

**Office of Analysis and
Epidemiology Review Panel**

**Report to the
NCHS Board of
Scientific Counselors**

May 12, 2014

OAE Review Panel

- **Panel Members:**
 - James Curran, Emory Univ.
 - Marsha Gold, Mathematica
 - Meg Johantgen, Univ of Maryland
 - Ernest Moy, AHRQ, DHHS
 - Donald Steinwachs, Chair, JHU
- **BSC Liaisons:**
 - Linette Scott
 - David Takeuchi

Review Process

- Panel received advance information
- Conference calls established approach and request for more information
- Panel held on-site meeting March 4-5
 - Presentations by OAE, NCHS and HHS staff
 - Staff available for questions and discussion
- Draft report prepared, circulated and revised; final report presented to BSC

Panel Reviewed

- OAE functions and organization
- OAE accomplishments and products
- Challenges and issues facing OAE

OAE Functions and Organization

- OAE conducts research to
 - Develop population health measures
 - Examine analytical and methodological questions
 - Address health, health policy and health care delivery issues
- OAE initiates, develops, maintains, and disseminates cross cutting analysis and analytic tools
- 75 FTE's
- Organized into Office of the Director and 5 branches

Accomplishments and Products

- *Health, United States*, a congressionally mandated, annual report on trends in health.
- Analysis and statistical expertise for *HealthyPeople 2020*, an HHS initiative to guide national health promotion and disease prevention.



Accomplishments and Products

- Health Indicators Warehouse



- Health Data Interactive



- Compressed Mortality File for WONDER
- Urban/rural classification system
- Bridged race population estimates
- Collaborative analytical and methodological research for policy and programmatic purposes

Accomplishments and Products



- OAE manages program to link vital statistics and survey data to administrative data
 - Linked data enable broader analyses of factors that influence health and health outcomes.
 - Linked data are accessed through public use files and RDC
- OAE conducts research on linkage methods, analytic methods, and on health and health policy issues.

Challenges and Issues

- Lack of overall strategic plan
 - to prioritize activities
 - adopt long-term approach
- Finite number of staff members; unlikely to gain many more; little HR support
- Limited discretionary spending
- Need to assess organizational structure
- Changing health and health care landscape--ACA and more

Strengths and Opportunities

- Strong, new leadership in OAE and NCHS
- Expert, interdisciplinary staff
- Productive history of achievements
- Mandate for leadership in research and analysis
- Reputation for high-quality work

Recommendations

Develop a comprehensive, overall strategic vision and on-going strategic planning process

- to define program goals and directions, establish priorities, and allocate resources
- determine role of OAE with NCHS, CDC, DHHS and broad research and policy community
- consider a staff retreat to develop vision and involve staff

Recommendations

Conduct systematic evaluation and capture user data and feedback

- gather information on how and how often all OAE products are used
- evaluate program based on user feedback
- integrate user feedback into planning process
- use existing sources of user information
- conduct environmental scan
- consider independent evaluations

Recommendations

Establish priorities and align resources

- assess value of all on-going programs and activities, consider eliminating, combining, changing scope or repositioning
- expand work in health care research, work with new partners and seek innovative approaches
- provide unique expertise to analysis of small-area data
- offer leadership in understanding data from surveys, clinical records and administrative files
- apply OAE analytical perspective to dual-eligible population (Medicare and Medicaid)

More Recommendations

Establish or formalize new partnerships and cooperative ventures

- Build stronger link to government agencies that collect and analyze health and health services data
- Expand partnerships with educational programs to share expertise
- Investigate partnerships which might bring new resources
- Seek opportunities for more collaborative work within NCHS

More Recommendations

Support and enhance staff development and deployment

- Align and organize staff with strategic vision and program goals; involve staff in planning
- Identify opportunities for staff to pursue independent research and maintain involvement with research community
- Explore opportunities for staff enrichment — training, reverse sabbaticals, career ladders
- Seek opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary research

More Recommendations

Define and improve data dissemination

- Ensure that OAE identification is on all products to:
 - gain recognition and visibility
 - encourage user feedback
 - foster collaboration
- Use vision and planning process to decide what products and services to continue and to initiate

More Recommendations

Determine data linkage needs and opportunities

Expanding potential for data linkage with changes in health care system and understanding of disease process

- Assess value and utility of current data linkage projects
- Evaluate future data linkage projects for impact and benefits to OAE, NCHS and health research community

Conclusion

OAE has an important role at NCHS and in the broader health data arena

- Many past and current accomplishments
- Future potential will be enhanced with a thoughtful user-informed strategic plan