Social Security Advisory Board
Minutes
Board Meeting
July 28, 2015

Location:	400 Virginia Avenue, S.W., Suite 625 Washington, D.C. 20024
Time:	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SSAB Members:	Henry Aaron, Chair Lanhee Chen Alan Cohen Bernadette Franks-Ongoy Jagadeesh Gokhale Dorcas Hardy Barbara Kennelly
Presenters:	**Dr. Ephraim Feig,** CEO of Topwhats, Inc., Former Associate CIO (2010 – 2012), SSA **Robert Klopp,** Deputy Commissioner of Systems and Chief Information Officer, SSA **Steve Goss,** Chief Actuary, SSA
SSAB Staff:	Claire Green, Staff Director Jackie Chapin, Policy Chief Jeremy Elder, Policy Analyst Joel Feinleib, Staff Economist Sterling Laudon, Policy Attorney David Warner, Management Chief Sarah Weaver, Management Analyst Amber Davis, NASI Fellow Bethel Dejene, Research Analyst Hong Han, Research Analyst Claire Jensen, NASI Fellow Caitlyn Tateishi, Policy Analyst Anita Kelly, Detailee Teresa Pfender, Detailee Jenn Rigger, Detailee

At its July meeting, the Board met with Dr. Ephraim Feig, former Associate Chief Information Officer at SSA. Dr. Feig spoke with the Board about his vision for systems modernization during his tenure with SSA. Dr. Feig recommended that SSA systems be designed by developing a plan that follows what is required by law rather than adopting current procedures and specifications. Dr. Feig suggested the system be rebuilt from scratch using a small, dedicated team of individuals. He maintained that a new system could be rolled out without disrupting the current system of delivering benefits, although the transition period would be extremely challenging.

The Board also met with Robert Klopp, SSA's Deputy Commissioner of Systems and Chief Information Officer, for a briefing on current projects and efforts to modernize SSA's systems. Mr. Klopp's team at SSA currently includes members from the US Digital Service and staff from SSA who are tasked with looking at SSA's legacy systems and creating a plan for migrating to new platforms. These teams will also look into integrating COBOL into modern programming language. Mr. Klopp suggested that smaller groups could improve the quality of work that the agency receives from contractors and SSA staff. Using agile software development methods, these small groups could run in parallel, and be given shorter-term goal oriented tasks to complete. Mr. Klopp noted that sustained funding for these endeavors continues to be challenging considering financial constraints.

In the afternoon, Chief Actuary Steve Goss briefed the Board on the 2015 Report of the OASDI Trustees and explained the report's content. According to the 2015 Trustees Report, combined OASDI trust fund reserve depletion is projected to occur in 2034 – one year later than the 2014 Trustees Report had estimated. The 75-year difference between revenues and outlays is projected to be -2.68 percent of payroll, 0.20 percent lower than projected in the 2014 Trustees Report. Mr. Goss explained that the DI trust fund is projected to be depleted at the end of 2016, and described how a reallocation of payroll tax revenues could align the depletion dates of the OASI trust fund and the DI trust fund.

I certify that the minutes written for the July 28, 2015 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.

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Henry J. Aaron

Chairman
Social Security Advisory Board