Congressional and Administration Updates

Policy Update: White House Outlines Policies to Secure Domestic Supply Chain After 100-Day Review

The White House released its 100-day supply chain review report, which presents a roadmap of challenges, risks, and opportunities to strengthen domestic supply chains in key industries. This report represents a significant step in creating resilient and sustainable domestic supply chains. The Biden-Harris Administration will likely pursue policy recommendations made in this report as a part of future legislation for health, defense, energy, and commerce issues. Strengthening U.S. manufacturing and industry is a key part of the Administration’s “Build Back Better” campaign.

“The Department of Energy (DOE) notes that, today, China refines 60 percent of the world’s lithium and 80 percent of the world’s cobalt, two core inputs to high-capacity batteries—which presents a critical vulnerability to the future of the U.S. domestic auto industry.” (from the Executive Summary, page 7)

Mandated by President Biden’s February 25 Executive Order (EO) 14017, “America’s Supply Chains,” the review assesses risks and provides recommendations in four areas:

- Congressional and Administration Updates
- Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates
- Policy Update: White House Outlines Policies to Secure Domestic Supply Chain After 100-Day Review
- Funding Opportunity: ARL Releases BAA for Human-Guided Machine Learning Program
- Funding Opportunity: USDA Releases Solicitation for Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Program
- Agency Update: NIH Advisory Committee to the Director June 2021 Meeting
- Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunities June 17, 2021

Senate Democrats are preparing a fiscal year 2022 budget resolution, with up to $6 trillion in reconciliation spending over the next decade, which the Biden administration hopes will reflect the American Jobs and Families Plans released earlier this year. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) hopes to reach an agreement before the Fourth of July break so that floor debates can take place throughout the month of July. Negotiations are centered around the size of the package, with Republicans favoring a smaller price tag. Given tensions between the parties, Democrats may move forward without any Republican support which can be done with the majority in both chambers as long as moderate Democratic Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) agrees. Despite ongoing debate, parties were able to come together this week to officially designate Juneteenth as a Federal holiday which will be celebrated on June 19, although most federal workers, including Hill staff, observed the holiday today.

The University of Minnesota Washington Update provides intelligence and analysis on recent federal activities. Faculty visiting Washington, D.C. are encouraged to contact Sarah Neimeyer, Director of Government Relations, at neimeyer@umn.edu. Contact Christina Laridaen, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, at christina@lewis-burke.com with any questions or comments related to the Update’s content.
• **Semiconductors and Advanced Packaging**, led by the Department of Commerce (DOC).

• **Large Capacity Batteries**, including those used in electric vehicles, led by DOE.

• **Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements**, led by the Department of Defense (DOD), which will include an update on work conducted under President Trump’s September 20, 2020 EO 13953 “Addressing the Threat to the Domestic Supply Chain from Reliance on Critical Minerals from Foreign Adversaries and Supporting the Domestic Mining and Processing Industries.”

• **Pharmaceuticals and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients**, led by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

For each sector, the review examines the global supply chain, manufacturing processes, domestic manufacturing capability gaps, risks to national security, and recommendations to strengthen resiliency and “onshore” supply chains. The report’s troubling conclusions include a decline in domestic manufacturing capacity and the number of higher education programs offered for industrial base-related disciplines, such as mining.

> “Economists have estimated that about 25 percent of job losses can be attributed to the rise of China, particularly following its entrance into the World Trade Organization.” (page 10)

**Specific Recommendations**

1. Rebuild our production and innovation capabilities. New legislation may include the following:
   a. Provide dedicated funding for semiconductor manufacturing and R&D.
   b. Provide consumer rebates and tax incentives to spur consumer adoption of electric vehicles.
   c. Provide financing across the full battery supply chain.
   d. Establish a new Supply Chain Resilience Program at DOC.
   e. Deploy the Defense Production Act (DPA) to expand production capacity in critical industries.
   f. Invest in the development of next generation batteries.
   g. Invest in the development of new pharmaceutical manufacturing and processes.
   h. Work with industry and labor to create pathways to quality jobs through sector-based community college partnerships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training.
   i. Support small, medium, and disadvantaged businesses in critical supply chains.
   j. Examine the ability of the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) to use existing authorities to further support domestic manufacturing.

