

# 2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education

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**1. Department or Agency**

Department of Health and Human Services

**2. Fiscal Year**

2026

**3. Committee or Subcommittee**

Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education

**3b. GSA Committee No.**

5259

**4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?** **5. Current Charter** **6. Expected Renewal Date** **7. Expected Term Date**

No 01/19/2025 01/19/2027

**8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?**

No

**8b. Specific Termination Authority**

2025 Secretary Directive

**8c. Actual Term Date**

**9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year**

Terminate

**10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?**

No

**10b. Legislation Pending?**

Not Applicable

**11. Establishment Authority** Authorized by Law

**12. Specific Establishment Authority**

42 USC 217a: Sec. 222 of the PHS Act, as amended

**13. Effective Date** **14. Committee Type**

10/06/1972 Continuing

**14c. Presidential?**

No

**15. Description of Committee** National Policy Issue Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports**

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

**17a. Open** 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

**Meetings and Dates**

No Meetings

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Next</b>
	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Panel accomplishes its purpose by using the diverse expertise and perspectives of its members to advise the Secretary of HHS and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on effective strategies for implementing the education and outreach for

the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. The Panel issues its recommendations through letters to the CMS Director of the Office of Communications.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The membership is comprised of authorities knowledgeable in the fields of: senior citizen advocacy; outreach to minority communities; health communications; disease-related health advocacy; disability policy and access; health research; health insurers and plans; Health IT; caregiving; State Health Insurance Assistance Programs; State medical programs; pharmacists networks; community health centers and underserved populations; web health education; providers and clinicians; matters of labor and retirement; and representatives of the general public.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The meetings are held up to four times per year at the call of the Chair. The meetings focus on the cutting edge challenges in health care communications and assist in responding to the rapid changes in the health care environment. After each meeting, recommendations from the APOE panel are shared with CMS leadership and the CMS presenters. The CMS presenters comment on the recommendations, with the final list of recommendations shared with APOE members at the following meeting. The APOE panel has been instrumental in providing effective strategies for implementing education and outreach programs for CMS. The Panel did not hold any meetings in FY25 due to the termination

of the Panel on 4/1/25.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

As a result of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, CMS has substantial responsibilities to provide information to people with Medicare about available Medicare Advantage options; available Part D options; comparison information about the choices; benefits provided under Original Medicare; plan election procedures; procedural rights (including appeal and grievance rights); Medigap, and the potential for contract termination by the private health plans. Successful implementation of the Medicare Advantage program requires CMS to regard the views of a variety of private sector constituents and develop a broad range of public-private partnerships to facilitate information dissemination to the diverse Medicare population. APOE, also provides advice on optimal strategies for: developing and implementing education and outreach programs for individuals enrolled in or eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

The meetings shall be closed only when Privacy Act data (ie: patient identifiers, personnel data, other personal information, etc.) are under discussion. No formal panel meetings have been closed to the public. The Panel did not hold any meetings in FY25 due to the termination of the Panel on 4/1/25.

**21. Remarks**

2025 Secretary Directive-Terminated

## **Designated Federal Officer**

Hailey Gutzmer Health Insurance Specialist

### **Narrative Description**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has substantial responsibilities under the Inflation Reduction Act, the Affordable Care Act, the American Rescue Plan, and other CMS programs and initiatives, to provide information to Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and Health Insurance Marketplace beneficiaries and consumers, about the range of health plans and health plan options available and tools to evaluate health plan choices. Successful implementation of these programs requires CMS to consider the views and policy input of a variety of private sector constituents and to develop a broad range of public-private partnerships. The mission of the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) is to advise the Secretary and the CMS Administrator concerning optimal strategies for: 1. Developing and implementing a national outreach and education program that describes the options for selecting a health plan under Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP or the Marketplace; 2. Enhancing the federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP or Marketplace consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships; 3. Expanding outreach to vulnerable and under-served communities; 4. Assembling an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate health plan options and building a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance. This panel typically holds 4 meetings per year. The Panel did not hold any meetings in FY25 due to the termination of the Panel on 4/1/25. 2025 Secretary Directive-Elimination of Federal Advisory Committees Within the Department of Health and Human Services, Terminated 04.01.2025. EO 14217 Reducing the Scope of the Federal Bureaucracy

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

We are unable to determine cost savings as a result of the Panel's recommendations. The Panel's recommendations help to enhance effective national Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and Health Insurance Marketplace programs as well as other legislation and programs being implemented by CMS.

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

1,833

### Number of Recommendations Comments

Due to the Panel terminating on 4/1/25 and staffing changes, this information is accurate to our knowledge.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

90%

### % of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

CMS has either already implemented or is in the planning stages of implementing 90% of the recommendations provided by the APOE.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

9%

### % of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Although the majority of recommendations have been accepted by CMS, some will take time to be fully planned and implemented as tools, publications, and content are enhanced and developed.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### Agency Feedback Comments

The public can find information on the committee website,  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/regulations-guidance/advisory-committees>

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Access Comments**

N/A