

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: World Trade Center Health Program Scientific Technical Advisory Committee

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of Health and Human Services	2024
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>

World Trade Center Health Program Scientific Technical Advisory Committee	76854
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<b>4. Is this New Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	05/12/2023	05/12/2025	

<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
No		

<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**11. Establishment Authority** Statutory (Congress Created)

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
P.L. 111-347 and P.L. 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App.)	07/01/2011	Continuing	No

**15. Description of Committee** Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** No Reports for this Fiscal Year

**17a. Open** 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

**Meetings and Dates**

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

Section 3302(a)(1) of the Zadroga Act establishes that the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) will review scientific and medical evidence and make recommendations to the WTC Health Program Administrator on additional WTC Health Program eligibility criteria, additional WTC-related health conditions, and research needs. The committee may be consulted on other matters as related to and outlined in the Act at the discretion of the WTC Health Program Administrator.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

It is anticipated that the WTC Health Program STAC will consist of at least 17 members. Because the focus of this committee is on the WTC disaster, members with experience in treating WTC diseases will be needed. As much as possible, this committee will have both geographic diversity and a diverse makeup. The membership of the WTC Health Program STAC will, at a minimum, consist of 4 occupational physicians, at least two of whom have experience treating WTC rescue and recovery workers; 1 physician with expertise in pulmonary medicine; 2 environmental medicine or environmental health specialists; 3 representatives of WTC responders; 3 representatives of certified-eligible WTC survivors; an industrial hygienist; a toxicologist; an epidemiologist; and a mental health professional. Additional members may be appointed at the discretion of the WTC Health Program Administrator.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings are called as needed to inform the WTC Health Program Administrator on issues required by the statute. The meetings are highly relevant to the WTC Health Program.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The committee was established as required by Public Law 111-347 (The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010).

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

NA

## 21. Remarks

Two meetings were held in FY23. During the first meeting, held on February 9, 2023, the STAC issued four recommendations regarding substantive amendments to the existing Policy and Procedures for Adding Non-Cancer Health Conditions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions. The WTC Health Program fully implemented two of the recommendations and partially implemented two of them. On the second meeting, held on June 21-22, 2023, the STAC issued the recommendation to adopt further substantive amendments to the existing Policy and Procedures for Adding Non-Cancer Health Conditions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions. In addition, the STAC provided advice regarding the new youth research cohort being established by the WTC Health Program. Finally, in 2023 the WTC Health Program fully implemented the FY22 STAC recommendation of adding uterine cancer to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

## Designated Federal Officer

Tania Carreón-Valencia Senior Scientist

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Comiskey, John	03/07/2022	09/30/2025	Associate Professor of Homeland Security	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gaitens, Joanna	03/08/2022	09/30/2025	Assistant Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gulati, Mridu	03/29/2022	09/30/2025	Assistant Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

James, Mariama	10/01/2020	09/30/2024	Co-Chair, Manhattan Community Board 1	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jose, Anita	10/02/2020	09/30/2024	Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kanth, Indrina	03/28/2022	09/30/2025	Chief of Staff	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Larranaga, Michael	10/01/2020	09/30/2024	Managing Principal, President, and Co-Founder, Risk Engineering and Management	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Markowitz, Steven	03/09/2022	09/30/2025	Professor and Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Meyer, John	10/01/2020	09/30/2024	Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mohr, Lawrence	10/01/2020	09/30/2024	Distinguished University Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ostrowe, Jason	10/01/2020	09/30/2024	Assistant Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Surti, Aarti	10/05/2020	09/30/2024	Associate Medical Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Talaska, Glenn	03/08/2022	09/30/2025	Professor Emeritus and Past interim Chair	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ward, Elizabeth	03/18/2022	09/30/2025	Captain (retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 14**

**Narrative Description**

The advisory committee will review scientific and medical evidence and make recommendations to the WTC Health Program Administrator on additional WTC Health Program eligibility criteria, additional WTC-related health conditions, research needs; identification of independent peer reviewers, and policies and procedures for adding conditions to the list of covered conditions.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Over \$10,000,000  
Cost Savings Other

☐  
☐

### **Cost Savings Comments**

Not Applicable

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

39

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The STAC issued 5 recommendations during two meetings that took place in FY23. Of these, three were fully implemented and two were partially implemented by the WTC Health Program. In addition, a recommendation issued in FY22 was fully implemented in FY23.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

77%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Three recommendations issued by the STAC in FY23 were fully implemented. Also, a recommendation issued in FY22 was fully implemented in FY23.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

8%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Two recommendations were partially implemented in FY23.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The Committee was provided written responses from the Administrator on their recommendation. Recommendations and feedback are posted on the Committee's website.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Reallocated resources             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Issued new regulation             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

This is not a grant review committee

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Access Comments**

NA