2. Develop domestic markets that invest in workers, value sustainability, and drive quality.
   a. Create 21st century standards for the extraction and processing of critical minerals.
   b. Identify potential U.S. production and processing locations for critical minerals.
   c. Improve transparency throughout the pharmaceuticals supply chain.

3. Leverage the government’s role as a purchaser of and investor in critical goods.
   a. Use federal procurement to strengthen U.S. supply chains.
   b. Strengthen domestic production requirements in federal grants for R&D.
   c. Reform and strengthen U.S. stockpiles.
   d. Ensure that new automotive battery production adheres to high labor standards.

4. Strengthen international trade rules, including trade enforcement mechanisms.
   a. Establish a trade strike force.
   b. Evaluate the need for a Section 232 investigation on imports of neodymium magnets.

5. Work with allies and partners to decrease vulnerabilities in the global supply chains.
   a. Expand multilateral diplomatic engagement, including hosting a Presidential Forum.
b. Leverage the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and other financing tools to support supply chain resilience.

6. Monitor supply chain disruptions as the economy reopens from the COVID-19 pandemic.
   a. Establish a Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force.
   b. Create a data hub to monitor near term supply chain vulnerabilities.

Key observations Lewis-Burke discovered in the recommendations include:

- Expand investments in STEM education and workforce development, as the key sectors covered require high-skilled labor, and workforce shortfalls were identified in each agency’s assessment. The report identified key mechanisms to achieve this such as:
  - The Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration’s (ETA) H1-B Skills Training Grants and Registered Apprenticeship programs;
  - Increasing employment-based visas and lifting per-country caps to attract global talent as proposed in President Biden’s U.S. Citizenship Act; and
  - Investing in research grants specifically to Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) that have a track record of closing racial gaps in STEM.
- Update manufacturing requirements in federal awards to ensure that taxpayer funding leads to products made in the United States.
- Reverse the defunding of higher mining and metallurgy education programs to produce new talent in manufacturing and keep pace with Chinese investments in its own workforce development.

The report also provides findings and recommendations specific to each industrial sector reviewed. Details that may shape the Administration’s future R&D priorities follow:

**Semiconductors**

- Fund efforts to support semiconductor manufacturing and R&D in the U.S., as proposed in the *Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act* and authorized in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- The *U.S. Innovation and Competition Act* (USICA), which was recently passed by the Senate, would provide $52 billion in mandatory spending for CHIPS, which would provide:
  - $39 billion over five years for DOC to establish incentives to “build, expand, or modernize commercial semiconductor fabrication, assembly, testing, advanced packaging, and R&D facilities.” This would be funded at $19 billion in FY 2022 and $5 billion each year through FY 2026. This would require applicants to secure commitments from institutions of higher education and other regional educational and training entities to provide workforce training including support for disadvantaged individuals.
  - $10.5 billion over five years ($5 billion in FY 2022) for R&D programs authorized at DOC. This includes funding a National Semiconductor Technology Center, microelectronics research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the creation of a new Manufacturing USA Institute focused on microelectronics.
  - $2 billion authorized for DOD R&D programs including a National Network for Microelectronics Research and Development.
High-Capacity Batteries:

- Increase support for National Labs R&D to reduce battery cell costs, strengthen performance, and reduce dependency on critical or scarce materials. This includes R&D for processes to profitably recycle and re-use materials from “spent” lithium batteries into the supply chain.
- Create a Manufacturing USA Institute for high-capacity batteries.

Critical Materials

- Develop sustainability standards for strategic and critical material industries.
- Fund R&D efforts authorized through the Energy Act of 2020, of which provisions were included in the Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, for demonstration and commercialization projects for critical materials.
  - The report noted current interagency R&D had been focused on early-stage research, but more efforts were needed to transition new technologies to the market.
  - The report recommended that DOE and DOD work to strengthen links between early-stage research, DPA Title III Grants, and other incentives such as the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.
- Conduct a joint study between DOE, the Department of Education (ED), a Federally Funded Research and Development Center, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the establishment of an integrated education and R&D center for strategic and critical materials development.

