

GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

[Docket No: 112102019–1111–01]

Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board Membership

AGENCY: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (GCERC).

ACTION: Notice of Performance Review Board (PRB) appointments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Review Board. The PRB is comprised of a Chairperson and a mix of state representatives and career senior executives that meet annually to review and evaluate performance appraisal documents and provide a written recommendation to the Chairperson of the Council for final approval of each executive's performance rating, performance-based pay adjustment, and performance award.

DATES: The board membership is applicable beginning on 12/01/2019 and ending on 11/30/2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary C. Pleffner, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Assistance, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, telephone 813–394–2185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), the persons named below have been selected to serve on the PRB:

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, Scaggs, Benjamin, Executive Director, Ben.scaggs@restorethegulf.gov, (228) 679–5900
Environmental Protection Agency, Banister, Beverly, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 4, Banister.Beverly@epa.gov, (404) 562–8357

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Montanio, Patricia A., Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service, pat.montanio@noaa.gov, (301) 775–9080

State of Alabama, Blankenship, Christopher, Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, chris.blankenship@dcnr.alabama.gov, (334) 242–3486

State of Louisiana, Barnes, Chris, Legal Advisor, Coastal Activities, chris.barnes@la.gov, (225) 342–9036

Keala J. Hughes,

Director of External Affairs & Tribal Relations, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed information collection project “Evaluation of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund—Training Program.”

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by 60 days after date of publication.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427–1477, or by emails at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

Evaluation of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund—Training Program

AHRQ Authorization To Provide Researcher Training in Comparative Effectiveness Research/Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (CER/PCOR) Methods

Section 6301(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111–148 (the “Affordable Care Act”), enacted section 937(e) of the Public Health Service Act (“PHS Act”), which authorizes AHRQ to build capacity for comparative effectiveness research (CER) by establishing grant programs that provide training for researchers in methods used to conduct research. It also notes that, “[at] a minimum, such training shall be in methods that meet the methodological standards adopted [by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)] under section 1181(d)(9) of the

Social Security Act.” In addition, section 937(a) of the PHS Act charges AHRQ with disseminating patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and CER findings into practice. AHRQ’s PCOR Trust Fund Training Program (PCORTF–TP) invests in training grants that build researchers’ skills and enhance research capacity in these practice areas.

PCOR is research that assesses the benefits and harms of preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, palliative, or health delivery system interventions. This research helps clinicians, patients, and caregivers make decisions about health care choices by highlighting comparisons and outcomes that matter to people, such as survival, function, symptoms, and health-related quality of life. The AHRQ PCORTF–TP supports individuals and academic institutions to train researchers and clinicians in CER methods applied within the context of CER/PCOR via mentored career development award mechanisms for emerging independent investigators, as well as targeted skill development and applied experiences via research grant mechanisms for independent researchers. PCORTF–TP grants support training for recent graduates, mid-career professionals, and established professionals in research and clinical settings. The program prioritizes expanding capacity in underserved and predominantly minority communities.

AHRQ recognizes the importance of ensuring that its training activities are useful, well implemented, and effective in achieving their intended goals. Therefore, the PCORTF–TP evaluation reflects AHRQ’s commitment to ensuring responsible stewardship. The PCORTF–TP evaluation comprises analysis of grantee progress reports, a bibliometric analysis of grantee publications, key informant interviews with AHRQ program staff responsible for managing PCORTF–TP grants, focused discussions with the PCORTF–TP evaluation Stakeholder Working Group, and surveys of grantees and mentors.

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the outputs, outcomes, and impact of AHRQ’s PCORTF–TP. The evaluation will address the following questions:

- What is the nature of PCORTF–TP activities for scholar/investigator development?
- Which activities for PCORTF–TP scholars/investigators have the greatest influence on intended outcomes (e.g., PCOR careers)?
- How have PCORTF–TP and partner institutions developed the capacity for