



Social Security Advisory Board

Henry J. Aaron, Chair
Lanhee J. Chen
Bernadette Franks-Ongoy
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Kim Hildred
Barbara B. Kennelly

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Claire Green, Staff Director

Board Meeting Minutes October 28, 2016

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

Time: 9:45 am – 3:45 pm

SSAB Members: Henry Aaron, Chair
Lanhee Chen
Bernadette Franks-Ongoy
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Kim Hildred
Barbara Kennelly

SSAB Staff: Claire Green, Staff Director
Jackie Chapin, Policy Chief
Anita Grant, Communications Director
Jenn Rigger, Senior Advisor
Joel Feinleib, Staff Economist
Sterling Laudon, Policy Attorney
Matthew Comey, Policy Analyst
Sarah Weaver, Management Analyst
Caitlyn Tateishi, Management Analyst
Bethel Dejene, Management Analyst
Matthew Graves, Research Analyst
Fran Huber, SSA Detailee
Jeannette Mandycz, SSA Detailee
Joyce Nicholas, SSA Detailee

Presenters:

University of Chicago: Manasi Deshpande, Assistant Professor of Economics

Social Security Administration (SSA), Office of the Chief Strategic Officer: Stacy Rodgers, Chief of Staff
Ruby Burrell, Chief Strategic Officer

SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary: Steve Goss, Chief Actuary
Karen Glenn, Deputy Chief Actuary

**National Organization of Social Security
Claimant Representatives (NOSSCR):**

Lisa Ekman, Director of Government Affairs

The Board met with Manasi Deshpande about her research on initial disability claims processed in SSA's field offices. She updated the Board on new developments in her work since her previous presentation at SSAB's SSI Forum in July. She spoke about her findings and the effect of field office closings on applications and allowances by different subgroups. In her presentation, she stated that SSA may want to consider the socioeconomic level of an area in which a field office closure takes place. She also emphasized the importance of having substitution for service and other forms of assistance for those affected by field office closures.

The Board then met with Stacy Rodgers and Ruby Burrell of SSA who updated the Board on the implementation of Vision 2025 and accomplishments thus far. They highlighted the improvement in online customer service, reduction in wait times for a hearing decision, and establishment of the IT Investment Review Board, Enterprise Program Management Office and the Analytics Center of Excellence (ACE). Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Burrell then shared SSA's next steps and planned initiatives. They also provided more detailed information about SSA's newly formed ACE. ACE uses advanced data analytics to determine strategic objectives for SSA, and improve organizational and operational performance.

Steve Goss and Karen Glenn spoke to the Board about the differences between the Trustees' and CBO's estimates and mortality projections. They highlighted different assumptions used by CBO and the Trustees, such as lower death rates, birth rates and employment rates, which lead to different projections. CBO also projects higher earning concentration above the payroll tax cap and lower interest rates.

Lisa Ekman of NOSSCR spoke to the Board about SSA's recent regulatory actions on disability claims, such as closing the record, submission of duplicate records, and the proposed uniformity rule through all regions. She explained the positives of the proposed program uniformity rule and changes to acceptable medical sources from NOSSCR's perspective. She also explained the negative effects of SSA's acceptance of duplicate records before a hearing and the closing of the record.

I certify that the minutes written for the October 28, 2016 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.



Henry J. Aaron