

pandemic is over. Therefore, OCR repudiates this guidance effective immediately under Executive Order 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, and covered entities should not rely on it.

Deregulation Item 4: Letter Rescinding a Notice of Violation Letter Concerning California's Violation of the Weldon Amendment Conscience Protection

OCR disavows legal positions stated in an August 2021 letter⁷ that OCR sent to the Attorney General of California, which withdrew a January 24, 2020 Notice of Violation letter issued to the Attorney General of California. The January 2020 Notice of Violation stated that the State of California violated the Weldon Amendment by mandating insurance coverage of abortion. The Weldon Amendment is a provision in the annual Department of Labor, Health and Human Services Act appropriations statute that restricts funds under the act to a federal agency or program, or to a state or local government, if it "subjects any institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions." The Weldon Amendment defines "health care entity" to include "a health maintenance organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care . . . plan."

The January 2020 Notice of Violation stated that California violated the Weldon Amendment by discriminating against health care plans that limited or excluded abortion coverage. OCR's August 2021 withdrawal letter determined that the finding of a violation could not be sustained because (1) health plan sponsors or employers, including the complainants, do not meet the definition of "health care entity" under the Weldon Amendment; (2) the relevant health insurers that were subject to the California mandate are protected "health care entities" under the Weldon Amendment, but they did not object to amending their plans to provide abortion coverage or claim they had been subject to discrimination under the Weldon Amendment; and (3) the complainants did not otherwise file their complaints on behalf of an entity that would have met the definition of a "health care entity" under the Weldon Amendment. OCR disavows these legal positions stated in OCR's 2021 withdrawal letter, which do not represent the views of the Department

or this Administration. Covered entities should not rely on this letter.

III. Collection of Information Requirements

This Notice creates no legal obligations and no legal rights. Because this Notice imposes no information collection requirements, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 21, 2026.

Paula M. Stannard,

Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 2026-01434 Filed 1-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4153-01-P

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; PAR Panel: Clinical Care and Interventions for Substance Use Disorder, Prevention, and Treatment of Addiction.

Date: February 25–26, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 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: Cristina Lyn Reitz-Krueger, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-480-2060, cristina.reitz-krueger@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Surgical Sciences, Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Integrated Review Group; Emerging Imaging Technologies and Applications Study Section.

Date: February 27, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 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: Zheng Li, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-3385, zheng.li3@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Transition to Independence.

Date: March 5, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 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: Delia Tang, MD, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 240-479-8238, tangd@mail.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; U2C-TL1 Institutional Network Applications for Promoting Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Research Training.

Date: March 11, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 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: Jason D. Hoffert, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-496-9010, jason.hoffert@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Interdisciplinary Molecular Sciences and Training Integrated Review Group; Cellular and Molecular Technologies Study Section.

Date: March 11–12, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 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: Tatiana V. Cohen, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-455-2364, tatiana.cohen@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR Panel: Exploratory Research in Cancer Prevention and Therapeutics (R21).

Date: March 11, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

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

⁷ <https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/conscience-protections/ca-letter/index.html>.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Jun Fang, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-0000, jfang@mail.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Vascular and Hematology Integrated Review Group; Atherosclerosis and Vascular Inflammation Study Section.

Date: March 12, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 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: Natalia Komissarova, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5207, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-1206, komissar@mail.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Immunology-Oncology.

Date: March 13, 2026.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 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: Jing Chen, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-5000, chenjing@mail.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 21, 2026.

Bruce A. George,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026-01412 Filed 1-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; 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 National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council.

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: National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council.

Date: March 11, 2026.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EDT.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, NIDDK, Democracy II, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

Contact Person: Karl F. Malik, Ph.D., Director Division of Extramural Activities, National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, MSC 5452, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-4757, malikk@nidddk.nih.gov.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <https://www.nidddk.nih.gov/about-nidddk/advisory-coordinating-committees/national-diabetes-digestive-kidney-diseases-advisory-council>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.847, Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Research; 93.848, Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Research; 93.849, Kidney Diseases, Urology and Hematology Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 22, 2026.

Margaret N. Vardanian,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026-01417 Filed 1-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Fogarty International Center; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the Fogarty International Center Advisory Board, February 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to February 10, 2026, 5:00 p.m., Fogarty International Center National Institutes of Health, Lawton Chiles International House (Stone House), Bethesda, MD 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on October 1, 2025, FR Doc. No. 2025-19110, 90 FR 47314.

This notice is being amended to change the meeting date from February 9-10, 2026 to March 26-27, 2026. The meeting is partially closed to the public.

Dated: January 20, 2026.

Margaret N. Vardanian,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026-01418 Filed 1-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, 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 and Podcasting website at <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/advisory-and-peer-review-committees/advisory-council>.

Name of Committee: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council.

Date: October 29, 2026.

Open: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Agenda: To Discuss Program Policies and Issues.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Claude D. Pepper Building, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20894.

Meeting Format: In-Person.

Contact Person: Charisee Lamar, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.R.T., Director, Division of Extramural Research Activities, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Room 206-Q, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-827-5517, lamarc@mail.nih.gov.

Registration is not required to attend the open portion of this meeting.

Any member of the public interested in presenting oral comments to the committee may notify the Contact Person listed on this notice at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Interested individuals and representatives of an organization may submit a letter of intent, a brief description of the organization represented and a short description of the oral presentation. Only one representative of an organization may be allowed to present oral comments and presentations may be limited to five minutes. Both printed and electronic copies are requested for the record. In addition, 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