

request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to 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: August 10, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 99-21556 Filed 8-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-838]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission For OMB Review; Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposal for the collection of information. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Medicare Credit Balance Reporting Requirements and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 413.20, 405.371 and 405.378.

Form No.: HCFA-838 (OMB# 0938-0600).

Use: Section 1866(a)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act requires health care providers participating in the Medicare program, to make adequate provisions to refund any monies incorrectly paid by Medicare. This collection of credit balance information is needed to ensure that the millions of dollars in improper program payments are collected. Approximately 47,600 health care providers will be required to submit a quarterly credit balance report that identifies the amount of improper payments they receive that are due to Medicare. The intermediaries will monitor the reports to ensure these funds are collected.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions, and Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 47,600.

Total Annual Responses: 190,400.

Total Annual Hours: 1,142,400.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement 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 and phone number, to 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 30 days of this notice directly to the OMB Desk Officer designated at the following address: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: August 5, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 99-21555 Filed 8-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Call for Public Comment: Changing the Conversation—A National Plan to Improve Substance Abuse Treatment

AGENCY: Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, DHHS.

ACTION: Request for public comment on five issues (domains) of concern to the substance abuse treatment field when assessing substance abuse treatment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) is formally inviting public comment on five issues (domains) that are of concern to the substance abuse treatment field and require development and exploration. Via several mechanisms, including public hearings, CSAT intends that findings from the exploration of individual domains will ultimately be synthesized into a coherent national strategy to guide substance abuse treatment program and policy development for the future. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to comment in one of several ways: (1) in writing, by submission through the U.S. Mail or courier service; (2) via the National Treatment Plan web site (<http://www.NaTxPlan.org>); or (3) in person at one of the remaining four public hearings scheduled at locations across the country. The final cutoff date for comments is December 1, 1999. This notice discusses the public hearings at which interested individuals/organizations may testify regarding the five substance abuse treatment domains discussed below.

DATES/LOCATIONS: In addition to the public hearing held on July 8 in Hartford, Connecticut, CSAT plans to conduct four more public hearings in 1999—September 16 in Chicago, Illinois; October in Portland, Oregon, and Washington, DC; and November in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida. The next hearing will be held at Loyola University, Water Tower Campus, Marquette Center (2nd Floor), Georgetown Room, Corner of Rush and Pearson Streets, Chicago, Illinois 60611, on September 16, 1999, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Specific details regarding subsequent hearings will be published in the **Federal Register** approximately one month prior to each hearing.

Requests to testify at the Chicago, Illinois, public hearing must be submitted to the addressee indicated below by September 9, 1999. Seating is limited. In the event that interpretive services for the hearing-impaired are required, please indicate these special needs to the addressee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information regarding the hearing and/or testimonies, as well as requests to testify must be addressed to: Peggy Cockrill,

[Tele: (301) 443-7024; e-mail: pcockril@samhsa.gov; Fax: (301) 480-6077], Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, Rockwall II Building, Suite 618, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Written comments (without a request to personally testify) will also be accepted by the above addressee. Written testimonies are limited to five (5) typed pages using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point font.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Building on recent advances and studies, CSAT has initiated plans to focus on how to apply its extensive knowledge to the practical objective of improving treatment outcomes. The plans include synthesizing current knowledge and recommendations about treatment, service systems, application of best practices, diffusion methods, and organization and financing of substance abuse treatment services. Federal Government and outside experts, as well as the interested public, will explore the current state of the knowledge, resources, needs, and service and organizational capacity. The objective is the culling of priorities for action by the government and by others in the substance abuse treatment field. As noted above, CSAT is inviting the public to comment on five domains as part of the initial step of the plan. The domains, as well as some initial questions for exploration, include:

(1) Closing the Treatment Gap: Where are the gaps? How big are they for different populations? For different types of settings and treatment modalities? How big are gaps in other related systems of care, e.g., welfare, child welfare, housing? What are the policy, organization, and financing issues that must be addressed in the private and public systems, including Medicaid and Medicare, to close the treatment gap?

(2) Reducing Stigma and Changing Attitudes: What are the nature, causes and consequences of addiction stigma? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families do to address stigma related to addiction, substance abuse treatment and individuals with substance abuse disorders? How do other stigmas impact/compound the stigma of addiction?

(3) Improving and Strengthening Treatment Systems: What are the clinical and organizational challenges facing treatment organizations in the public and private sectors? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families do to improve and strengthen treatment organizations so

that they can adapt to the new imperatives of the changing treatment system, and to improve the relationship between the general health care system and the specialty substance abuse treatment system? What should be done at the State, county and/or local levels to improve and strengthen substance abuse treatment?

(4) Connecting Services and Research: What are the best methods by which CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families can foster and support evaluation of proven research findings in community-based settings and identification and adoption of best practices?

(5) Addressing Workforce Issues: What are the issues facing clinicians treating addictions? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families, and professional associations do to foster training, appropriate credentialing, and licensure in all settings in which treatment occurs, and to support treatment organizations in developing appropriate policies for clinical training?

Hearing Format

The hearings will be divided into five segments (i.e., the five domains described above) of approximately 45-60 minutes each. Each individual/organization participant will be limited to three (3) minutes of oral testimony and five (5) pages of typed testimony per domain. All oral testimonies must be accompanied by a written testimony of no more than five (5) typed pages using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point font. Five copies of written testimonies may either be submitted before the hearing to the addressee listed above or to the registrar at the hearing. As the hearing schedule allows, unscheduled testimonies will be accommodated. All testimonies (recorded and written) will become a part of the public domain.

Dated: August 12, 1999.

Richard Kopanda,

Executive Officer, SAMHSA.

[FR Doc. 99-21475 Filed 8-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4162-20-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*):

PRT-016026

Applicant: John T. Hughes, Muskegon, MI

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-016089

Applicant: Morgan Wynne, Anchorage, AK

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-016149

Applicant: Wilson Seay Stout, Dallas, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-016158

Applicant: International Animal Exchange, Ferndale, MI

The applicant requests a permit to export 1.0 captive born black leopard (*Panthera pardus*) to Baijing Badaling Wild Animal World, Beijing, China, for the purposes of public display, education and captive breeding.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT-016090

Applicant: Harry Koch, Heath, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are