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API)

- Establish a Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing and Onshoring of Domestic Essential Medicines Production, using Title 7 of the DPA, led by HHS with support from other federal agencies and private companies to help companies build domestic drug production capabilities. HHS and the White House plan to host a summit on drug supply chain resilience to start this initiative.
- Invest in R&D for new manufacturing processes and technologies to support supply chain resilience. This includes support in commercialization through DOD’s Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III Office and HHS, as well as a creation of an HHS task force to work with domestic manufacturers and universities to study and implement novel manufacturing technologies.

The Administration is expected to produce additional reports, as the EO also calls for a one-year review of six broader U.S. sectors to include industrial bases and supply chains in:

- Defense
- Public health and biological preparedness
- Information and communications technology (ICT)
- Energy
- Transportation
- Agricultural commodities and food production

This review will examine factors such as manufacturing and R&D needs to retain U.S. leadership in the associated industries, gaps in education and manufacturing workforce skills, potential impacts from climate change, and more. The reviews will consult with outside stakeholders in academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, communities and local governments, unions, and other potential partners.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The 100-Day Review, entitled “Building Resilient Supply Chains, Revitalizing American Manufacturing, and Fostering Broad-Based Growth” can be found here.
President Biden’s February 24 EO on America’s Supply Chains can be found [here](#), and a fact sheet on the EO can be found [here](#).

**Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates**

**Funding Opportunity: ARL Releases BAA for Human-Guided Machine Learning Program**
The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) released a broad agency announcement (BAA) for the Human-Guided Machine Learning program. ARL is soliciting proposals that work to further develop the human-guided machine learning field through researching different concepts and approaches to help solve complex problems that have uncertain boundaries, and are believed to require perhaps unattainable amounts of data. The BAA focuses on giving graduate and post-doctoral students an opportunity to develop a further understanding of human and machine intelligence through research and mentoring. Applicants should submit proposals that leverage sharable research platforms to advance the field through community collaboration, provide collaborative research opportunities between academia and the Army, and identify student research projects that focus on issues highlighted in the five research thrusts below:

1. Novel forms of human-intelligent technology decision making;
2. Cybernetics;
3. Hybridized thinking between man and intelligent technology;
4. Human technological savvy;
5. Human-intelligent technology teaming assessment tools.

More details on each of the thrust’s specific goals and evaluation criteria for submissions can be found in the full BAA. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit and for-profit organizations, state and local governments, foreign organizations, and foreign public entities.

ARL expects to grant two to three awards ranging from $200,000-$400,000 per year for a period of performance of three to five years. Proposals are due no later than [June 25, 2021](#). The full BAA can be found on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) under funding opportunity number “W911NF-17-S-0003-SN-MACHINE-LEARNING” or [here](#).

**Funding Opportunity: USDA Releases Solicitation for Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Program**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Business-Cooperative Service agency released a solicitation for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) competitive grants program which was authorized through the 2018 Farm Bill. The RISE program aims to support job accelerator partnerships that foster high wage jobs and new businesses in distressed rural and energy communities, as well as leveraging and maximizing local assets, including broadband. The grant is designed to spark regional, innovation-driven economic development in rural communities, with an emphasis on areas where at least 20 percent of the population is living in poverty (based on U.S. Census Bureau data).

Projects may also create innovation centers and partnerships, such as integrating rural businesses into supply chains and providing workforce training. “Funds can be used to:

- Build or support a business incubator facility;
- Provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs;
- Train the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs; and
• Develop a base of skilled workers and improve their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries.”

**Due Date:** Applications are due **August 2, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST.**

**Pre-application Webinar:** A webinar is scheduled for **June 22, 2021 at 11:30 AM EST.**

**Eligibility:** Rural jobs accelerator partnerships with expertise in delivering economic and job training programs, consisting of non-profit entities, state entities, tribal entities, institutions of higher education, and public bodies.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** Up to $10 million is available for projects. The program anticipates granting awards ranging from $500,000 to $2,000,000 for projects of four years.

