

etary changes in the programs established under subchapters XVIII and XIX of this chapter on the financial viability of small rural hospitals, the ability of rural areas (and rural hospitals in particular) to attract and retain physicians and other health professionals, and access to (and the quality of) health care in rural areas.

(b) In addition to advising the Secretary with respect to the matters specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Director, through the Office, shall—

(1) oversee compliance with the requirements of section 1302(b) of this title and section 4403 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (as such section pertains to rural health issues),

(2) establish and maintain a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on—

(A) rural health care issues, including rural mental health, rural infant mortality prevention, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion,

(B) research findings relating to rural health care, and

(C) innovative approaches to the delivery of health care in rural areas, including programs providing community-based mental health services, pre-natal and infant care services, and rural occupational safety and preventive health education and promotion,

(3) coordinate the activities within the Department that relate to rural health care,

(4) provide information to the Secretary and others in the Department with respect to the activities, of other Federal departments and agencies, that relate to rural health care, including activities relating to rural mental health, rural infant mortality, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion, and

(5) administer grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to provide technical assistance and other activities as necessary to support activities related to improving health care in rural areas.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title VII, §711, as added Pub. L. 100-203, title IV, §4401, Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-225; amended Pub. L. 100-360, title IV, §411(m)(1), July 1, 1988, 102 Stat. 806; Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6213(g), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2251; Pub. L. 108-173, title IV, §432, Dec. 8, 2003, 117 Stat. 2288.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 4403 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is section 4403 of Pub. L. 100-203, which is set out as a note under section 1395b-1 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 108-173 added par. (5).

1989—Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 101-239, §6213(g)(1), substituted “health care issues, including rural mental health, rural infant mortality prevention, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion” for “health care issues”.

Subsec. (b)(2)(C). Pub. L. 101-239, §6213(g)(2), substituted “health care in rural areas, including programs providing community-based mental health services, pre-natal and infant care services, and rural occupational safety and preventive health education and promotion” for “health care in rural areas”.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 101-239, §6213(g)(3), substituted “rural health care, including activities relating to rural mental health, rural infant mortality, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion” for “rural health care”.

1988—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 100-360 substituted “section 4403 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (as such section pertains to rural health issues)” for “section 4083 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Except as specifically provided in section 411 of Pub. L. 100-360, amendment by Pub. L. 100-360, as it relates to a provision in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-203, effective as if included in the enactment of that provision in Pub. L. 100-203, see section 411(a) of Pub. L. 100-360, set out as a Reference to OBRA; Effective Date note under section 106 of Title 1, General Provisions.

### § 913. Duties and authority of Secretary

The Secretary shall perform the duties imposed upon the Secretary by this chapter. The Secretary is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of such officers and employees, and to make such expenditures as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Secretary under this chapter. The Secretary may appoint attorneys and experts without regard to the civil service laws.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title VII, §712, as added Pub. L. 103-296, title I, §108(a)(1), Aug. 15, 1994, 108 Stat. 1481.)

### § 914. Office of Women's Health

#### (a) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish within the Office of the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, an office to be known as the Office of Women's Health. The Office shall be headed by a director who shall be appointed by the Administrator.

#### (b) Purpose

The Director of the Office shall—

(1) report to the Administrator on the current Administration level of activity regarding women's health across, where appropriate, age, biological, and sociocultural contexts;

(2) establish short-range and long-range goals and objectives within the Health Resources and Services Administration for women's health and, as relevant and appropriate, coordinate with other appropriate offices on activities within the Administration that relate to health care provider training, health service delivery, research, and demonstration projects, for issues of particular concern to women;

(3) identify projects in women's health that should be conducted or supported by the bureaus of the Administration;

(4) consult with health professionals, non-governmental organizations, consumer organizations, women's health professionals, and other individuals and groups, as appropriate, on Administration policy with regard to women; and

(5) serve as a member of the Department of Health and Human Services Coordinating Committee on Women's Health (established under section 237a(b)(4) of this title).