DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Lists of Designated Primary Medical Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides lists of all areas, population groups, and facilities designated as primary medical care, mental health, and dental health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) as of June 15, 1995. HPSAs are designated or withdrawn by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the authority of section 332 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the HPSA designations listed below, or to request additional designations or withdrawals or reinstatement of a withdrawn designation, please contact Evan R. Arrindell, D.S.W., Acting Director, Division of Shortage Designation, Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, Room 9–1D1, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (301–594–0816).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

Section 332 of the PHS Act provides that the Secretary of HHS shall designate HPSAs based on criteria established by regulation. HPSAs are defined in section 332 to include (1) urban and rural geographic areas, (2) population groups, and (3) facilities with shortages of health professionals. Section 332 further requires that the Secretary annually publish a list of the designated geographic areas, population groups, and facilities. The list of HPSAs is to be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary. The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care has the responsibility for designating and updating these HPSAs.

Public or nonprofit entities are eligible to apply for assignment of National Health Service Corps (NHSC) personnel to provide primary health services in or to these HPSAs. NHSC health professionals with a service obligation may only serve in federally designated HPSAs. Programs with clinical training sites located in HPSAs are eligible to receive priority for certain

residency training program grants administered by HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions.

Several programs administered by the Health Care Financing Administration also use the HPSA designation. Certain qualified providers in HPSAs are eligible for increased levels of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

2. Development of the Designation and Withdrawal Lists

Criteria for designating HPSAs were published as final regulations (42 CFR Part 5) in 1980. Criteria were then defined for each of seven health professional types (primary medical care, dental, psychiatric, vision care, podiatric, pharmacy, and veterinary care). The criteria for correctional facility HPSAs were revised in 1989, and the criteria for psychiatric HPSAs were expanded to mental health HPSAs in 1992. The currently-funded PHS programs which use the HPSA designations involve only the primary medical care, mental health, or dental HPSAs. Individual requests for designation or withdrawal of a particular area, population group, or a facility as a HPSA are continuously received and reviewed by HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC). The review process includes routine submission of such requests to the appropriate State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) and/or a unit of the State Health Department, the Governor, and other interested organizations and individuals for their comments and recommendations. Requests regarding primary medical care and mental health HPSAs are also submitted to the appropriate State medical society for comment, and dental HPSA requests are submitted to the appropriate State dental society.

Annually, lists of designated HPSAs are provided to all SHPDAs and/or State health departments, State medical and dental societies and others, together with a request to review and update the data on which the designations are based. Emphasis is placed on updating those designations which are more than 3 years old or where significant changes relevant to the designation criteria have occurred.

Recommendations for possible additions, continuations, revisions or withdrawals from the HPSA list are reviewed by the BPHC, and the review findings are provided by letter to the agency or individual requesting action or providing data, with copies to other interested organizations and individuals. These letters constitute the official notice of designation as a HPSA, rejection of recommendations for HPSA

designation, revision of a HPSA designation, and/or advance notice of pending withdrawals from the HPSA list. Designations (or revisions of designations) are effective as of the date of the letter making (or revising) the designation; proposed withdrawals become effective after a 60-day waiting period and publication in the Federal Register (or publication of a Federal Register list that does not include them.)

This notice contains three lists of designated HPSAs. Each list (primary medical care, mental health, and dental) includes all those areas, population groups, and facilities which were designated HPSAs as of June 15, 1995. This notice incorporates the most recent annual review of designated HPSAs and supersedes the Primary Medical Care HPSA list published in the Federal Register on January 21, 1994; the Psychiatric HPSA list published August 19, 1983; and the Dental HPSA list published January 8, 1986. Each list includes the current definitions for each designated service area, and excludes any HPSA or portion of a designated HPSA which has been withdrawn since the last list was published. Any HPSA, or portion thereof, which was proposed for withdrawal on or before June 15, 1995, has been excluded from these

3. Format of Lists

Each list of designated HPSAs (primary medical care, dental, and mental health) is arranged by State. Within each State, the list is first presented by county. If only a portion (or portions) of a county is (are) designated, or if the county is part of a larger designated service area, or if a population group residing in the county or a facility located in the county has been designated, the name of the service area, population group, or facility involved is listed under the county name. Counties which have a geographic HPSA designation in addition to one or more facility designations within the county are indicated by a (g) following the county

Following the county listing, a list of any designated service areas is presented, identifying their component parts—counties, towns, townships, census tracts (CTs), minor civil divisions (MCDs), census county divisions (CCDs), block numbering areas (BNAs), or magisterial districts, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. Those counties (or parts of counties included in service areas) which are classified as nonmetropolitan are indicated by an asterisk (*).