



# Social Security Advisory Board

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Kim Hildred, Chair  
Henry J. Aaron  
Bob Joondeph  
Jagadeesh Gokhale  
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Claire Green, Staff Director

## Board Meeting Minutes January 23-24, 2019

**Location:** 400 Virginia Avenue, SW  
Suite 625  
Washington, DC 20024

**Time:** 9:30am – 2:30pm

**SSAB Members:** Kim Hildred, Chair  
Henry Aaron  
Nancy Altman  
Jagadeesh Gokhale  
Bob Joondeph

**SSAB Staff:** Claire Green, Staff Director  
Diane Brandt, Research Director  
Anita Grant, Senior Advisor  
Jenn Rigger, Senior Advisor  
Joel Feinleib, Senior Advisor  
Pamela Crawford, Senior Advisor  
Bethel Dejene, Management Analyst  
Caitlyn Tateishi, Management Analyst  
Conway Reinders, Lead Policy Analyst  
Emma Tatem, Policy Analyst

**Presenters:** Jack Smalligan, Senior Policy Fellow, Urban Institute  
Jen Burdick, Supervising Attorney, Community Legal Services  
Sharon Bland-Brady, President, National Association of Disability Examiners  
Curt Decker, Executive Director, National Disability Rights Network



## Social Security Advisory Board

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On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Board met with Jack Smalligan of the Urban Institute, who offered his perspectives on SSA's disability determination process as the former Office of Management and Budget director of the Education, Income Maintenance and Labor Division. Mr. Smalligan discussed the Social Security Administration's (SSA) reconsideration pilot program and highlighted the challenges affecting decision-making by the Commissioner of Social Security, such as the position's term limits and limitations affecting mandatory and discretionary federal budget spending.

The Board then continued its examination of the disability determination process in a meeting with Jen Burdick of Community Legal Services and Dr. Sharon Bland Brady of the National Association of Disability Examiners. Ms. Burdick and Dr. Brady provided an experiential perspective on the disability determination process by demonstrating ways in which practice and policy may not align. The presenters also discussed issues related to collecting and paying for medical evidence, performance measures for examiners and technology used in each state's disability determination service.

The Board then met with Curt Decker of the National Disability Rights Network, who discussed the roll-out of SSA's new representative payee monitoring program. Mr. Decker was uncertain as to whether the proposed 5,000 number of payee reviews would be completed due to various administrative challenges the network of protection and advocacy organizations have encountered, including delays in the issuance of laptops, the granting of security clearances, and issues with the new computer tool. Mr. Decker also expressed uncertainty regarding the procedures for identifying and selecting some representative payees for quick-response reviews. While it was unknown whether the new Representative Payee Monitoring Tool would collect structured data, Mr. Decker noted how these reviews provide the opportunity to inform Congress and SSA on the efficacy of the program.

The remainder of the Board's meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> was conducted in executive session, as was the entire day's meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

I certify that the minutes written for the January 23-24, 2019 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Hildred".

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Kim Hildred  
Chair - Social Security Advisory Board