

supplier if they choose to participate in Medicare Part B. By signing the agreement, the physician or supplier agrees to take assignment on all Medicare claims. To take assignment means to accept the Medicare allowed amount as payment in full for the services they furnish and to charge the beneficiary no more than the deductible and coinsurance for the covered service. In exchange for signing the agreement, the physician or supplier receives a significant number of program benefits not available to nonparticipating physicians and suppliers. The information is needed to know to whom to provide these benefits.;

*Frequency:* Once, unless re-enrolled;

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit, and Individuals or Households;

*Number of Respondents:* 45,000;

*Total Annual Responses:* 45,000;

*Total Annual Hours:* 11,250.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to [Paperwork@hcfa.gov](mailto:Paperwork@hcfa.gov), or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: March 31, 1999.

**John P. Burke III,**

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.*

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BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Public Health Service

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority

Part C (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) of the Statement of Organization, Functions, and

Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services (45 FR 67772-76, dated October 14, 1980, and corrected at 45 FR 69296, October 20, 1980, as amended most recently at 64 FR 8396, dated February 19, 1999) is amended to reflect the restructuring of the Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics, Epidemiology Program Office (EPO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Section C-B, Organization and Functions, is hereby amended as follows:

Delete the functional statement for the *Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics (CB5)* and insert the following:

(1) Collects, performs analyses, and disseminates public health surveillance information; (2) manages and operates the National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance (NETSS), the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS), and the 121 Cities Mortality Reporting System; plans, coordinates, and produces tables, graphs, maps, and figures for the "Annual Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Summary of Notifiable Diseases, U.S." and produces MMWR tables from NNDSS; (3) coordinates, develops, implements, and supports CDC-wide public health information systems, including informational and communications applications, directly, as well as in collaboration with other Centers/Institute/Offices (CIOs); (4) develops improved surveillance and public health informatics methods; (5) provides consultation, technical assistance, and training on public health surveillance and health information systems to CDC and to other agencies and domestic and international organizations; (6) coordinates activities of the CDC Surveillance Coordination Group; (7) provides policy and staff support for CDC's Health Information and Surveillance Systems Board; (8) coordinates a CDC-wide initiative aimed at building State and local capacity to perform the core public health function of assessment and use of data for policy development and assurance; (9) provides program support for the development and administration of a CDC training effort in public health informatics; and (10) provides guidance and supervision to EIS Officers and Preventive Medicine Residents assigned to the Division.

Delete the functional statement for the *Office of the Director (CB51)* and insert the following:

(1) Provides leadership and overall direction for the Division; (2) provides

leadership and guidance on policy, program planning, program management, and operations; (3) establishes Division goals, objectives, and priorities; (4) monitors progress in implementation of projects and achievement of objectives; (5) provides management, administrative, and support services, and coordinates with appropriate EPO offices on program and administrative matters; (6) provides liaison with other CDC organizations, other governmental agencies, international organizations, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and other constituent groups and partners; (7) provides leadership and direction, in collaboration with other CIOs, in the planning and development of computer software for use in surveillance and epidemiology, including testing and revising computer programs; (8) disseminates software for use by public health professionals; (9) plans, allocates, and monitors resources; (10) provides scientific leadership and guidance to the Division to assure highest scientific quality and ethical standards; (11) serves as the Executive Secretariat for CDC's Health Information and Surveillance Systems Board; (12) provides policy support to the Board, including coordination of the activities of the Board's subcommittees and work groups; (13) provides technical assistance, consultation, and guidance to the Board, CDC programs, and constituents on issues related to public health surveillance and health information systems and the Internet; and (14) plans and coordinates the activities of the CDC Surveillance Coordination Group.

Delete in their entirety the title and functional statement for the *Public Health Information Systems Branch (CB53)* and insert the following:

*Applied Sciences Branch (CB54).* (1) Provides scientific and epidemiologic leadership and direction in public health surveillance and health information systems to CDC and to other agencies and domestic and international organizations; (2) researches and develops new and innovative approaches to the use of technology in surveillance activities; (3) provides guidelines for development, evaluation, and integration of NETSS and other CDC surveillance systems; (4) promotes the dissemination and use of surveillance data; (5) evaluates applicability of outside standards and standard vocabularies to CDC data needs; (6) provides guidance and supervision to EIS Officers, Preventive Medicine Residents, and Public Health Practice Specialists; (7) coordinates a CDC-wide initiative aimed at building

State and local capacity to perform the core public health function of assessment and use of data for policy development and assurance; (8) responsible for management and technical assistance of the Assessment Initiative Cooperative Agreement; (9) provides program support for the development and administration of a CDC training effort in public health informatics; (10) designs curriculum and experiences for the CDC Public Health Informatics Fellowship; and (11) recruits candidates and provides supervision and oversight for the CDC Public Health Informatics Fellows.

