

of Silverdale State Bank, Silverdale, Washington.

Comments on this application must be received by March 17, 2000.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 22, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-4547 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 23, 2000.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. Apalachicola State Banking Corporation, Apalachicola, Florida; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Apalachicola State Bank, Apalachicola, Florida.

2. First Central Bancshares, Inc., Lenoir City, Tennessee; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of First Central Bank of Monroe County, Sweetwater, Tennessee, a *de novo* bank.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. Indiana United Bancorp and FAB Merger Corporation, both of Greensburg, Indiana; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of First Affiliated Bancorp, Inc., Watseka, Illinois, and thereby indirectly acquire Capstone Bank, N.A., Watseka, Illinois. In connection with this application, FAB Merger Corporation has applied to become a bank holding company.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 22, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-4548 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Public Meeting on the Effect of Credentialing of Technologists and Sonographers on the Quality of Ultrasound Tests

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: As a first step in arranging for the conduct of a Congressionally mandated study, this Notice announces a public meeting for the purpose of receiving oral and written information on the subject of the effect of the credentialing of technologists and sonographers on the quality of ultrasound tests measured in terms of error rates, related complications, and patient outcomes, particularly with respect to the Medicare and Medicaid populations.

DATES: The meeting will be on March 29, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality conference center, 6010 Executive Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacqueline Besteman, J.D., M.A., Center for Practice and Technology

Assessment, AHRQ, 6010 Executive Blvd., Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852; Phone: (301) 594-4017; Fax: (301) 594-4027; E-mail: jbestema@ahrq.gov.

Arrangements for the Public Meeting

Representatives of organizations and other individuals are invited to provide relevant written comments and information to AHRQ, and to make a brief (10 minutes or less) oral statement at the meeting. Individuals and representatives who would like to attend must register with Jacqueline Besteman, AHRQ, at the address above 2 weeks prior to the date of meeting. One copy of the written materials should also be submitted to Ms. Besteman. On the day of the meeting, presenters are requested to bring 25 copies of their written materials for distribution.

If sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations for a disability is needed, please contact Linda Reeves, Assistant Administrator for Equal Opportunity, AHRQ, on (301) 594-6662 no later than (insert at least 3 days before the meeting).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

On December 6, 1999, the former Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, was reauthorized and renamed the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) by P.L. 106-129, the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999. The legislation directed AHRQ to improve the quality of health care, promote patient safety and reduce medical errors through research, including research on the use of health care services and outcomes research.

Shortly before the Agency became AHRQ, section 229 of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (incorporated by reference in, and enacted by section 1000(a) of Public Law 106-113) directed that the Agency (then AHCPR) provide for a study of differences in quality between ultrasound services furnished by individuals who are credentialed and ultrasound services furnished by those who are not so credentialed. This study is to examine and evaluate differences in error rates, resulting complications, and patient outcomes and determine any quality differences that can be correlated with the differences in credentialing. In particular, the Congress indicated that findings should be made with respect to the provision of ultrasound under the Medicare and Medicaid programs under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act. In

designing the study, the Administrator is to consult with organizations nationally recognized for their expertise in ultrasound. A report on the study is to be sent to Congress within two years of the enactment of this statutory research mandate (approximately November 2001).

2. Purpose

AHRQ is holding this meeting to gather pertinent scientific information and professional views that would contribute to the conduct of this study of the effect of credentialing of technologists and sonographers on the quality of ultrasound services, and especially information with respect to such services provided under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, Titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act. AHRQ is interested in receiving information on the availability of relevant published literature, secondary data sources, and/or unpublished data, as well as information about other factors that may affect ultrasound results (for example, other quality assurance and control processes.)

3. Agenda

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue through 12:00 p.m. The Director of AHRQ's Center for Practice and Technology Assessment will chair the meeting. If more requests to make oral statements are received than can be accommodated at this meeting between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., the chair will allocate speaking time in a manner that attempts, to the extent possible, to have a range of information, findings and views presented orally. Those who cannot be granted speaking time because of time constraints are assured that their written comments will be considered along with other evidence during the course of the study.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

John M. Eisenberg,

Director, AHRQ.

[FR Doc. 00-4647 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-90-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation of the Administration for Children and Families; Notice Inviting Abstracts for Policy Research and Studies on Welfare Reform Outcomes for Fiscal Year 2000

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Announcement of the request for abstracts and the availability of funds for subsequent welfare reform policy research and studies.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) and the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) invite abstracts for policy research and studies related to welfare reform.

CLOSING DATE: The closing date for submitting abstracts under this announcement is March 29, 2000. Only abstracts, not full proposals, will be accepted under this announcement.

MAILING ADDRESS: Abstracts should be submitted to: Adrienne Little, Grants Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 405F, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington, DC 20201, Telephone: (202) 690-8794. Administrative questions will be accepted and responded to up to ten working days prior to closing date of receipt of abstracts.

The printed **Federal Register** notice is the only official program announcement. Any corrections to this announcement will be published in the **Federal Register** as well as published on the ASPE and ACF World Wide Web Pages. The web sites are <http://aspe.hhs.gov/funding.htm> and <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/frpa.htm> respectively. Although reasonable efforts are taken to assure that the files on the ASPE and ACF World Wide Web Pages containing electronic copies of this Program Announcement are accurate and complete, they are provided for

information only. The applicant bears sole responsibility to assure that the copy downloaded and/or printed from any other source is accurate and complete.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Administrative questions should be directed to the Grants Officer at the address or phone number listed above. Technical questions should be directed to Audrey Mirsky-Ashby, DHHS, ASPE, Telephone, 202-401-6640 or e-mail, amirsky@osaspe.dhhs.gov or Nancye Campbell, DHHS, ACF, 202-401-5760 or email, ncampbell@acf.dhhs.gov. Written technical questions may also be faxed to Audrey Mirsky-Ashby at 202-690-6562 or may be addressed to Ms. Audrey Mirsky-Ashby at the following address, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 404E, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington, DC 20201. Please call Ms. Audrey Mirsky-Ashby to confirm receipt. Technical questions will be accepted and responded to up to ten working days prior to the closing date of receipt of abstracts.

Part I. Supplementary Information

Legislative Authority

This announcement is authorized by Section 1110 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1310) and awards will be made from funds appropriated under the Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2000, as enacted by section 1000(a)(4) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106-113).

Eligible Applicants

Pursuant to section 1110 of the Social Security Act, any public organization, including state and local governments, and private nonprofit organizations, including universities and other institutions of higher education, may apply. Applications may also be submitted by private for-profit organizations. However, no grant funds may be paid as profit to grantees or subgrantees. *i.e.*, any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs of the recipient (45 CFR 74.81).

Available Funds

ASPE and ACF are engaging in a two-part process. The first part of the process will be the submission of six page research abstracts. After the abstracts are reviewed, a subset of the applicants who submitted abstracts will be invited by either ASPE or ACF to submit full applications. These will be reviewed competitively. Financial