises and supports the Administrator and Principal Deputy Administrator in developing effective Federal policies and programs to address the needs of individuals with disabilities and the aging of the population. The Center supports, plans, coordinates and oversees the implementation of policies, programs and special initiatives

designed to overcome barriers that prevent older Americans and persons with disabilities from fully participating and contributing in an inclusive community life.

BD.10 Organization. The Center for Disability and Aging Policy is headed by a Deputy Administrator, who reports directly to the Administrator. The Center for Disability and Aging Policy includes the following components:

- Office of the Deputy Administrator for Disability and Aging Policy (BDA)
- Office of Policy Analysis and Development (BDB)
- Office of Performance and Evaluation (BDC)
- Office of Integrated Programs (BDD)

BD.20 Functions

1. *Office of the Deputy Administrator for Disability and Aging Policy (BDA).* The Office of the Deputy Administrator for Disability and Aging Policy (ODADAP) advises the Administrator, the Principal Deputy Administrator, and the Secretary on matters relating to implementation and coordination of policies, regulations, disability and aging-related programs, and special initiatives within the Department and with other Federal agencies focused on disability and aging. Serve as the focal point within ACL and the Department for disability and aging issues, including the coordination of disability and aging policy, regulations, programs and special initiatives. Supports the coordination of programs within HHS and with Federal, state, community and private sector partners.

Leads the agency's strategic planning, policy analysis, and evaluation functions, including the formulation of short- and long-term strategies for advancing ACL policy and program priorities. Coordinates the development and implementation of the agency's strategic plan that establishes long and short-range goals, objectives, strategies and action plans for advancing the agency's policy and program agenda. Reviews and coordinates all policy and program development documents, regulations and activities to ensure consistency with ACL's strategic plan; and adjusts goals and strategies as appropriate. Coordinates the identification and analysis of emerging policy issues and trends and appropriate Federal responses. Formulates an agency-wide policy and program development strategy consistent with the priorities established by the Administrator and the Principal Deputy Administrator.

Plans and directs the evaluation of ACL programs designed to provide planning, coordination and services to older Americans and people with

disabilities. The Deputy Administrator serves as the Performance Improvement Officer and is the primary liaison with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, and the Office of Management and Budget for program performance and evaluation activities.

2. *Office of Policy Analysis and Development (BDB)*. The Office of Policy Analysis and Development (OPAD) leads policy development on community living by analyzing trends in demographics, service needs, public policy and program development, and translating those trends into new policies and programs in long-term services and supports and health care that assist people with disabilities and elderly individuals to remain in their own homes and communities.

Directs intergovernmental activities as they relate to the agency's policy and program development agenda, and develops and maintains effective relationships with other governmental departments and agencies. Plans, negotiates, facilitates and updates, as appropriate, memoranda of understanding with other departments and agencies to promote agreements and cooperative relationships. Maintains information on, and pursues collaborative opportunities with, other Federal agencies, non-profit organizations and private corporations that have the potential to contribute to the agency's policy and program development priorities.

Provides technical, program and policy development input on legislative activities and the annual budget. Participates in Departmental and inter-departmental activities that concern health and long-term care; reviews and comments on Departmental regulations and policies regarding health programs, institutional and non-institutional long-term care services, and those designed to enhance community living.

Conducts relevant policy research, conducts periodic reviews of needs and resources in the fields of aging and disability, and undertakes qualitative and quantitative analyses to develop policy options and recommendations for the Administrator. Develops policy reports based on the needs and circumstances of older people, their family members and the aging population. Develops and coordinates initiatives with other Federal agencies, national aging organizations, national disability organizations, and universities to fill gaps in information in the field of aging and disability.

3. *Office of Performance and Evaluation (BDC)*. The Office of

Performance and Evaluation (OPE), in collaboration with the respective ACL program offices, implements, oversees and manages ACL's program performance responsibilities, data collection systems, and program evaluation activities. Develops plans and priorities for evaluation of ACL programs, with subject matter input from appropriate units. Manages contracting for mandated evaluation projects and performs intramural evaluation studies. Prepares reports of the results of program and impact evaluations conducted by and for ACL, with technical input from other ACL units. Provides technical guidance on evaluation activities conducted as part of ACL's discretionary grants programs.

