

indirectly acquire control of Lowry State Bank, Lowry, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 12, 2002.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 02-18058 Filed 7-17-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6210-01-S**

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center Web site at [www.ffiec.gov/nic/](http://www.ffiec.gov/nic/).

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than August 12, 2002.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York** (Betsy Buttrill White, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *KBC Bank NV*, Brussels, Belgium; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 34 percent of the voting shares of *Nova Ljubljanska Banka d.d.*, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and thereby indirectly acquiring voting shares of *LBS Bank*, New York, New York.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 12, 2002.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center Web site at [www.ffiec.gov/nic/](http://www.ffiec.gov/nic/).

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than August 12, 2002.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago** (Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. *Salin Bancshares, Inc.*, Indianapolis, Indiana; to acquire *Blue River Federal Savings Bank*, Edinburgh, Indiana, and thereby engage in owning and operating a savings and loans association, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 12, 2002.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 02-18059 Filed 7-17-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6210-01-S**

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### Public Workshop

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of public workshop and opportunity for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") announces a workshop on September 9th and 10, 2002, on "Health Care and Competition Law and Policy." The workshop will focus on the implications of competition law and policy for health care financing and delivery. The workshop will include consideration of the impact of competition law and policy on the cost, quality, and availability of health care, and the incentives for innovation in the field. The workshop will be held at and administered by the FTC.

**DATES:** A two-day workshop will be held on September 9th and 10th, 2002. Any interested person may submit written comments responsive to any of the topics to be addressed; such comments should be submitted no later than September 30, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** When in session, the workshop will be held in Room 432 at the FTC headquarters, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Written comments should be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. Six hard copies of each submission should be addressed to Donald S. Clark, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Submissions should be captioned "Comments Regarding Competition Law and Policy & Health Care." Electronic submissions may be sent by electronic mail to [hcclp@ftc.gov](mailto:hcclp@ftc.gov). Alternatively, electronic submissions may be filed on 3½ inch computer disk with a label on the disk stating the name of the submitter and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Hyman, Special Counsel, Office of General Counsel, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 568, Washington, DC 20580; telephone (202) 326-2622; e-mail:

[dhyman@ftc.gov](mailto:dhyman@ftc.gov). Detailed agendas for the workshop will be available on the FTC Home Page (<http://www.ftc.gov/ogc/healthcare/index.htm>) and through Angela Wilson, Staff Assistant, at (202) 326-3190 shortly before the workshop is held.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Health care spending in the United States totals

approximately \$1.2 trillion per year, or 14 percent of GDP. Federal, state, and local governments account for roughly 46 percent of health care spending. Health care is the second-largest budget item for many states. It is exceedingly important that competition law and policy support and encourage efficient delivery of health care products and services. Competition law and policy should also encourage innovation in the form of new and improved drugs, treatments, and delivery options. Developing and implementing competition policy for health care raises complex and sensitive issues.

The Commission has considerable experience in the application of competition law and policy to health care.<sup>1</sup> This workshop will assist the Commission by providing timely information from varying perspectives on the impact of competition law and policy on the coverage and delivery markets in health care and on consumer/patient welfare. The goal is to promote dialogue, learning, and consensus building among all interested parties (including, but not limited to, the business, consumer, government, legal, provider, insurer, and health policy/health services/health economics communities). In addition to officials from the FTC, providers, academics, consumer representatives, employers, insurers, and managed care organizations will be invited to participate.

Issues arising from the application of competition law and policy to health care have tremendous significance for the U.S. economy and consumer/patient welfare. The economic significance of health care is enormous, and will become even more so in the coming years. Consumer/patient welfare is maximized by a health care system that efficiently delivers to Americans the services they desire.

The Commission has an important role to play in this regard, through its dual areas of regulatory oversight of competition and consumer protection. Recent enforcement actions include several cases involving the pharmaceutical industry,<sup>2</sup> and a number

of cases involving physician groups.<sup>3</sup> Other activity includes a forthcoming report from the Commission on generic drug competition, and a recent advisory opinion from the Bureau of Competition regarding "partial integration" of a physician group in the Denver area.<sup>4</sup> The antitrust bar and academic commentators also have raised numerous questions about the messenger model for negotiation with payers, "virtual" integration of physician groups, and the future direction of competition law and policy in an evolving health care market.