**Matching Requirements:** The matching funds requirement is 20 percent of the total eligible project costs.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

**Agency Update: NIH Advisory Committee to the Director June 2021 Meeting**
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) held a virtual meeting on June 10-11, 2021 to discuss programs and initiatives across NIH and hear updates from its various working groups. The most anticipated session at the meeting was a presentation from Dr. Eric Lander, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), on the proposed Advanced Projects Research Agency for Health (ARPA-H). In addition to discussions around ARPA-H, the ACD meeting provided updates on current progress of COVID-19 programs, NIH’s diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts through the UNITE Initiative, and the agency’s efforts to redress harassment in biomedical research. The ACD Working Group on Enhancing Rigor, Transparency, and Translatability in Animal Research presented their final report and recommendations, and staff from the new NIH Common Fund program Bridge to Artificial Intelligence (Bridge2AI) provided a summary of that program’s two open funding opportunities. The sections below summarize the conversations and expected impacts on the research community on these topics, among others.

**Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)**
ARPA-H, a new entity proposed by President Biden as part of his fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget request for NIH, would use disruptive innovation to “drive transformational health research and speed medical breakthroughs.” Dr. Collins opened his Director’s Report presentation by highlighting how many of the research successes seen over the past year in the fight against COVID-19 could be applied to other diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, and diabetes. He made it very clear that he sees the newly proposed ARPA-H as an initiative that could drive these medical breakthroughs at an accelerated speed. In his presentation, Dr. Lander described ARPA-H as a solution to address the critical gap between fundamental investigator-initiated research and the commercialization that is needed to deliver more cures and treatments to patients. In the Administration’s view, ARPA-H would have a culture distinct from the NIH and would encourage bold ideas, nimbleness, and the
ability to fail fast in order to enable a risk-taking culture. Of note, Dr. Lander indicated that equity should be considered in all aspects of the ARPA-H mission including some projects that are solely focused on addressing health equity. While many important details about ARPA-H’s scale, scope, and structure remain unclear, OSTP plans to organize stakeholder discussions to build support for the ARPA-H proposal and begin to address these outstanding questions.

**NIH COVID-19 Response**

As the nation begins to emerge from the pandemic, much of the ACD meeting was spent discussing the success and future directions of the agency’s COVID-19 research efforts. Due in large part to decades of fundamental research supported by NIH which led to the development of safe and effective vaccines, more than 50% of the nation is now fully vaccinated, and NIH leadership reiterated their commitment to addressing vaccine hesitancy as vaccination rates begin to slow. NIH remains focused on COVID-19 research through the many trans-NIH initiatives developed over the past year, and this meeting provided updates on COVID-19 related activities that have occurred since the December ACD meeting.

NIH leadership provided updates on the [Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV)](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/clinical-trials-and-orchestration/accelerating-covid-19-therapeutic-interventions-vaccines-activ) program, a public-private partnership to develop therapeutic treatments and vaccines for COVID-19, and the [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx)](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/clinical-trials-and-orchestration/rapid-acceleration-diagnostics-radx) initiative, which aims to expand and enhance testing for COVID-19. As the country begins to reopen, RADx is now focused on expanding diagnostics for testing populations that have yet to be vaccinated, such as children that fall below the vaccine eligibility age. In addition, NIH leadership provided updates on the [Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/clinical-trials-and-orchestration/community-engagement-alliance-ceal) Against COVID-19 Disparities program, which is working to address the disparate impact of COVID-19 in communities of color, and the Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV2 Infection (PASC) Initiative, which has been renamed to [Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER)](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/clinical-trials-and-orchestration/researching-covid-enhance-recovery-recover).