Implements the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA). Interprets ACL goals, priorities, and strategies for consistency with ACL long-range GPRA goals and strategies, and adjusts GPRA goals and strategies accordingly. Provides guidance and technical assistance to ACL organizational units in developing operational plans, particularly in developing measurable objectives and indicators reflecting program and organizational performance. Prepares annual GPRA plans and reports and coordinates with the Office of Budget and Finance on the development of the ACL performance budget.

Coordinates ACL activities related to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of national and program data on older individuals and individuals with disabilities. Develops and manages data requirements; designs the criteria for collecting, analyzing and disseminating program performance data; and prepares the data for reporting to Congress and the public. Designs, implements and provides guidance and technical assistance to funding recipients on data collection and analysis. Coordinates mandated Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approvals required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended.

Compiles, publishes, and disseminates information on demographic data and data from other Federal agencies on the health, social and economic status of older persons and persons with disabilities. Performs routine and special statistical analyses of data for ACL offices, other Federal and non-Federal organizations, and the general public.

4. *Office of Integrated Programs (BDD)*. The Office of Integrated Programs (OIP) plans and directs the implementation of programs designed to coordinate disability and aging issues

and enhance access to integrated services and person-centered programs and systems that support community living. Serves as the focal point for the administration the Lifespan Respite Care Program authorized under Title XXIX of the PHSA, the Veteran's-Directed Home and Community-Based Services program, and others as deemed appropriate.

OIP provides leadership and a central strategic focus for ACL's efforts to develop single points of entry to long-term services and supports for both seniors and persons with disabilities. Promotes initiatives to expand access to services and the development of more responsive service systems. Implements partnerships to enhance access to integrate systems of services that support both older Americans and persons of all ages with disabilities. Coordinates with the Veteran's Administration on the development and implementation of their long term services and support programs, including the Veteran's-Directed Home and Community-Based Services program and caregiver supports.

Administers grants, cooperative agreements and contracts and provides technical assistance and training in support of these activities. Coordinates with the Regional Support Centers to provide program guidance, policy direction, training, technical assistance, and monitoring of grantees. Prepares the planning documents for and develops discretionary grant program announcements. Evaluates demonstration grant and contract proposals; and recommends approval/disapproval. Monitors progress, gives technical guidance to, and evaluates the performance of grantees and contractors.

E. Center for Management and Budget (BE):
BE.00 Mission
BE.10 Organization
BE.20 Functions

BE.00 Mission. The Center for Management and Budget advises the Administrator on the budget, financial, grants, information resources, procurement, administrative and human resources management activities of ACL.

BE.10 Organization. The Center for Management and Budget is headed by a Deputy Administrator, who reports directly to the Administrator. The Center for Management and Budget includes the following components:

Office of the Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget (BEA)
Office of Budget and Finance (BEB)
Office of Administration and Personnel (BEC)
Office of Grants Management (BED)
Office of Information Resources Management (BEE)

BE.20 Functions

1. *Office of the Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget (BEA).* The Office of the Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget (ODAMB) directs and coordinates all administrative and resource management activities for ACL. The Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget serves as the Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and is the principal advisor and counselor to the Administrator on all aspects of the internal administration of ACL.

Serves as the ACL liaison with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration (ASA), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources (ASFR), the OGC, the OIG, and the OMB for all budget and administrative management issues. Develops, administers, and coordinates financial, operational, and budgetary policies, processes, and controls necessary to administer ACL programs and financial resources; directs discretionary and mandatory grants activities; oversees the utilization of information resources, information technology systems and telecommunications management; provides leadership for human capital development; and coordinates ACL's internal control activities.

Coordinates with other components to carry out reviews of program activities and management practices required under the Chief Financial Officers Act, the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act, the Improper Payments Information Act, the Federal Information Security Management Act, and other legislation. Monitors legislation related to administrative management and provides analysis of the impact on ACL programs and resources. Plans, organizes and conducts studies of organizational structures, functional statements, job structures, staffing patterns, and management and administrative information systems; and identifies and resolves problems of organization and administrative management. Prepares and maintains organizational and functional statements and delegations and designations of authority for ACL.

2. *Office of Budget and Finance (BEB).* The Office of Budget and Finance (OBF) supports the Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget in fulfilling ACL's Chief Financial Officer responsibilities. The OBF Director serves as the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Budget Officer, and Management Control Officer and oversees and coordinates ACL's budget

formulation, budget execution, and financial management activities. OBF serves as the primary liaison with the Program Support Center's Division of Financial Operations, which provides accounting, audit, and financial management services to AoA.