Antitrust analysis traditionally has focused on restrictions to price competition. Competition routinely takes place, however, on both price and non-price parameters. Some have suggested that competition policy has given insufficient weight to non-price competition when analyzing particular transactions. Others have argued that competition policy must co-exist with other complicated laws and policies, and that the multitude of statutory commands sends inconsistent signals to providers who are simply trying to obey the law.

The application of competition law and policy to health care raises complex issues. These issues likely will become even more significant in the coming years, as health care accounts for an increasing share of GDP and of federal, state, and local budgets. Thus, a workshop to explore these issues is timely. The workshop is intended to further fact gathering, learning, dialogue, and discussion among the affected parties, and result in a greater understanding of and consensus about the approaches to policy in these areas that are most likely to benefit patients/consumers.

The workshop on September 9th and 10th, 2002, will provide a "snapshot" of the coverage and delivery markets, and review the results of an empirical study of antitrust litigation during the past fifteen years, and the Commission's recent activity in the area. A variety of

interested parties will be invited to give their perspective on the following general issues: the effect of competition law and policy on the health care industry, including the cost, quality, and availability of goods and services and the incentives for innovation; the current enforcement environment; the manner in which non-price competition (including but not limited to quality of care) is factored into competition law and policy; the consistency of competition law and policy with the requirements and incentives created by other federal and state laws and policies; and whether the 1996 Statements of Antitrust Enforcement Policy in Health Care joint issued by the Commission and the Department of Justice need to be updated. This list is not exhaustive, and parties submitting written comments do not have to address each issue.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-18115 Filed 7-17-02; 8:45 am]

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

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**[Program Announcement 02180]**

### **Centers of Excellence for Environmental Public Health Tracking; Notice of Availability of Funds**

#### **A. Purpose**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a cooperative agreement program to support Centers of Excellence for Environmental Public Health Tracking. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus areas of Environmental Health and Public Health Infrastructure.

The purpose of the program is to provide expertise and support to State and local health departments in (1) the development and utilization of data from State and national environmental public health tracking (surveillance) networks and (2) the investigation of the potential links between health effects and the environment.

Additional information about the National Environmental Public Health Tracking (surveillance) Network is provided in Appendix I.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goal for the National

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Health Care Services and Products Division, FTC Antitrust Actions in Health Care Services and Products, <http://www.ftc.gov/bc/hcindex/hcupdate020118.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Schering Plough Corp., Dkt. No. 9297 (June 27, 2002) (Initial Decision) (available at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/caselist/d9297.htm>) (claims resolved as to American Home Products with a consent order on Apr. 2, 2002); Biovail Corp. (consent order accepted for public comment, Apr. 23, 2002); Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc., Dkt. No. 9293 (May 8, 2001) (consent order); Abbott Laboratories, No. C-3945 (May 22, 2000) (consent order) and Geneva Pharmaceuticals, Inc., No. C-

3946 (May 22, 2000) (consent order); FTC v. Mylan Laboratories et al., (D.D.C., filed Dec. 22, 1998; amended complaint filed Feb. 8, 1999) Civ. No. 1:98CV031149 (<http://www.ftc.gov/os/1999/9902/mylanamencmp.htm>).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Obstetrics and Gynecology Medical Corporation of Napa Valley, No. C-4048 (May 14, 2002) (consent order); Physician Integrated Services of Denver Inc., (consent order accepted for public comment, May 13, 2002); Aurora Associated Primary Care Physicians, L.L.C., (consent order accepted for public comment, May 13, 2002).

<sup>4</sup> Staff Advisory Opinion Re MedSouth, Inc., reflected in letter dated February 19, 2002, from Jeffrey W. Brennan, Assistant Director, Bureau of Competition, to John J. Miles, Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shiver, <http://www.ftc.gov/bc/adops/medsouth.htm>.