

**Opening Remarks**  
*Steven Teutsch, M.D., M.P.H.*

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DR. TEUTSCH: Good morning, everyone. I think we will get going. We have, hopefully, an interesting agenda today to plan our work going forward.

Before we launch into that, I first want to recognize, at the end of the table here, Matt Daynard. Matt, yesterday we went through transitions with folks. I understand you will be making one yourself and retiring.

MR. DAYNARD: That's correct.

DR. TEUTSCH: We wanted to acknowledge that fact and express our appreciation for all that you have done in this field with the Committee.

MR. DAYNARD: Thank you very much.

DR. TEUTSCH: Many thanks, and all the best.

MR. DAYNARD: It has been an honor to be part of this Committee for the last seven or eight years, or whenever it started. I appreciate it very much. I wish you all great luck. The Committee does amazing work.

DR. TEUTSCH: Great. Thanks so much.

[Applause.]

DR. TEUTSCH: Later on, just to let you know, Dan Wattendorf will be sitting in for Scott McLean and Kerry Leibig will be joining us as the new ex officio from EEOC.

Today we are going to return to work that we began back in February to begin to plan out our work for the future and to identify the high-priority issues that we should be taking up.

The background materials are all in Tab 5 of your briefing book. You will find the slides in your table folders.

As a reminder, in February we reviewed the process that the Committee used in 2004 to establish the priority issues that we have been working on ever since and agreed that since we were nearing completion of that study agenda we should begin to look ahead to identify some of the emerging issues and unresolved issues that continue to need our attention.

We did some brainstorming back then and in July made some preliminary decisions about priority topics. You will remember the diagram that Paul Wise regaled us with as he helped lead us through that discussion.

Today our goal is to finalize our future study topics and how we will be addressing them, and then agree on a strategic plan for getting the work done.

I should say that although this may be "final", it is not really final because we hope that we will be able to take the results of that work and have a chance to meet with the incoming Secretary,

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and presumably his staff, to talk about how that dovetails with their priorities so that we can get some good alignment and begin to work together.

Paul Wise has been leading this. I really appreciate all his work as chair of the Priority-Setting Task Force. It has been more than a little work over the last few months. Paul will lead us through a discussion of the steps and decisions we have already taken. Then members of the task force will review the issues we identified in July and lay out some policy options, questions, and action steps.

I shouldn't say "policy options." We are not reaching conclusions on those today. But we will be looking at policy questions and action steps in each area that we could take as we move forward.

We will want to get some sense later on in the day of the relative priority. I don't expect we will take votes, but clearly it is a long list of things that are potentially on our plate. We want to get a good sense as to the order in which we might tackle those.

With that, let me turn the floor over to Paul, and we will get going.