In coordination with the program offices, formulates and presents budget estimates; executes apportionment documents; and plans, directs, and coordinates financial and budgetary programs of ACL. Provides guidance to program offices in preparing budgets, justifications, and other supporting budgetary materials. Solicits, obtains and consolidates information and data from other offices, and prepares budget documents on behalf of the Administrator for presentation to the Department, OMB, and the Congress.

Analyzes the budget as approved by the Congress and apportioned by OMB, obtains input from program offices and recommends for the Administrator's approval a financial plan for its execution. Makes allowances to ACL offices within the guidelines of the approved financial plan. Develops and maintains an overall system of budgetary controls to ensure observance of established ceilings on both program—including all mandatory and discretionary grant accounts—and Salaries and Expense funds; maintains administrative control of funds against allotments and allowances; certifies funds availability for all accounts; and coordinates the management of interagency agreement activities. Prepares requests for apportionment of appropriated funds; and prepares spending plans and status-of-funds reports for the Administrator.

Develops financial operating procedures and manuals; coordinates financial audits; and provides analysis on financial issues. Ensures that internal controls are in place for administrative and programmatic activities that provide reasonable assurance of the effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Conducts annual reviews and assessments of internal controls required under the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act and ensures compliance with the GAO and OMB standards. Serves as the liaison with the Office of the Secretary and OMB on all budgetary and financial matters.

Coordinates all travel management activities. Provides technical assistance and oversight on the use of the GovTrip system; manages employee participation in the Travel Charge Card program, and coordinates the provision of Travel Management Center services.

3. *Office of Administration and Personnel (BEC).* The Office of Administration and Personnel (OAP) provides support to ACL in the areas of human capital development, personnel, facilities, acquisitions, and other administrative services. The OAP Director serves as the Chief Human Capital Officer and provides leadership for the strategic planning and operational management of human capital resources. OAP serves as the primary liaison to the Program Support Center's Division of Acquisition Management, which provides procurement services to ACL; and the National Capital Region Human Resources Center, which provides personnel support services.

Develops and implements human capital strategies and strategic workforce plans; directs the development and creation of strategies to attract diverse talent and develop a highly skilled workforce; and provides leadership in the development of plans for achieving short- and long-range human capital goals. Provides leadership and guidance to meet the human resource management needs and coordinates internal and external resources to provide staff with personnel services including position management, performance management, employee recognition, staffing, recruitment, employee and labor relations, employee assistance, payroll liaison, staff development and training, and special hiring and placement programs.

Provides oversight and direction to meet the administrative needs of ACL components. Prepares, coordinates and disseminates information, policy and procedural guidance on human resource and administrative management issues on an agency-wide basis. Serves as liaison with the Office of the Secretary and the General Services Administration (GSA) to plan, develop and coordinate space and facilities services. Serves as the lead for coordination and liaison with Departmental, GSA, Federal Protective Service, and other Federal agencies for planning and executing the agency's environmental health, safety and physical security programs. Provides coordination and direction for Continuity-of-Operations activities.

Assists other ACL components in securing contractor assistance by advising on appropriate acquisition vehicles, developing statements of work and independent cost estimates, and managing the technical aspects of contracts. Coordinates with the Office of Information Resources Management to develop and implement procurement strategies for information technology

support services and review all information technology acquisition documentation for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Monitors the use of credit cards for small purchases and establishes and manages contracts and/or blanket purchase agreements for administrative support and facilities management services.

4. *Office of Grants Management (BED)*. The Office of Grants Management (OGM) serves as ACL's focal point for the management, leadership and administration of grants, and cooperative agreements. The OGM Director serves as the Chief Grants Management Officer and provides national policy oversight and development for grants management and administration matters. The Office ensures that all grant awards conform to applicable statutory, regulatory, and administrative policy requirements, both before and following award. Maintains liaison and coordination with appropriate ACL and HHS organizations to ensure consistency between discretionary and mandatory grant award activities, including the Program Support Center's Division of Payment Management, which provides payment system services for grants.

