Committee to review the process to update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

Understanding the committee’s charge: A discussion with the sponsor

MEETING 1
Open Session
September 1, 2016
10:00am - 11:00am ET

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
The *Dietary Guidelines* is Congressionally mandated

- “At least every five years, the Secretaries [of USDA and HHS] shall publish a report entitled ‘Dietary Guidelines for Americans’”
- “Shall contain nutritional and dietary information and guidelines for the general public”
- “Shall be based on the preponderance of the scientific and medical knowledge which is current at the time the report is prepared”
- “Shall be promoted by each Federal agency in carrying out any Federal food, nutrition, or health program”


HMD committee to review the process to update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
September 1, 2016 – Understanding the HMD committee’s charge: A discussion with the sponsor
USDA and HHS have a strong and productive collaboration in updating the Dietary Guidelines

- Responsibility for administrative lead rotates between USDA and HHS with each edition
- Within the Departments, the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) and HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) serve lead roles in coordinating the revision process
USDA and HHS have made advancements to the process over time

- Advancements reflect:
  - Evolution in nutrition science
  - Improved methods used to develop public health guidance

- Key legislation also informs, guides, and directs the process, including:
  - National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990
  - Agricultural Act of 2014
  - Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972
  - Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001 (“Data Quality Act”)

HMD committee to review the process to update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
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The process to update the *Dietary Guidelines* includes four primary steps accomplished over 4 to 5 years:

1. **USDA & HHS complete administrative tasks & appoint Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee** - *6-9 months*
2. **Advisory Committee reviews science & produces Advisory Report** - **18-24 months**
3. **USDA & HHS solicit & review comments on the Advisory Report from the public & Federal agencies** - **3-5 months**
4. **USDA & HHS update & release the Dietary Guidelines** - **6-12 months**

(*approximate duration; some steps may overlap*)
USDA & HHS complete administrative tasks & appoint Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (6-9 months)

- Administrative tasks
  - USDA and HHS enter into a Memorandum of Understanding
  - Many tasks relate to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (e.g., identify Co-Executive Secretaries, file a Charter with Congress, and develop a Balance Plan)

- Select Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee
  - Nominations are solicited from the public
  - Slate is proposed based on the Balance Plan, reflecting the expertise expected to be needed
  - Slate undergoes review, clearance, and vetting by Departmental leadership, Committee Management Officer, and the Office of Ethics
  - Advisory Committee is appointed by the Secretaries of USDA and HHS
Advisory Committee reviews science & produces Advisory Report (18-24 months)

- Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee:
  - Works in subcommittees and deliberates work with the full Advisory Committee in public meetings
  - Solicits and reviews public comments throughout its work
  - Selects and prioritizes topics of interest and develops research questions to address these topics
  - Examines evidence to answer research questions:
    - Original systematic reviews (USDA’s Nutrition Evidence Library) or existing systematic reviews or reports (e.g., Dietary Reference Intake reports, other IOM reports)
    - Food pattern modeling analyses
    - Data analyses
  - Prepares and submits a report to Secretaries of USDA and HHS
  - Disbands
USDA & HHS solicit & review comments on the Advisory Report from the public & Federal agencies (3-5 months)

- Advisory Report posted at DietaryGuidelines.gov
- The public and Federal agencies are asked to comment on the Report
- Every comment on the Advisory Report is reviewed by Federal staff
- Public comments are processed and made available for public viewing
USDA & HHS update & release the Dietary Guidelines (6-12 months)

- Iterative process that involves a writing team of Federal experts from USDA and HHS
- Several rounds of review occur, and revisions are incorporated after each review, as needed, by members of the Federal writing team
  - Federal expert review
  - External peer-review
  - Formal Departmental clearance across USDA and HHS
- The Secretaries of USDA and HHS review and approve the Dietary Guidelines
- The approved Dietary Guidelines is released and posted publicly at DietaryGuidelines.gov
Understanding the HMD committee’s charge

- To undertake an 18-month study to review and make recommendations on the entire process used to update the Dietary Guidelines.
  - Short report: On the process used to select the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee
  - Final report: On the process used by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to review current scientific and medical knowledge and the subsequent development of the Dietary Guidelines by USDA and HHS

Understanding the HMD committee’s charge

a. How the advisory committee selection process can be improved to provide more transparency, eliminate bias, and include committee members with a range of viewpoints;

b. How the Nutrition Evidence Library (NEL) is compiled and utilized, including whether NEL reviews and other systematic reviews and data analysis are conducted according to rigorous and objective scientific standards;

c. How systematic reviews are conducted on long-standing DGA recommendations, including whether scientific studies are included from scientists with a range of viewpoints; and

d. How the DGA can better prevent chronic disease, ensure nutritional sufficiency for all Americans, and accommodate a range of individual factors, including age, gender, and metabolic health.
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