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August 6, 2014

Charlie Rothwell  
National Center for Health Statistics  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Dear Mr. Rothwell:

As part of an on-going program review process, the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) commissioned a panel to review the Office of Analysis and Epidemiology (OAE) and to report its findings to the BSC. The enclosed report summarizes the review process; describes the current programs and activities of OAE, accomplishments and contributions, examines the issues and challenges facing OAE; and presents a series of recommendations. Donald Steinwachs, Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University chaired the panel. Additional panel members are listed in Attachment 1 of the report. The BSC commends Dr. Steinwachs and his fellow panel members for their conscientious review, and forwards the report and recommendations to you for action.

The report includes a series of recommendations designed to assist the program in meeting the challenges to its present operations and the potential for its future goals. The BSC review comes at a good time. The OAE Director Irma Arispe is relatively new to the job and seeking guidance for the future development and directions for programs. The Panel concluded that OAE is well situated to play an active role in shaping NCHS's research and analysis agenda.

In addition to the recommendations presented in the Panel's report, members of the BSC raised the point that developing a vision and strategic plan for OAE cannot be done in isolation: planning must be in sync between data divisions and with NCHS overall. Broad priorities for the Center must be clarified.

The Board of Scientific Counselors transmits the work of the panel and hopes that you will take the panel's full set of recommendations into consideration.



2 – Charlie Rothwell

On behalf of the Board of Scientific Counselors, we respectfully submit the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

/s/

Raynard S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chair, NCHS Board of Scientific Counselors

Enclosures