**Information Technology Branch (CB57).** (1) Coordinates, designs, develops, implements, and supports CDC-wide public health, epidemiologic, scientific, and laboratory information systems, including database, informational, and communications applications, in collaboration with other CDC organizations with subject matter expertise and responsibility; (2) collaborates with CDC organizations to jointly develop, test, and implement CDC-wide public health information systems; (3) participates in the development or implementation of CDC plans for public health information systems; (4) researches and develops new and innovative approaches to public health applications development and database design; (5) determines appropriate technology architecture and methodology for Branch-developed systems; (6) maintains inventories and data dictionaries of CDC's public health data; (7) develops and recommends approaches for public health systems and interfaces between various information technologies for sharing data and performing cooperative applications processing; (8) determines, in consultation with CDC organizations and the CDC Systems Security Officer, applicable database and applications security measures in accordance with sensitivity and criticality of the data or system; (9) directly, as well as in collaboration with other CIOs, evaluates and recommends CDC-wide equipment and software acquisition for public health database and communications systems; (10) coordinates the provision of technical support and training in the use of CDC-wide public health information systems purchased or developed by the Branch; and (11) coordinates public health information resource management user groups.

Delete in their entirety the title and functional statement for the *Systems Operation and Information Branch (CB59)* and insert the following:

**Surveillance Systems Branch (CB5A).**

(1) Provides support, technical

assistance, and training for new, developmental systems and software for use in surveillance and epidemiology; (2) directly, as well as in collaboration with other CIOs, provides support, technical assistance, consultation, and training on computerized surveillance system development, maintenance, and operation for CDC, States, and international organizations; (3) provides service and support in the expansion of the NETSS; (4) plans and coordinates State-supported activities related to the NETSS; (5) analyzes needs and designs computer systems for use by public health professionals in the effective practice of public health surveillance and epidemiology; (6) assures user support for programs developed and released by the Division; (7) operates and maintains the NETSS, the NNDSS, and the 121 Cities Mortality Reporting System; (8) provides service and support to other CDC programs and State and local health departments to enable program-specific surveillance information to be collected and disseminated through the NETSS; (9) provides support, technical assistance, consultation, and training on surveillance system development, maintenance, and operation for CDC, States, and international organizations; (10) provides leadership and direction in the development of mainframe systems for use in surveillance and epidemiology, directly, as well as in collaboration with other CIOs; (11) plans, coordinates, and produces tables, graphs, maps, and figures for the Annual MMWR Summary of Notifiable Diseases, U.S.; (12) produces MMWR tables from NNDSS; (13) plans, coordinates and develops training and educational materials for all surveillance systems; (14) provides guidance in the development, implementation, and analysis of electronic public health data to international, State, and local groups; and (15) creates, maintains, disseminates, and archives historical public health data in an electronic format.

Dated: April 1, 1999.

**Jeffrey P. Koplan,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-9043 Filed 4-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-18-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Availability of Giant Panda Research Reports

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of the availability of the Zoological Society of San Diego's Giant Panda Research Reports.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the Zoological Society of San Diego's (ZSSD) giant panda research reports. The Service issued a permit in 1995 to the ZSSD to import two giant pandas for scientific research. The ZSSD imported the pandas in September 1996. Their research is focused on investigations of the communication system of giant pandas, particularly olfaction. The ZSSD is required to submit an annual report summarizing their research results for each year. The Service is making the reports received to date available to help educate the public and to promote cooperation/collaboration in giant panda conservation efforts.

**DATES:** The Service will accept requests to obtain a copy of the research reports for 60 days after April 12, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your requests to obtain a copy of the research reports to the Chief, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. You may also send your request by fax at 703-358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Teiko Saito, Chief, Office of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2093 or fax (703) 358-2280, (see **ADDRESSES** section).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The giant panda is subject to strict protection by its listing as an endangered species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its inclusion in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Service is responsible for protecting pandas by regulating certain activities, including whether to grant permits to allow their movement into and within the United States. In making these decisions under the ESA, the Service must determine whether the proposed activity is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the giant panda and would be for scientific research that promotes conservation of the species or enhancement of propagation or survival. Under CITES, the Service must determine if the activity would be for