Ensures that the administrative, business and financial management aspects of grants administration are carried out and grantee performance is monitored. Performs cost analysis/budget analysis for all discretionary grant award documents and negotiates grant budgets, executing all awards. Advises management and program officials in developing, implementing and evaluating program plans, strategies, regulations, announcements, guidelines and procedures. Only the Office of Grants Management has the authority to obligate the Government to the expenditure of funds for grants and cooperative agreements. Serves as liaison with other Departmental offices for grants policy and administration.

Issues grant awards pursuant to requirement established in authorizing legislation, and makes adjustments to previously issued mandatory grant awards. In coordination with all Central Office and Regional Support Centers, reviews and assesses grant award procedures; directs and/or coordinates management initiatives to improve grant programs in financial areas; develops proposals for improving the efficiency in awarding grants and coordinating financial operations among grant programs; establishes priorities and develops procedures for grantee financial monitoring; and reviews

activities at the field level for all grant programs.

For grant activities, develops financial management standards and provides guidance on and interpretation of applicable Federal regulations. Based on grants management policies and procedures approved by the Department, reprograms grant funds as required under authoring legislation. Following consultation with all Central Office and Regional Support Centers having grant administrative responsibilities, and with the approval of the Administrator, develops instructions and procedures for the administration of the business aspects of all grants.

Provides training, technical assistance, overall guidance, monitoring and assistance to ACL staff in all areas of administrative and financial management of grants. Has primary responsibility for developing grants management policy issuances, and ensuring consistent policy interpretation within ACL concerning grants management. Serves as the liaison with the GAO and the HHS OIG on grant matters. Assists at grant hearings, before the Departmental Appeals Board, in response to disallowances and other financial claims. Responds to Departmental and OIG audit reviews, ensuring proper analysis and resolution of audit findings by Regional Support Centers for final action by the Administrator. Coordinates receipt and processing of all grants and related materials.

5. *Office of Information Resources Management (BEE)*. The Office of Information Resources Management (OIRM) oversees and coordinates the provision of information technology services for ACL. The OIRM Director serves as the Chief Information Officer and prepares, coordinates and disseminates information, policies, standards, guidelines, and procedures on information technology management issues. OIRM serves as the primary liaison to the HHS Office of Information Technology Infrastructure Operations, which provides for the management, maintenance and operation of ACL's information technology systems infrastructure, including the LAN, personal computers, software, and support services.

Manages the development of ACL custom applications, systems, and Web sites; oversees training and technical assistance for all systems, hardware and software; and coordinates the preparation of manuals and policy issuances required to meet the instructional and informational needs of users of the systems. Directs and

coordinates ACL's systems security responsibilities, including protection, security and integrity of data; and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a secure Inter- and intranet presence. Represents ACL on the Department's Chief Information Officer's Council and other Departmental information technology policy and planning boards, teams, and workgroups.

In coordination with the Office of Administration and Personnel, develops and implements procurement strategies for information technology support services. Reviews all information technology acquisition documentation for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and defines the specifications for procurement of all hardware and software. Identifies opportunities to share information technology services through inter-governmental, inter-departmental and inter-agency agreements.

Serves as liaison with the Office of the Secretary, GSA, and outside vendors to plan, develop and coordinate guidelines and activities for telecommunications services. Provides telecommunications planning and management, including procurement, installation, and maintenance of telecommunications equipment and services such as telephones, cellular phone service, cable TV service, and audio and video conferencing equipment and services.

II. Delete Part K, delete Chapter KC, "The Administration on Developmental Disabilities" in its entirety and delete reference to "Administration on Developmental Disabilities (KC)" in Chapter K, "Administration for Children and Families," Section K.10 Organization.

III. Under Part A, delete Chapter AAC, "The Office on Disability" in its entirety and delete reference to "Office on Disability (AAC)" in Chapter AA, "Immediate Office of the Secretary," Section AA.10 Organization.

IV. *Delegations of Authority*: All delegations and re-delegations of authority made to officials and employees of affected organizational components will continue in them or their successors pending further re-delegations.

V. *Funds, Personnel and Equipment*: Transfer of organizations and functions affected by this reorganization shall be accompanied in each instance by direct and support funds, positions, personnel, records, equipment, supplies and other resources.

Dated: March 27, 2012.

