

collecting and reviewing the collection of information.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of this notice. In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we have submitted to the OMB the following information collection for emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, part 1320. So that a State does not have to incur the burden of temporarily implementing the Federal default requirements or live under Federal enforcement of those requirements, HIPAA requires a State to submit to us its proposed alternative mechanisms by April 1, 1997. A State may voluntarily submit the suggested information collection referenced in this notice when it submits its proposed alternative mechanisms. The description of the information collection will assist a State in submitting sufficient information for our review of its proposed alternative mechanisms.

We are requesting that OMB provide a 2-day public comment period with a 2-day OMB review period and a 180-day approval. During this 180-day period, we will publish a separate Federal Register notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval.

Type of Information Request: New collection.

Title of Information Collection: Notification Procedures for States Implementing "Alternative Mechanisms" in the Individual Health Insurance Market and Supporting Notice (BPD-882-N).

Form Number: HCFA-R-202.

Use: To outline the documentation for States to obtain Federal approval of a State's alternative mechanism under section 111 of HIPAA.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: States.

Number of Respondents: 55.

Total Annual Responses: 55.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 66,000.

In summary, the information collection referenced in section VI. "Notification, Documentation, and Review" provides that each State electing to implement an alternative mechanism notify us that the State has enacted, or intends to enact, any necessary legislation to provide for the implementation of a mechanism reasonably designed to be an acceptable

alternative mechanism and provides us with the information to review the mechanism and its implementation (or proposed implementation).

If a State chooses to submit a proposed alternative mechanism, the State must submit sufficient information to provide us with a reasonable basis for concluding that the proposed alternative mechanism meets the criteria described in section VI.C.2. of this notice. Along with a detailed description of the alternative mechanism and how it will function, we recommend the State include the name of a contact person, State Legislative Calendar, and text of existing State laws and regulations pertaining to the individual health insurance market.

If a State chooses to implement an "other mechanism" described in section 2744(c)(3) of the Act, we recommend that the State submit a more detailed description of the mechanism than it would if it planned to implement a mechanism that relies on one of the three NAIC Model Acts referenced in section 2744 of the PHS Act.

To request copies of the proposed information collections referenced above, call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1325.

The information collections of this notice are not effective until they have been approved by the OMB. We have submitted a copy of this notice to the OMB for its review of these information collections. A notice will be published in the Federal Register when approval is obtained. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden or any other aspect of these collections of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Comments on these information collections may be faxed to Allison Herron Eydt at 202-395-6974 or mailed directly to the following address: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Allison Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer. A copy of the comments may be mailed to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Management Analysis and Planning

Staff, Room C2-26-17, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

X. Waiver of Solicitation of Comments

This notice announces the options a State has under section 111 of HIPAA to ensure that eligible individuals have access to the individual health insurance market. As has been our custom, we use general notices, rather than formal notice and comment rulemaking procedures, to make these announcements. In doing so, we acknowledge that, under the Administrative Procedure Act, interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and rules of agency organization, procedure or practice are excepted from the requirements of notice and comment rulemaking.

This notice does not establish new policy or requirements beyond those found in the statute. We are publishing this notice to assist a State that chooses to submit a proposed alternative mechanism under section 111 of HIPAA. We intend that the information we have identified in this notice provide guidance to a State and assist it in submitting sufficient information to enable us to approve the State's proposed alternative mechanism. We intend that this information assist a State to implement timely HIPAA provisions under its own State requirements. This would prevent the need for a State to comply with Federal requirements and subsequently transition to the State's requirements after we approve a State's proposed alternative mechanism. We wish to avoid an unnecessary burden on the State.

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12866, this notice was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Authority: Section 2741 of the Public Health Service Act.

Dated: December 17, 1996.

Bruce C. Vladeck,
Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Approved: December 20, 1996.

Donna E. Shalala,
Secretary, Health and Human Services.
[FR Doc. 97-672 Filed 1-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

Health Resources and Services Administration

Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), announcement is made of the following National

Advisory body scheduled to meet during the month of February 1997.

Name: National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps.

