



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

June 24, 2013

Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Mail Stop S1-13-05  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Re: Renewal of the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) and Request for Nominations

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents more than 110,600 family physicians and medical students nationwide, I am pleased to nominate Roanne Osborne-Gaskin M.D., MBA to fill one of the six vacancies on the Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Programs Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) as requested in a [notice](#) published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the May 31, 2013, *Federal Register*.

The APOE is charged with advising and making recommendations to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS on the effective implementation of national education programs. Considering the multiple modifications and improvements the *Affordable Care Act* made to the programs administered by HHS and CMS, the AAFP considers the APOE's role and responsibilities as especially important for Medicare beneficiaries and their physicians. The AAFP encourages HHS and CMS to continue valuing and implementing each APOE recommendation.

Dr. Osborne-Gaskin's experiences make her a strong candidate for and excellent addition to the APOE. In her current capacity, she fights tirelessly for underserved populations as the Associate Medical Director for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, which administers the State Medicaid program. Her work outside of Rhode Island is equally notable, since upon graduating from medical school in 1998, she volunteered with the Cancer Society of the Bahamas and traveled to the different islands to offer preventive cancer screenings and educational seminars for underprivileged inhabitants. After completing a family medicine residency at Montefiore in 2004, Dr. Osborne-Gaskin

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researched factors affecting reproductive decision-making in HIV positive Latina women. Dr. Osborne-Gaskin completed her MBA in Health Care at George Washington University in 2008 and enjoys building bridges between hospital and office administrators and clinicians, all while continuing to practice medicine for underserved populations. She was the medical director at the Health Care of the Homeless Health Center on Cape Cod and, under her direction, her clinical site became the first health center in Massachusetts to receive Meaningful Use payments in 2012.

Dr. Osborne-Gaskin served on the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and is currently the President. She is also on the Commission for Governmental Advocacy for the AAFP. She has also served on Brown Faculty for a number of years.

The AAFP believes that Dr. Osborne-Gaskin's longstanding commitment and outreach to minority communities, her knowledge and experiences with communicating the importance of preventative medicine, her focus on specific diseases impacting underserved communities, and her successes with health information technology would, if selected, bring an extensive array of expertise to the panel. The AAFP appreciates the opportunity to make this nomination and make ourselves available for any questions you might have or clarifications you might need. Please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or [rbennett@aafp.org](mailto:rbennett@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen Stream MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Glen Stream, MD, MBI, FAAFP  
Board Chair