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## WLF Files FOIA Request with CMS on Activities of Healthcare Payer Advisory Group

WASHINGTON, DC—Washington Legal Foundation submitted a Freedom of Information Act request yesterday to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). The materials requested relate to the Opioid Misuse Strategy that CMS issued on January 5, 2017. The strategy appears to mirror the recommendations contained in a White Paper entitled “Healthcare Payer Strategies to Reduce the Harms of Opioids” released on January 24, 2017 by the Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership (HFPP).

The marked similarity between CMS’s Opioid Misuse Strategy and HFPP’s White Paper—which was first circulated to CMS last October—prompted WLF to request documents relating to the Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership. HFPP, a group formed by CMS and the Department of Health and Human Services, appears to be operating as a Federal Advisory Committee. The purpose of this group is to detect and prevent healthcare fraud through data and information sharing. However, it is unclear whether HFPP is abiding by the transparency obligations which the Federal Advisory Committee Act requires.

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