

the status of the SURS system, its capabilities, and how it will feed into the state's broader program integrity efforts and lead generating activities.

- *Managed Care Oversight:* Please include information as to how the state plans to enhance oversight of its managed care plans (MCPs). This includes relevant state-MCP contract language (including any barriers within existing contract language that need to be addressed), the state's ability to conduct data analytics on managed care claims and spending, processes for and evaluations of referring potential fraud from the MCP to the state/law enforcement (including implementation of payment suspensions), and recovery of identified overpayments, among any other issues identified by the state.

#### **Focused Financial Reviews of Expenditures on the CMS-64**

Given the severity and persistence of these deficiencies, CMS must take additional steps to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program and federal taxpayer dollars. Pursuant to section 1903 of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations in 42 CFR 430 Subpart C, CMS has the authority to conduct reviews of state expenditures reported on the quarter Form CMS-64. Accordingly, CMS intends to immediately initiate a focused CMS-64 review of all fourteen high-risk services self-identified by the state starting with the most recently certified CMS-64 (Quarter Four of Federal Fiscal Year 2025). As necessary, CMS intends to issue deferral or disallowance of any FFP claimed by the state that does not meet applicable federal requirements.

#### **Determination of Non-Compliance and FFP Withholding**

The CMS has concluded that the Minnesota Medicaid agency is operating its program in substantial noncompliance with federal requirements described in sections 1902(a)(64) of the Act, generally requiring the State to ensure sufficient controls to prevent, detect, and address fraud, waste, and abuse.

Subject to the state's opportunity for a hearing, CMS will withhold a portion of FFP from the Minnesota Medicaid quarterly claim of expenditures on the Form CMS-64 until such time as the Minnesota Medicaid agency is, and continues to be, in compliance with the federal requirements. The quarterly withholding will be calculated based on the federal share for one quarter's amount of the previous calendar year's annual total paid expenditures for the fourteen high-risk services, estimated as \$515,154,947.56, or an alternative

substantiated amount per quarter based on evidence provided by the state to the Administrator or his designee of an accurate amount of fraudulent expenditures. This amount may increase based on additional findings of fraud or insufficient progress towards mitigating fraud—until Minnesota demonstrates full and sustained compliance with federal Medicaid requirements. The withholding will end when the Minnesota Medicaid agency fully and satisfactorily implements a comprehensive CAP that addresses FWA in the 14 high-risk service areas to bring the program into compliance with the federal requirements.

#### **Opportunity To Request a Hearing**

The State has 10 days from the date of this letter to request a hearing. If a request for hearing is submitted timely, the hearing will be convened by the designated hearing officer below, 30 days after the date of the **Federal Register** notice, at the CMS Regional Office in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the procedures set forth in federal regulations at 42 CFR part 430, subpart D. The Hearing Officer also should be notified if the Minnesota Medicaid agency requests a hearing but cannot meet the timeframe expressed in this notice. The Hearing Officer designated for this matter is:

Ben Cohen, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7111 Security Blvd., Suite B1-15-15, Baltimore, MD 21244

At issue in any such hearing will be:

a. Whether the evidence establishes that Minnesota has failed to substantially comply with the federal requirements described in section 1902(a)(64) of the Social Security Act and the federal regulations implementing those provisions.

b. Whether Minnesota's failure to substantially comply with those federal requirements supports the partial withholding of FFP imposed by CMS.

If the Minnesota Medicaid agency plans to come into compliance with the federal requirements, the Minnesota Medicaid agency should submit, by January 30, 2026 a revised comprehensive CAP including the timeframe for implementation and any performance or quality metrics the state will use to evaluate effectiveness of the actions.

CMS will continue to exercise strong oversight of State actions to address these issues. CMS will review and negotiate the terms of an acceptable corrective action plan and will monitor progress closely. Our goal is to have the Minnesota Medicaid agency come into

compliance, and CMS continues to be available to provide technical assistance to help achieve this outcome.

Should you not request a hearing within 5 days of this letter, the withholding of funds will be imposed, contingent on the State's progress toward compliance as discussed above.

Please provide any response or questions regarding this matter to [Kimberly.Brandt@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt@cms.hhs.gov).

Mehmet Oz, M.D.

*Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

Cc: John Connolly,  
*Minnesota Medicaid Director*

Dan Brillman,

*Director, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

Kimberly Brandt,

*Acting Director, Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

Dated: January 6, 2026.

Mehmet C. Oz, M.D.

*Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Mehmet Oz, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Evell J. Barco Holland, who is the Federal Register Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**Evell J. Barco Holland,**

*Federal Register Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

[FR Doc. 2026-00512 Filed 1-9-26; 4:15 pm]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **National Institutes of Health**

#### **Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings**

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Psychopathology, Addictions and Sleep Disorders.

*Date:* February 5, 2026.

*Time:* 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Todd Everett White, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-3962, [todd.white@nih.gov](mailto:todd.white@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Small Business: Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

*Date:* February 13, 2026.

*Time:* 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Ryan G. Morris, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, Md 20892, 301-594-4721, [ryan.morris@nih.gov](mailto:ryan.morris@nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 9, 2026.

**Bruce A. George,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2026-00547 Filed 1-13-26; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of meetings of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

The meetings will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual intramural programs and projects conducted by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, and the

competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

*Date:* February 3, 2026.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate personnel qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

*Address:* Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35A, 35 Convent Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Caren Collins, Program Specialist, Division of Intramural Research, NINDS, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Name of Committee:* Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

*Date:* February 9-10, 2026.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate personnel qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

*Address:* Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35A, 35 Convent Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Caren Collins, Program Specialist, Division of Intramural Research, NINDS, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

Dated: January 9, 2026.

**Bruce A. George,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2026-00549 Filed 1-13-26; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Human Genome Research Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Human Genome Research Institute.

The meeting will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual intramural programs and projects conducted by the National Human Genome Research Institute, including consideration of

personnel qualifications and performance, and the competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Board of Scientific Counselors, National Human Genome Research Institute.

*Date:* February 17, 2026.

*Time:* 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate personnel qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

*Address:* National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, 50 Center Drive, Room 5537, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Video Assisted Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Shawn M. Burgess, Ph.D., Head, Developmental Genomics Section, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, 50 South Drive, Room 5537, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-8224, [burgess@mail.nih.gov](mailto:burgess@mail.nih.gov).

Dated: January 9, 2026.

**Bruce A. George,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Council of Councils.

The meeting will be held as a virtual meeting and is open to the public as indicated below. Individuals who plan to view the virtual meeting and need special assistance or other reasonable accommodations, to view the meeting should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting. The open session will be videocast and can be accessed from the NIH Videocasting website <http://videocast.nih.gov/>.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Council of Councils.