

The logo for the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) features the acronym "NCVHS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a purple rectangular background.

The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
The Public Advisory Body to the Secretary of Health and Human Services



National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)

An Update to the NCHS Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC)

September 14, 2012



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™

Marjorie S. Greenberg, M.A., NCHS
Executive Secretary, NCVHS



The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics

- The statutory public advisory body to the Secretary of Health and Human Services in the areas of health data, statistics and health information policy
 - Established in 1949, in legislation in 1974
 - 18 members (2 appointed by the Congress)
 - NCHS serves as Executive Secretariat
- Serves as a Forum for interaction with interested public and private sector groups on a variety of health data issues





NCVHS Organization

- Chair – Dr. Justine Carr, Steward Health Care System
- Subcommittee Structure:
 - Standards
 - Population Health
 - Privacy, Confidentiality and Security
 - Quality
 - Executive Subcommittee (Chair and co-chairs of subcommittees)
- www.ncvhs.hhs.gov





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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- Quality Subcommittee held hearing on February 28-29, resulting in letter on “Immediate steps to improve support for Consumers’ Health-Decision Making” (June 2012)
 - Made key recommendations to assist consumers in making value-based health care decisions
 - Suggests that emerging Health Information Exchanges present an immediate opportunity to apply recommendations



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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- Population Health Subcommittee held hearing on March 8-9, 2012 on “Minimum Data Standards for the Measurement of Socioeconomic Status (SES) in Federal Health Surveys”
 - Received testimony from federal agencies and researchers and data users
 - Letter (June 2012) recommended that HHS undertake additional efforts in exploring the gaps in data collection and analysis for the measurement of SES on health surveys to improve population health and the efforts to reduce health disparities



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Activities since last BSC Meeting (Letter on SES Measurement)

- Confirmed following key components of SES as necessary for measurement
 - Education (single years, high school diploma, degree attainment)
 - Income (for individual, entire family and household, earned and unearned from specific sources)
 - Occupation and Industry (minimum of two standardized questions)
 - Family Size and Relationships (for poverty statistics)



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Activities since last BSC Meeting (Letter on SES Measurement)

- NCVHS Letter presented to HHS Data Council
- Data Council previously made recommendations for five demographic data standards in surveys:
 - Race, ethnicity, primary language, sex and disability status
- Data Council is now exploring applicability of those standards to administrative data
 - Will complete this inquiry before turning to data standards for SES in surveys



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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- Standards Subcommittee prepared five letters on HIPAA standards and ACA operating rules and standards, which were submitted to Secretary
- NCVHS wrote Secretary in March 2012 urging that implementation of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS be delayed no more than one year
 - Department published final rule in August, delaying implementation from October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2014



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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- Subcommittee on Privacy, Confidentiality and Security held hearing in April 2012 on “Next Steps for Community Data Use”
 - Follow-up to NCVHS 2011 report on “The Community as a Learning Health System: Using Local Data to Improve Local Health”
 - 2011 report had identified the need for guidance to communities on a privacy and security framework
 - Subcommittee is developing a “Stewardship Framework” for uses of health data by communities that are outside the protections of HIPAA



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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- In June 2012, established new Working Group on HHS Data Access and Use
 - Supported by HHS Office of Chief Technology Officer
 - Will assist and advise HHS on recommendations to promote and expand access to and innovative uses and applications of HHS data to improve health and health care
 - Five NCVHS members and nine external experts
 - Recommendations will be made through NCVHS



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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- Executive Subcommittee held a strategic planning “retreat” on August 9
 - Identified Guiding Principles for prioritizing NCVHS projects
 - Proposed three major themes for NCVHS work:
 - **Empowering Communities (including individuals and families) to improve their health**
 - **Standards**
 - **Unifying framework and vision for convergence within U.S. health data infrastructure**



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Activities since last BSC Meeting

- NCVHS will meet September 20 – 21, 2012
 - Will receive departmental updates
 - Will consider letters from Privacy Subcommittee (Stewardship Framework) and Standards Subcommittee (Code sets, Operating Rules and Administrative Simplification)
 - Will discuss recommendations from Executive Subcommittee retreat
 - Will receive presentation on “De-identification for Open Health Data”
 - Working Group will hold half-day meeting



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Conclusion

- NCVHS and BSC have many areas of common interest
 - Population Health Data
 - Standards for population health data
 - Privacy and confidentiality
 - Data access and Use
- Traditionally, each group has had a liaison to the other
 - Dr. Len Nichols, GMU, has been asked to serve as NCVHS Liaison to BSC