

Social Security Advisory Board
Minutes
Board Meeting
March 9, 2011

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

Time: 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SSAB Members: Barbara Kennelly, Acting Chair
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas Hardy
Marsha Katz (by telephone)
Mark Warshawsky

Presenters: Art Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Disability
Programs, SSA
Janet Truhe, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Disability
Programs, SSA

SSAB Staff: Katherine Thornton, Staff Director
Debi Sullivan, Deputy Staff Director
Joel Feinleib
George Schuette
David Warner

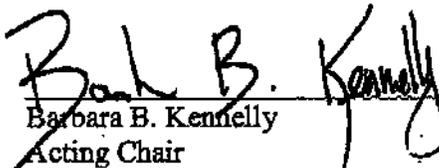
The Board met in executive session much of the day and discussed future Board projects, potential topics and guests for upcoming Board meetings, and papers that are currently in progress.

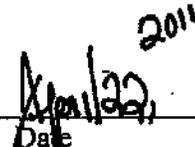
During a fact-finding session the members met with Art Spencer and Janet Truhe to discuss current SSA disability program initiatives. The Office of Disability Programs (ODP) is responsible for the development and ongoing refinement of the agency's disability policies. To accomplish its mission, ODP has begun a series of process improvement initiatives and is engaging in applied research looking at broader disability policy.

The session included a discussion of these initiatives and ODP's research tools. Much of the discussion focused on claims' characteristic data collections, the Policy Feedback System (designed to quickly identify policy areas needing clarification and improvement), and the Request for Program Consultation process (used to resolve differing opinions in case adjudication). The Board continued its follow up on the implementation of the Electronic Claims Analysis tool (eCAT) and how it will fit in with the Disability Case Processing System that is still under development. The eCAT tool will become a module within the new case processing system. ODP is also working on an interactive training delivery system based on case studies.

An overview of SSA's interagency agreement with National Institutes of Health was provided. The focus of this work is on how to improve the collection of data on a claimant's ability to function.

I certify that the minutes written for the March 9, 2011 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.


Barbara B. Kennelly
Acting Chair
Social Security Advisory Board


Date