DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Rockville, MD 20857

AUG 2 2012

TO:

Mr. Cass Sunstein

OIRA Administrator, OMB

From:

Administrator

SUBJECT:

Emergency Clearance Request of the Work Force Recruitment in Bureau of

Primary Health Care (BPHC)-Funded Health Centers Survey

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) requests an expedited review of the attached Work Force Recruitment in BPHC-Funded Health Centers survey. The data, especially on the number of veterans hired in health centers, was requested by the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) two weeks ago with a delivery date of August 31. HRSA explored several options to respond to this request and determined that the data does not exist, and the only way to obtain accurate data within the given timeframe was through a new survey.

Furthermore, the survey is time-sensitive and urgent due to the on-going implementation of the Affordable Care Act provisions (many starting August 1) that will further increase the primary care workforce shortage. HRSA's mission and key legislative authority tasks its programs "to improve health and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative programs." This survey will assist in leveraging existing and planned workforce programs and initiatives within HRSA and with our partners at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and other federal agencies. The additional information gained by the survey will enhance efficiency and effectiveness of these collaborative workforce initiatives and potentially reduce the overall implementation costs.

This survey is designed to collect information from HRSA-funded health centers regarding their current workforce. This baseline data is essential in demonstrating the effectiveness of recruitment efforts over the next year for returning veterans, many of whom have trained as health care providers and/or administrators during their time in the service. The survey will help assess how health centers have filled recent vacancies, whether the availability of veterans to join the health center workforce is impacting their hiring efforts, and what additional efforts might improve health center recruitment at a critical time of expansion in the nation's health care safety net.

Health center participation in the survey is 100% voluntary. This information is not required to be collected by statute, and a health center's decision whether to respond to the survey will have no impact on their current or future funding from BPHC.

HRSA aims to release the survey to health centers via the electronic collection tool SurveyMonkey on or around August 7. The survey will remain open for 2 weeks. Information provided by health centers through the survey will be compiled in a summary report, to include counts of the numbers of staff hired by position type and veteran status.

Due to the urgent nature of this request, there is not time for a full public comment period. However, HRSA plans to submit a package for OMB review for future workforce-related data collection efforts, which will include an opportunity for public comment.

Mary Wakefield

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.

Attachment

Work Force Recruitment in BPHC-Funded Health Centers Survey

k Force Recruitment in BPI	HC-Funded He	alth Centers					Exit this sur			
1. Next to the employment categories provided below, please identify the number of current vacancies at your organization. (These are the same categories found in Table 5 of the Uniform Data System - UDS)										
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*3. Please approximate how long each employment vacancy was open for until being filled by new employees hired since August 2011. (Provide an average if there was more than one position open within an employment category)

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Nurse, laboratory personnel, X-ray personnel, or other medical personnel			O-	Ç.	
Dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, dental aide, dental tech		0	9	C'	
Psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or other mental health staff		0		. O	
Ophthalmologist, optometrist, or other vision care staff	O	O	0	0	
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1980-1989							
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Currently active							
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★7. Please provide your Bureau o	of Primary Health	Care Management	Information System	ı (BHCMIS) identif	ication in the spac	e provided belov	1.
★8. Please provide the name of yo	our organization i	n the space provid	ded below.				
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