

**Social Security Advisory Board
Minutes
Board Meeting
April 13, 2011**

Location: 400 Virginia Avenue, S.W., Suite 625
Washington, D.C. 20024

Time: 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SSAB Members: Barbara Kennelly, Acting Chair
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas Hardy
Marsha Katz (by telephone)
Mark Warshawsky

Presenters: Michael Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security
Richard Burkhauser, Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor at Cornell University
Andrew Martinez, Current President, National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE)
Jeff Price, Legislative Director and Past President, NADE
Susan Smith, Past President, NADE
Tom Ward, President-Elect, NADE
Ulrich Brechbuhl, President and CEO, Chamberlin Edmonds and Associates (CEA)
Suzy Perlman, SSA Liaison, CEA

SSAB_Staff: Katherine Thornton, Staff Director
Debi Sullivan, Deputy Staff Director
Joel Feinleib
Shalin Patel, Intern
George Schuette
David Warner

During the course of the day the Board held three fact-finding meetings, a working lunch with the Commissioner of Social Security, and met in executive session. During the first session the members met with Richard Burkhauser to discuss ways to get and keep disabled individuals in the workforce. He discussed his recent book, *The Declining Work and Welfare of People with Disabilities: What Went Wrong and a Strategy for Change*, and presented findings from research that he completed for the book.

At lunch, SSA Commissioner Michael Astrue discussed SSA's budget and the consequences of this year's cuts on staffing, workloads, and stewardship activities. He also talked about a few new agency initiatives and their implications for dealing with budget constraints.

During the first session of the afternoon the Board met with members of the National Association of Disability Examiners who discussed issues of concern for their organization. They

said that a major issue for them is that SSA does not have a unified, single process across the country for performing disability evaluations, and they believe that one is necessary for decision consistency. Another concern is SSA's and the DDS's budget cuts and how they will affect agency operations. The NADE representatives also discussed a few of SSA's electronic case processing initiatives such as eCAT, and how they are impacting the DDSs.

During the second fact-finding session of the afternoon the Board met with Ulrich Brechbuhl and Suzy Perlman of Chamberlin Edmonds and Associates (CEA). The speakers talked about CEA's mission and how it works with health care systems to help patients apply for Social Security, Medicare, and other programs. They described how the company works with the Social Security Administration and other government agencies and the range of services they provide.

Throughout the day the Board met briefly in executive sessions and discussed future Board projects, potential topics and guests for upcoming Board meetings, and papers that are currently in progress. The members also discussed their field visit that they will be making to Columbus, Ohio in May.

I certify that the minutes written for the April 13, 2011 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara B. Kennelly", is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the date "July 4, 2011" is handwritten in the same ink.

Barbara B. Kennelly Date
Acting Chair
Social Security Advisory Board