Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Changing Drivers of the Opioid Epidemic: From Physical Disability in the 2000s to Economic Hardship in the 2010s

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,)   ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[X]   Influential Scientific Information
[ ]   Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly B. Maguire <kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov>

Subject of Review: The U.S. is in the midst of a drug-induced mortality epidemic marked by the introduction and spread of opioids across both rural and urban communities. What has caused this epidemic and who has been most affected? One view is that the economic misfortunes of the past 15 years have driven many working-age people to despair, resulting in self-destructive behavior. But, despite several studies, this view has not received much research support: local economic downturns have been weak predictors at best of rises in drug-induced mortality. This report uses regional mortality rates and socioeconomic characteristics to examine the geography and demographics of the opioid epidemic and explore whether drivers of the epidemic have changed over time.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ]   Panel Review   [X]   Individual Reviewers

[ ]   Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.):   Start: 6/6/2019   Completed: 09/25/19   Withdrawn: XX/XX/19

Number of Reviewers: [ ]   3 or fewer   [x]   4 to 10   [ ]   More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X]   Agency   [ ]   Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No
     If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
     How:
     When:
Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No