**Promoting an Inclusive and Safe Environment in Biomedical Research**

NIH leadership also provided updates on the agency’s efforts to promote a safe and inclusive biomedical research environment. Dr. Michael Lauer, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, provided an update on the progress towards implementing the ACD Working Group Recommendations on [Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/clinical-trials-and-orchestration/advancing-careers-scientific-workforce). Dr. Lauer highlighted new NIH guidelines to “enhance diversity and create safe environments at conferences supported by NIH grants” ([NOT-OD-21-053](https://www.od.nih.gov/news-events/not-od-21-053)) and a notice of special interest calling for the addition of “harassment as an area of interest to research to understand and inform interventions that promote research careers of individuals in the biomedical sciences” ([NOT-OD-21-068](https://www.od.nih.gov/news-events/not-od-21-068)). As the NIH works to implement these recommendations, the agency continues to monitor harassment cases reported from the extramural community; this year, there are plans to establish a hotline that can be used in addition to the existing web form and email address for the community to use to report harassment incidents to NIH.

Dr. Marie Bernard, NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, provided an update on the UNITE Initiative, the agency’s new suite of programs aimed at enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. The presentation featured progress reports from UNITE’s five working committees. NIH anticipates releasing several reports over the coming months, including a full analysis of the [request for information](https://www.od.nih.gov/news-events/not-od-21-068) issued for comments and suggestions to advance the UNITE Initiative, an analysis of intramural and extramural listening sessions, and a survey of diversity, equity, and inclusion activities at each NIH Institute and Center.
Enhancing Rigor, Transparency, and Translatability in Animal Research
The working group on Rigor, Transparency, and Translatability in Animal Research provided its final report at the ACD meeting. The main charge of this working group was to identify gaps and opportunities to improve rigor, reproducibility, translation, and transparency in animal model studies. The report provided recommendations that fell under five different themes:

- Improve study design and analytic rigor;
- Address bias, incomplete reporting, and questionable research practices;
- Improve relevance and use of animal model;
- Improve methodologic and results reporting; and
- Measure and evaluate effectiveness and costs.

The full list of recommendations and sub recommendations can be found in the final report. NIH leadership will now move towards prioritizing and implementing the recommendations presented by the working group.

Bridge to Artificial Intelligence Program
Lastly, Dr. Gene Civillico, program lead within the NIH Common Fund Office, provided an update on the Bridge2AI program. This program aims to promote the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in biomedical research. The overall goal of the program is to “generate flagship datasets and best practices for the collection and preparation of AI/ML-ready data to address biomedical and behavioral research grand challenges.” Dr. Civillico discussed the two solicitations that are currently available for this program (OTA-21-008 and RFA-RM-21-023), as well as the program’s future directions. He emphasized that a major goal of the initiative was the release and utility of data generated through Bridge2AI, and that a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives was a crucial component for all proposals. Virtual team building activities for Bridge2AI are ongoing throughout the summer.

The next meeting of the NIH ACD is currently scheduled for December 9-10, 2021.

Sources and Additional Information:
- The webcast of the ACD meeting and all the reports and associated slide presentations from the Working Groups are available at https://acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html.

Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunities June 17, 2021
Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

BACKGROUND: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requests nominations for the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MFAC) which is the only Federal advisory committee that advises the Secretary of Commerce on all matters pertaining to living marine resources. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary to assist in the development and implementation of Departmental regulations, policies, and programs critical to the mission and goals of NMFS. Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties involved with or representing interests affected by NMFS actions in managing living marine resources. Nominees should possess demonstrable expertise in a field related to the management of living marine resources and be able to fulfill the time commitments required for two annual meetings and year round subcommittee work. Individuals serve for a term of three years for no
more than two consecutive terms if re-appointed. NMFS is seeking qualified nominees to fill pending vacancies.

Membership is comprised of highly qualified, diverse individuals with experience in commercial, recreational, aquaculture, and subsistence fisheries; seafood industry, including processing, marketing, working waterfronts, and restaurants; marine, ecosystems, or protected resources management and conservation; and human dimensions or social sciences associated with living marine resources. Members may be associated with tribes and indigenous peoples, environmental organizations, academia, consumer groups, and other living marine resource interest groups from a balance of U.S. geographical regions, including the Western Pacific and Caribbean.

