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Roundtable Agenda

May 28, 2020

Virtual Meeting

The Board continues its review of the initial and reconsideration levels of Social Security's disability process, focusing on testing and evaluating possible improvements. The meeting will be held as a Zoom webinar. Register here.

Testing and Evaluating Proposed Improvements to Initial and Reconsideration Level Disability Determinations

8:45 – 9 am

Opening Remarks

9 – 11 am

Rethinking the Disability Determination Process

Discussion of the merits and challenges of granting SSA funding flexibility to test process improvements, as proposed in a paper by Jack Smalligan and Chantel Boyens (Urban Institute) and determine whether tested changes improve the accuracy or efficiency of decisions. After, David Stapleton (Treehouse Economics LLC) will present a transformational approach to the Social Security Disability Insurance program.

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Evidence Collection

Assessment of ideas on improving evidence collection and review, specifically for vulnerable populations and complex claims. These include, but are not limited to, access to medical experts, expertise, evidence, and training.

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch Break

1:15 – 4:15 pm

SSA's Approach to Quality Assurance and Process Validity

The session will cover the best approaches and considerations for a study examining program integrity and quality assurance tools, specifically looking at features and limitations to determine changes in adjudicator behavior when denials are reviewed at a rate closer, if not comparable, to allowances. It will also discuss SSA's investment in the development of tools designed to systematically and comprehensively provide information for determination decision-making. These tools could be tested for their applicability to the determination process.

4 pm

Adjournment

Roundtable Panelists

David Autor, Ford Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Chantel Boyens, Principal Policy Associate, Urban Institute

Manasi Deshpande, Assistant Professor in Economics, University of Chicago

Howard Goldman, Liaison, Standing Committee of Experts to Assist Social Security on Disability Issues, Institute of Medicine; Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Nicole Maestas, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

L. Scott Muller, Senior Economist, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration (*retired*)

Harold Pollack, Helen Ross Professor, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

Jack Smalligan, Senior Policy Fellow, Urban Institute

Art Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Disability Programs, Office of XYZ, Social Security Administration (*retired*)

Melissa Spencer, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Office of Disability Policy, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration (*retired*)

David Stapleton, Member, Treehouse Economics LLC

Henry Aaron (*moderator*), Member, Social Security Advisory Board

Jagadeesh Gokhale (*moderator*), Member, Social Security Advisory Board

Kim Hildred (*moderator*), Chair, Social Security Advisory Board

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