

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, July 09, 2010

# **Secretary Announces Appointment of Committee to Review Criteria for the Designation of Medically Underserved Areas and Health Professional Shortage Areas**

HHS Secretary Sebelius today announced the appointment of a committee to review and update the criteria used to define medically underserved areas and health professional shortage areas. The formation of this committee was provided for in the Affordable Care Act.

The committee comprises 24 members who are key stakeholders representing programs that are most affected by these designations. Those programs include:

- Community Health Centers,
- Rural health clinics and health care practitioners,
- Special populations with unique health care needs,
- Technical experts in the area of research in health care access and statistical methods.

"I am pleased to announce this committee of distinguished experts," said Secretary Sebelius. "The purpose of this committee is to examine current methods for identifying areas of need and underservice and propose revisions if they deem that appropriate."

"Every effort was made to maintain a geographic and demographic representation for this committee," said HRSA Administrator Dr. Mary Wakefield. "The committee will begin meeting later this year and be open to the public in the interest of transparency."

An area must have a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation to be eligible to apply for the placement of National Health Service Corps providers, and the Medically Underserved Population designation is used as a basis for awarding grants to Community Health Centers which are located in underserved communities. There is also a bonus payment to physicians under Medicare for services provided in HPSAs. A variety of other federal and state programs also use these designations to target resources to areas of need.

Meeting schedules for the committee will be published in the Federal Register with a target date for a draft final proposal in July 2011.

**List of Committee to Review Criteria for the Designation of Medically Underserved Areas  
and Health Professional Shortage Areas**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City, State</b>
Mark Babitz, MD	Director, Div. of Family and Health Preparedness	Utah Department of Health	Salt Lake City, UT
Andrea Brassard, RN, DNSc, MPH, FNP	Strategic Policy Advisor, Center to Champion Nursing in America	AARP	Bowie, MD
Jose Camacho, JD	Executive Director/General Counsel	Texas Association of Community Health Centers	Austin, TX
Beth Giesting	Chief Executive Officer	Hawaii Primary Care Association	Kailua, HI
David Goodman, MD, MS	Director	Center for Health Policy Research, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice	Etna, NH
Daniel Hawkins	Sr. VP, Policy and Research Division	National Association of Community Health Centers	Silver Spring, MD
Janet Heinrich, DRPH, RN, FAAN	Associate Administrator	Bureau of Health Professions, HRSA	Washington, DC
Sherry Hirota	CEO	Director, Asian Health Services	Oakland, CA
Steve Holloway	Director	Colorado Primary Care Office	Denver, CO
Barbara L. Kornblau, JD, OTR/L	Dean, School of Health Professions and Studies	University of Michigan-Flint	Flint, Michigan
Tess Kuenning, RN	Director	BiState Primary Care Association	Bow, NH
Alice Larson, PhD	Research Analyst	Larson Assistance Services	Vashon Island, WA
Nicole Lamoureux	Executive Director	National Association of Free Clinics	Alexandria, VA
Timothy McBride, PhD, MS	Professor, Associate Dean for Public Health	Washington University in St. Louis	St. Louis, MO
Lolita McDavid, MD, MPA	Medical Director, Child Advocacy and Protection	Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital	Cleveland, OH
Ron Nelson, PA	Associate Executive Director	National Association of Rural Health Clinics	Fremont, MI

Charles Owens	Executive Director	Georgia State Office of Rural Health	Cordele, GA
Robert Phillips, MD, MSPH	Director	American Academy of Family Practice, Robert Graham Center	Fairfax, VA
Alice Rarig, Ph.D, MPH	Planner IV, Health Planning and Systems Development Section	Alaska Primary Care Office	Juneau, AK
Patrick Rock, MD	Chief Executive Director, Milwaukee Indian Health Board	National Council on Urban Indian Health	Maple Grove, MN
William Scanlon, PhD	Consultant	National Health Policy Forum	Washington, DC
Sally Smith	Alaska Area Representative, Chairwoman	National Indian Health Board, Bristol Bay Area Health Corp.	Dillingham, AK (not confirmed)
John Supplitt	Senior Director, Small or Rural Hospital Section	American Hospital Association	Arlington Heights, IL
Donald Taylor, PhD, MPA	Associate Professor	Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy	Durham, NC