AUTHORITY: The MAFAC was approved by the Secretary on December 28, 1970, and subsequently chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, on February 17, 1971.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations must have an email date stamp on or before July 29, 2021.

Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

AGENCY: The Department of Veterans Affairs

BACKGROUND: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. The Committee provides a bi-annual report to the Secretary which includes:

1. An assessment of the needs of women Veterans with respect to compensation, health care, rehabilitation, outreach and other benefits and programs administered by VA;
2. A review of the programs and activities of VA designed to meet such needs; and
3. Proposing recommendations (including recommendations for administrative and legislative action) as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee reports to the Secretary, through the Director of the Center for Women Veterans.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations must be received by June 30, 2021, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee

AGENCY: The Department of Veterans Affairs

UMN Washington Update
Prepared by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 18, 2021
BACKGROUND: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee. The Committee advises the VA Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology.

The Committee's areas of interest include but are not limited to: (1) Assessing the capability of VA health care facilities to respond with the most effective and appropriate services possible to the medical, psychological and social needs of Veterans facing the consequences of aging, serious illness or disability; and (2) advancing scientific knowledge to meet those needs by enhancing geriatric care for older Veterans through geriatric and gerontology research, the training of health personnel in the provision of health care to older individuals, and the development of improved models of clinical services for older Veterans.

AUTHORITY: The Committee is authorized by statute, title 38 United States Code (U.S.C)§ 7315, and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations for membership must be received by 5:00 PM EST on June 30, 2021.

Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor Advisory Committee

AGENCY: The Department Veterans Affairs

BACKGROUND: The Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor Advisory Committee was established to advise the Secretary of VA on issues related to:

1. Veterans' families, caregivers and survivors across all generations, relationships and Veteran status;
2. The use of VA care, benefit and memorial services by Veterans' families, caregivers and survivors, and possible adjustments to such care, benefits and memorial services;
3. Veterans' family, caregiver and survivor experiences and VA policies, regulations and administrative requirements related to the transition of Service members from the Department of Defense (DoD) to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans' families, caregivers and survivors; and
4. Factors that influence access to, quality of and accountability for care, and benefits for Veterans' families, caregivers and survivors.

AUTHORITY: The Committee was established by the directive of the Secretary of VA, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations must be received by 5:00 on June 30, 2021.

Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration
BACKGROUND: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation (ACOT). ACOT provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of HHS on matters pertaining to organ donation, procurement, allocation, and transplantation; maximizing the number of deceased donor organs available for transplantation; supporting the safety of living organ donation proposed policies of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and OPTN operations; and the latest advances in the science of transplantation.

AUTHORITY: In accordance with 42 CFR 121.12, the Secretary established ACOT pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 217a. The Committee is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Advisory Council on Blood Stem Cell Transplantation

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration

BACKGROUND: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as members of the Advisory Council on Blood Stem Cell Transplantation (ACBSCT). ACBSCT shall advise the Secretary of HHS (Secretary), through the HRSA Administrator, on the activities of the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory Program (Program).

ACBSCT shall, as requested by the Secretary, discuss, and make recommendations regarding the Program. It shall provide a consolidated, comprehensive source of expert, unbiased analysis, and recommendations to the Secretary on the latest advances in the science of blood stem cell transplantation. ACBSCT shall advise, assist, consult, and make recommendations, at the request of the Secretary, on:

1. Broad Program policy in areas such as the necessary size and composition of the adult donor pool available through the Program and the composition of the National Cord Blood Inventory,
2. Requirements regarding informed consent for cord blood donation,
3. Accreditation requirements for cord blood banks,
4. The scientific factors that define a cord blood unit as high quality,
5. Public and professional education to encourage the ethical recruitment of genetically diverse donors and ethical donation practices,
6. Criteria for selecting the appropriate blood stem source for transplantation,
7. Program priorities;
8. Research priorities, and
9. The scope and design of the Stem Cell Therapeutic Outcomes Database.

AUTHORITY: The Council was established to implement a statutory requirement of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-129). The Council is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

UMN Washington Update
Prepared by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 18, 2021

APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis.