

**Social Security Advisory Board
Minutes
Board Meeting
April 8, 2013**

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

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SSAB Members: Barbara Kennelly, Acting Chair
Bernadette Franks-Ongoy
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas Hardy

Presenters: **Dr. John Kregel**, Professor of Special Education and Disability Policy,
Virginia Commonwealth University
Curtis L. Decker, Executive Director, National Disability Rights
Network (NDRN)
Manuel de la Puente, Associate Commissioner for Research,
Evaluation, and Statistics, Social Security Administration
Debra Tidwell-Peters, Director of the Disability Research Consortium,
Social Security Administration

SSAB Staff: Debi Sullivan, Staff Director
Claire Green, Deputy Staff Director
Jackie Chapin
Jeremy Elder
Joel Feinleib
David Warner
Sarah Weaver, Staff Intern

During its April meeting, the Board held three fact-finding sessions – one in the morning, and two in the afternoon. In the morning the Board met with Dr. John Kregel from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), who gave a brief overview and history of the Social Security Administration’s Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program as well as the particular challenges and accomplishments the program has experienced over the years. Dr. Kregel was able to speak from first-hand experience as a principal investigator at VCU’s National Training Center for WIPA counselors. WIPA is a program that is funded by the Social Security Administration to assist beneficiaries in return-to-work efforts.

In the afternoon, the Board met with Curtis L. Decker from the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) to discuss the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. Specifically, Mr. Decker talked about the challenges of re-establishing the PABSS programs; many of which were suspended last year due to lack of funding. He also shared with the Board his experience working on the Representative Payee Review Project, a federally funded joint project between

the NDRN and State Protection & Advocacy Centers. The purpose of this project is to ensure that representative payees meet the basic needs of Social Security beneficiaries as required by law.

Later on in the afternoon the Board met with SSA executives Manuel de la Puente and Debra Tidwell-Peters from the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES). Mr. de la Puente and Ms. Tidwell-Peters discussed the current progress as well as future plans for the recently formed Disability Research Consortium (DRC). In particular, they discussed potential research goals for Year 2 of the Consortium and requested feedback from the Advisory Board.

During the course of the day, the Board members also met in executive session to discuss current and future projects and upcoming meeting agendas.

I certify that the minutes written for the April 8, 2013 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.



Barbara B. Kennelly Date:
Acting Chair
Social Security Advisory Board