Date and Time: February 6-9, 1997.

Place: Radisson Hotel, La Jolla, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla, California 92037.

The meeting is open to the public.

Agenda: Agenda items include updates on the National Health Service Corps program, meetings with current and former NHSC providers; presentations on managed care, academic-community educational linkages, and the future role of the Corps; and meetings of NHSC workgroups on new environment strategies, health system linkages, and mission coalition building.

The opening meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will include an orientation session for new Council members. On Friday and Saturday, meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude around 7:00 p.m. Sunday's meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn around noon.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring information regarding the subject Council should contact Ms. Jewel Davis, National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps, Health Resources and Services Administration, 8th floor, 4350 East West Highway, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone (301) 594-4144.

Agenda Items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: January 7, 1997.

J. Henry Montes,

Director, Office of Policy and Information Coordination, HRSA.

[FR Doc. 97-724 Filed 1-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Reopening of Comment Period on Draft Recovery Plan for the Wetland and Aquatic Species of the Owens Basin, Inyo and Mono Counties, California and Related Public Information Workshops

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of reopening of comment period and related public information workshops.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the reopening of the comment period for a draft recovery plan for endangered, proposed, and species of concern found in the wetland and aquatic habitats of the Owens Basin in Inyo and Mono Counties, California, and related public information workshops. The recovery plan targets recovery of 11 species found throughout the Owens River drainage on Federal, State and private

lands. Also available for review is the draft Owens Basin Management Guidelines Plan for rare species. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on these draft plans. Three public information workshops will be held in conjunction with the reopening of the comment period.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan and/or Management Guidelines Plan must be received on or before April 14, 1997 to ensure consideration by the Service.

Public information workshops will be held:

Tuesday, February 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Mammoth High School, Multipurpose Room, 365 Sierra Park Road, Town of Mammoth Lakes;

Wednesday, February 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds, Home Economics Building, Sierra Street and Fairgrounds Drive, Bishop; and

Thursday, February 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Statham Hall, corner of Jackson and Bush, Lone Pine, California.

ADDRESSES: The draft recovery plan and/or Management Guidelines Plan are available for public inspection, by appointment, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) at the Service's Ventura Field Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California, 93003, phone 805-644-1766. Copies of the draft plans may also be obtained by written or phone request to the Ventura Field Office. (Note: Copies of the draft Management Guidelines Plan will automatically be mailed to all parties who received the draft recovery plan during its previous release.) Comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the Ventura Field Office. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection upon request, by appointment, at the Ventura Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Carl Benz, Assistant Field Supervisor, Division of Listing and Recovery, in the Ventura Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 26, 1996, the Service published a notice of availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for endangered, proposed, and species of concern found in the wetland and aquatic habitats of the Owens Basin in Inyo and Mono Counties, California. The original comment period closed on October 25, 1996. The draft Management Guidelines Plan was not

completed at that time and therefore not available for public review.

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide recovery efforts, the Service prepares recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of listed species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for reclassification from endangered to threatened or removal from the list, and estimate the time and cost for implementing the needed recovery measures.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The draft recovery plan for the Owens Basin wetland and aquatic species addresses conservation of the following species: Owens tui chub, Owens pupfish, Fish Slough milk-vetch, Owens speckled dace, Long Valley Speckled dace, Inyo County mariposa lily, Owens Valley checkerbloom, Fish Slough springsnail, Owens Valley springsnail, Aardhal's springsnail, and Owens Valley vole. Owens tui chub and Owens pupfish are federally listed as endangered, and the Fish Slough milk-vetch has been proposed for listing as endangered. All of these species are threatened by loss and degradation of wetland and aquatic habitats.

The draft recovery plan was developed in accordance with the Service's recent policy emphasizing an ecosystem approach to conservation of endangered species. The goal of the recovery plan is to restore the target species to secure status within their natural habitats. Protecting the ecosystem of endangered species in the Owens Basin will also protect other locally rare species, and, it is hoped, avert future declines in plant and wildlife populations that could lead to future listings.

The draft recovery plan was developed with the participation of