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## “Big Ideas” for Disability Determination Process Improvement

### Participant Bios

**Phoebe Ball, JD**, is the Legislative Affairs Specialist with the National Council on Disability (NCD). She is a nationally recognized expert on guardianship issues and has been the lead staff on several projects related to guardianship while at NCD. Prior to her arrival in the District of Columbia in 2014, Ball was a staff attorney with Disability Rights Florida for seven years. While there, she worked on cases involving Social Security, Medicaid, guardianship and other disability issues. She has worked with the DD Council to provide training on guardianship and alternatives to legal professionals, families and individuals with disabilities. In addition to her professional credentials, Ball was born with spina bifida and received SSI and Medicaid benefits for 12 years while working towards economic independence from SSA benefits. This has influenced her career choices and lifelong interest in improving SSI/SSDI and Medicaid to make it work better for people with disabilities.

**Stacy Cloyd, JD**, is the Deputy Director of Government Affairs for the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR). In her role at NOSSCR, Cloyd advocates for laws, regulations, policies, and public perceptions that preserve and strengthen Social Security. Prior to working at NOSSCR, Cloyd was an attorney at a nonprofit legal clinic in Washington, DC, where she represented low-income individuals in a variety of pre- and post-eligibility Social Security and other public benefits matters, as well as rental housing cases. She also served as the senior domestic policy analyst at Bread for the World Institute, an anti-hunger and anti-poverty advocacy organization. Cloyd graduated from Smith College and received her law degree and a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan.

**Elizabeth (Liz) McLaren** is the current National Council of Disability Determinations Directors (NCDDD) President as well as the Administrator for the Iowa Disability Determination Services (DDS). McLaren began her role as

Administrator in October 2010, but has spent her entire 27-year career at the Iowa DDS, serving as a disability examiner, training coordinator and business process and policy expert. In addition to directing the operation of the DDS, Liz has devoted time to national workgroups and committees, including the National Disability Issues Group. McLaren began her service with NCDDD in 2010 serving on the Board of Trustees and then as Secretary in 2014 and NCDDD President-Elect in October 2016. McLaren enjoys networking with colleagues and working collaboratively to solve the challenges facing the DDS community. McLaren holds a BA from Simpson College in history and political science and a Certified Public Manager designation from Drake University in Des Moines.

**Peggy Murphy** was elected to serve as President of the National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA) in August 2018. Prior to that, Murphy served as NCSSMA Vice President from September 2017 through August 2018, as President of the Denver Region Social Security Management Association (DRSSMA) from 2015-2017, and as DRSSMA Vice President the two years prior. Murphy also served as the Chair of the NCSSMA Title 2 Committee from 2015-2017. During her term as DRSSMA President, Murphy focused on improving support for management as they navigated the relationship with the largest union at SSA. Murphy also cultivated and strengthened relationships with the regional executives. As DRSSMA President, Murphy pursued biannual meetings with regional executives to ensure that managers were included as part of the executive team as a valued resource. Murphy has been the Level 1 District Manager of the Great Falls, Montana, SSA Field Office since 2010. Murphy previously held management positions in Aurora, Colorado, and was also a Team Leader in the Center for Program Support and a Deputy Regional Communications Director in the Denver Region. Murphy was the Lead for Tribal Outreach in the Denver Region for several years, working directly with then deputy commissioner, Nancy Berryhill. Murphy has a BS in sociology and counseling and has an MBA from Troy State University.

**Andrew Sperling, JD**, is the Director of Federal Legislative Advocacy for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In this position, he leads NAMI's legislative advocacy initiatives in Congress and before federal agencies. Sperling works on issues affecting the mental health community with a focus on improving the lives of people with severe mental illnesses. Since 1994, Sperling has also served as Co-Chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force. Prior to joining NAMI, Sperling held the position of deputy director of government relations for the National Community Mental

Healthcare Council and was a legislative assistant for Representative Dick Swett (D-NH). Sperling earned his BA from Tulane University. After graduating from Tulane, Sperling attended George Washington University where he received a Master of Arts, and in 1992, he earned a law degree from the Franklin Pierce Law Center.