

technologies, to determine whether further study of this area is warranted. Program officials from the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Federal Trade Commission will brief the Committee about current and planned regulatory approaches with respect to genetic technologies. On the second day, the Committee will review Federal efforts to address the adequacy of the genetics workforce and the education and training of health professionals in genetics. Reports will also be provided on the efforts of professional societies and organizations to enhance the preparedness of health professionals in genetics. The Committee will also hold a session on related international activities at which representatives of the Human Genetics Commission of the United Kingdom and the Australian Law Reform Commission will report on their countries' efforts to address emerging issues by advances in genetic technologies. Under authority of 42 U.S.C. 217a, section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services established SACGHS to serve as a public forum for deliberations on the broad range of human health and societal issues raised by the development and use of genetic technologies and, as warranted, to provide advice on these issues.

SACGHS welcomes receiving comments from the public on any issues related to its mandate. For the October meeting in particular, the Committee would welcome public comment on: (1) The adequacy of the education and training of health professionals in genetics and the genetics workforce and whether current efforts to prepare health professionals to use genetic technologies are adequate and, if not, what the gaps are and how should they be addressed; and (2) the role, current activities, and plans of the Federal regulatory agencies to assure the safety and appropriate marketing of genetic tests. Written comments submitted to the Committee by October 1, 2003 will be considered part of the Committee's deliberations. Time will also be provided during the meeting for public commentary. Written public comments should be submitted by mail, email, or fax to the following: Edward R.B. McCable, M.D., Ph.D., Chair, Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society, c/o NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-9839 (fax), [sell2c@nih.gov](mailto:sell2c@nih.gov).

Members of the public who wish to make a statement to the Committee

during the meeting should notify the SACGHS Executive Secretary, Ms. Sarah Carr, by telephone at (301) 496-9838 or e-mail at [sc112c@nih.gov](mailto:sc112c@nih.gov).

The draft meeting agenda and other information about SACGHS will be available at the following Web site: <http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/sacghs.htm>. Individuals who plan to attend the meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, are asked to notify Ms. Carr in advance of the meeting by contacting her at the phone number or e-mail address listed above.

Dated: August 27, 2003.

**LaVerne Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Office of the Secretary**

#### **Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness; Notice of Meeting**

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. appendix 2), notice is given of a meeting of the Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness.

The purpose of this public meeting is to convene the Council to discuss issues related to preparing the nation to respond to public health emergencies in general and bioterrorism in particular. Major areas to be considered by the Council at this meeting may include the following: SARS; Smallpox Vaccination Program; Monkeypox; State and Local Programs including Hospital Programs; R&D Initiatives including Bioshield; and Modeling Initiatives.

*Name of Committee:* Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness.

*Date:* September 22-23, 2003.

*Time:* September 22 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; September 23 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

*Place:* Sheraton National Hotel Arlington, Columbia Pike & Washington Blvd., 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204, Telephone: (703) 521-1900.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Judy Blumenthal, Executive Director, Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 638G, Washington, DC 20201, 202-401-4848.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary's Council on Public Health

Preparedness was established on October 22, 2001, by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authorization of section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d); section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a). The purpose of the Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness will be to advise the Secretary on appropriate actions to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies including acts of bioterrorism. The function of the Council is to advise the Secretary regarding steps that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can take to (1) improve the public health and health care infrastructure to better enable Federal, State, and local governments to respond to a public health emergency and, specifically, a bio-terrorism event; (2) ensure that there are comprehensive contingency plans in place at the Federal, State, and local levels to respond to a public health emergency and, specifically, a bio-terrorism event; and (3) improve public health preparedness at the Federal, State, and local levels.

#### **Public Participation**

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited by the availability of space on a first come, first served basis. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting may register by e-mailing [publichealth@iqsolutions.com](mailto:publichealth@iqsolutions.com) no later than close of business, Monday, September 15, 2003. All requests should include the name, address, telephone number, and business or professional affiliation of those registering.

Opportunities for oral statements by the public will be provided on Tuesday, September 23, 2003, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Oral comments will be limited to 5 minutes, three minutes to make a statement and two minutes to respond to questions from Council members. Due to time constraints, only one representative from each organization will be allotted time for oral testimony. The number of speakers and the time allotment may also be limited by the number of registrants. Members of the public who wish to present oral comments at the meeting may register by e-mailing [publichealth@iqsolutions.com](mailto:publichealth@iqsolutions.com) no later than close of business, Monday, September 15, 2003. All requests to present oral comments should include the name, address, telephone number, and business or professional affiliation of the interested party, and should indicate the areas of interest or issue to be addressed.