Kathleen Sebelius,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-9238 Filed 4-16-12; 11:15 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed information collection project: "CHIPRA Pediatric Quality Measures Program Candidate Measure Submission Form." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 18, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

Pediatric Quality Measures Program

Section 401(a) of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), Public Law 111-3, amended the Social Security Act ("the Act") to enact section 1139A (42 U.S.C. 1320b-9a). Section 1139A(b) charged the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with improving pediatric health care quality measures. Since CHIPRA was passed, AHRQ and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have been working together to implement selected provisions of the legislation related to children's health care quality. An initial core measure set for voluntary use by

Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) was posted December 29, 2009 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-12-29/html/E9-30802.htm>). In February 2010, CMS released a State Health Official letter which outlined the initial core measures and how these measures would be reported to CMS.

Subsequently, AHRQ and CMS established the CHIPRA Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP) in accordance with section 1139A(b)(1) of the Act to enhance select children's health care quality measures and develop new measures (<http://www.ahrq.gov/chipra>). The PQMP is intended to increase the portfolio of measures available to public and private purchasers of children's health care services, providers, and consumers. HHS anticipates that measures ultimately included in the Improved Core Set will also be used by public and private purchasers to measure pediatric healthcare quality. The PQMP consists of the following:

(1) Seven Centers of Excellence (CoEs) that are developing and/or enhancing children's health care quality measures through cooperative agreements with AHRQ in order to increase the portfolio of measures available to the public and private purchasers of children's health care services, providers and consumers (<http://www.ahrq.gov/chipra/pqmpfact.htm>);

(2) CHIPRA Coordinating and Technical Assistance Center (CCTAC);

(3) Two CHIPRA quality demonstration grantees (Illinois, a partner to the Florida grantee, and Massachusetts) funded by CMS to undertake new quality measure development as part of their grants http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/CHIPRA/grants_summary.html; and

(4) The Subcommittee on Children's Healthcare Quality Measures of the AHRQ National Advisory Council on Healthcare Research and Quality (SNAC) that will review measures nominated through a public call for measures, as well as measures developed or enhanced by the CoEs, and make recommendations for an improved core set of children's health care quality measures and other CHIPRA purposes (<http://www.ahrq.gov/chipra/panellist11.htm>).

Section 1139A of the Act provides that improved core sets of children's health care quality measures be identified beginning January 1, 2013, and annually thereafter, for potential voluntary use by Medicaid and CHIP programs and other CHIPRA purposes. AHRQ intends to solicit nominations for

children's health care quality measures for these purposes using a standard measure nomination form early in calendar years 2013 and 2014 through a public call for measures. These solicitations will be undertaken by AHRQ to identify children's health care quality measures for review by the SNAC.

Section 1139A(b)(2) of the Act requires that the measures in the improved core sets shall, at a minimum, be:

(A) Evidence-based and, where appropriate, risk adjusted;

(B) Designed to identify and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in child health and the provision of health care;

(C) Designed to ensure that the data required for such measures is collected and reported in a standard format that permits comparison of quality and data at a State, plan, and provider level;

(D) Periodically updated; and

(E) Responsive to the child health needs, services, and domains of health care quality described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subsection (a)(6)(A).

Hence, AHRQ, CMS, and PQMP developed a CHIPRA Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP) Candidate Measure Submission Form (hereinafter referred to as "CHIPRA PQMP Candidate Measure Submission Form") and a Glossary of Terms. The CHIPRA PQMP Candidate Measure Submission Form and Glossary of Terms detail the measure evaluation criteria and related definitions to provide operational guidance for the minimum evaluation criteria as specified in section 1139A(b)(2) of the Act. AHRQ intends to use this CHIPRA PQMP Candidate Measure Submission Form to conduct a public call for measures early in calendar years 2013 and 2014 to solicit measures for consideration by the SNAC for the 2014 and 2015 improved core sets of children's health care quality measures for voluntary use by Medicaid and CHIP programs and for other CHIPRA purposes.

The goals of the CHIPRA PQMP Candidate Measure Form project are to:

(1) Solicit nominations for children's health care quality measures early in calendar years 2013 and 2014 through public calls for measures, using a standardized data collection form;

(2) Use the information provided through the standardized data collection form to support SNAC review of children's health care quality measures nominated by the public and measures developed by the seven CoEs; and

(3) Identify measures for improved core sets of children's health care quality measures and for other CHIPRA purposes.