

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs; Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority

*Introduction.* Part A, Chapter AW, U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs (USOCA), of the Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services, as last amended at 59 FR 41763, August 15, 1994, is being amended to reflect a reorganization of USOCA. The reorganization will enable realignment of functions assigned to USOCA subunits, thus enabling more efficient management of staff and financial resources in the conduct of USOCA programs. The revised Chapter reads as follows:

*Section AW.00 Mission.* The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs executes the functions assigned by Executive Order 11583 of February 24, 1971 (as amended by Executive Order 11595 of May 26, 1971, and Executive Order 11702 of January 25, 1973) and Executive Order 11566 of October 26, 1970, advises the President on consumer affairs, and coordinates consumer functions in the Federal government. In accordance with Executive Order 12160 of September 26, 1979, the staff also provides assistance to the Chairperson of the Consumer Affairs Council.

*Section AW.10 Organization.* A. The Director of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs reports directly to the President and directs and coordinates the activities of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs.

B. The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs consists of the following components:

Office of the Director  
Division of Policy Development  
Division of Internal Operations  
Division of External Liaison

*Section AW.20 Functions.* A. U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs. (1) Works to ensure appropriate consideration of the consumer perspective in policy development at the White House and Federal agencies. The Director also coordinates Federal consumer policy through the Consumer Affairs Council, composed of all Federal agencies providing consumer programs, under authority of Executive Order 12160. (2) Produces consumer education materials and other documents. These publications advise individuals how to avoid market place problems and how to resolve questions or complaints if

they do arise. (3) Promotes cooperation between international, Federal, state, local, nonprofit, and private sector entities involved in the marketplace, emphasizing the need for ethical business practices, regulation and legislation where needed and appropriate, and voluntary efforts to promote consumer interests through education, dispute resolution and policy coordination. The Director chairs the delegation from the United States to the Committee on Consumer Policy of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, at which international marketplace principles are harmonized. (4) Promotes improved consumer skills through education programs which emphasize practical application of skills learned in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools, as well as public and private sector programs which target specific consumer issues to be addressed by media information campaigns, workshops, facts sheets and other publications. (5) Identifies, analyzes and focuses attention on needs, interests and marketplace problems of consumers by conducting surveys, conferences, and working groups, both independently and in conjunction with other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

*B. Office of the Director.* Directs and coordinates the activities of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs.

*C. Division of Policy Development.* Participates in the design and enactment of the President's consumer legislative program through preparation of congressional testimony and serving as Congressional liaison; prepares comments on proposed Federal regulations; and prepares, reviews, and makes presentations of materials to Federal department and agencies. Monitors ongoing programs and emerging issues in Federal agencies affecting consumers, with a view to determining the effectiveness of current and proposed programs. Maintains government relations on the international level involving state and local efforts. Researches, develops, and prepare "White Papers" on policy matters for the Director; and provides support for the Director in role as a member of the White House policy staff.

*D. Division of Internal Operations.* Responsible for USOCA relations with the media through distribution of internally produced educational materials, newsletters, articles, other consumer information and education materials, and programs for both print and electronic media. Responsible for administrative policy and procedures for USOCA in the areas of financial

management, procurement, personnel management, training, and record keeping.

*E. Division of External Liaison.* Serves as focal point for liaison with individual consumers and with national, state and local voluntary organizations which represent consumers and citizens. Maintains liaison with trade associations and industry as necessary. Encourages private industry to voluntarily develop self-regulatory programs and to adopt competitive policies and programs. Responsible for development and coordination of conferences and meetings on consumer matters.

*Section AW.30 Order of Succession.* In the absences or incapacity of the Director, the Division Director for Policy Development shall act as Director, USOCA.

*Section AW.40 Delegation of Authority.* The exercise of authority and duties of the Director, USOCA are set forth in the Executive Orders cited in Section AW.00, above. Authority is exercised under Executive Order 11583 through the staff of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs and under Executive Order 12160 through the Consumer Affairs Council comprised of representatives of Federal departments and agencies.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

#### National Advisory Council for Health Care Policy, Research, and Evaluation: Request for Nominations for Public Members

**AGENCY:** Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, HHS.

**ACTION:** Request for nominations for public members.

**SUMMARY:** 42 U.S.C. 299c, section 921 of the Public Health Service (PHS Act, as amended by section 6103(c) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, established a National Advisory Council for Health Care Policy, Research, and Evaluation (the Council). The Council is to advise the Secretary and the Administrator, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), on matters related to actions