



December 1, 2003

REPORT 04-05

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN
 ARC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 ARC GENERAL COUNSEL

SUBJECT: Survey Report – Review of Selected Health Providers and
 J-1 Visa Waiver Physicians in Ohio

BACKGROUND

This review was undertaken as part of a survey of J-1 Visa Waiver program operations in the Appalachian Region.

The J-1 Visa Waiver program provides a waiver of the requirement for a foreign physician to return to his/her home country after completion of medical training in the United States. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) participates as a Federal Entity sponsor to assist Appalachian Region communities in providing health care services to medically underserved areas. The applicable ARC policies and procedures require J-1 physicians to practice 40 hours of primary care per week in a designated Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA) in the Appalachian Region. The ARC program requires the physician to serve at least 3 years (unless a state has a longer period). There is no prohibition on J-1 physicians working extra hours or practicing subspecialties after fulfilling primary care requirements.

Although primary responsibilities for reviewing J-1 Visa Waiver requests, including supporting documentation, justifications of need, program oversight, and reporting have been delegated to the state health agencies, ARC retains the authority to act on waiver requests and to ensure compliance with program objectives and requirements.

OBJECTIVE

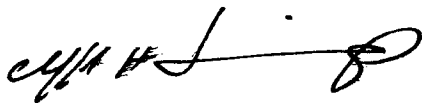
The objective of our review was to determine the compliance with ARC J-1 Visa Waiver program requirements and J-1 physicians perform primary care services in an Appalachian HPSA for 40 hours per week.

SCOPE

During the period November 13 and 14, 2003, unannounced visits to five physicians located in Ohio were performed. The purpose of the visits was to verify the practices and locations of the physicians with J-1 Visa Waivers.

RESULTS

Of the five J-1 physicians we attempted to contact, all five were providing medical care in line with the approved practices. The physicians contacted were satisfied with the program and practices and they generally expressed interest in the possibility of staying in the area upon completion of their waiver periods.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford H. Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Clifford H. Jennings
Inspector General

Attachment

**J-1 Physician Visits in Ohio
November 13-14, 2003**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Approval Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Consider Staying in Area</u>
1	Nannapaneni, Indira	Janani Women's Center	ob/gyn	11/27/2000	Carrollton	yes
2	Saraswat, Nevedita	Lisbon/E. Liverpool Community Health Centers	primary care	9/25/2001	Lisbon	possibly
3	Sinu, Apolonia	E. Liverpool City Hospital	psychiatry	6/18/2001	E. Liverpool	probably
4	Singh, Mohinder	Dharam Bir Batish, Inc.	primary care	9/3/2002	E. Liverpool	possibly
5	George, Elizabeth	Lisbon/E. Liverpool Community Health Centers	family practice	9/25/2001	E. Liverpool	yes