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
On January 23rd, 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 23rd was conducted in executive session, as was the entire day’s meeting on the 24th.

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

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Kim Hildred
Chair - Social Security Advisory Board