Social Security Advisory Board

Henry J. Aaron, Chair
Lanhee J. Chen
Alan L. Cohen
Bernadette Franks-Ongoy
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas R. Hardy
Barbara B. Kennelly
Claire Green, Staff Director

Social Security Advisory Board

Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2016

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

Time:
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

SSAB Members:
Henry Aaron, Chair
Lanhee Chen
Alan Cohen
Bernadette Franks-Ongoy
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas Hardy
Barbara Kennelly

SSAB Staff:
Claire Green, Staff Director
David Warner, Management Chief
Jackie Chapin, Policy Chief
Anita Grant, Communications Director
Joel Feinleib, Staff Economist
Sterling Laudon, Policy Attorney
Matthew Comey, Policy Analyst
Jeremy Elder, Policy Analyst
Sarah Weaver, Management Analyst
Bethel Dejene, Management Analyst
Matthew Graves, Research Analyst
Obie Blackmon, SSA Detailee
Fran Huber, SSA Detailee
Jeannette Mandycez, SSA Detailee
Joyce Nicholas, SSA Detailee

Presenters:

Social Security Administration (SSA), Office of Systems:
Rob Klopp, Deputy Commissioner/Chief Information Officer, Office of Systems

IBM:
Barbara Hoover, SSA Watson Project Representative and other representatives from IBM
In the morning, the Board met with Rob Klopp, SSA’s Chief Information Officer. Mr. Klopp provided an update on the status of the Disability Case Processing System (DCPS). The Office of Systems will be rolling out DCPS functionality to Disability Determination Services (DDSs) in increments.

Next, the Board met with Barbara Hoover and a team from IBM to hear about Watson technology and possible uses at SSA. The team led an interactive demonstration with a robot using Watson technology. Representatives demonstrated Watson’s ability to process and interpret natural language and respond to commands and questions. The Board and IBM staff discussed ways that Watson technology could be used by SSA to assist the public and reduce agency workloads.

In the afternoon, the Board met with representatives from NIH and SSA on the Work Disability Functional Assessment Battery Tests (WD-FAB). WD-FAB is a statistical tool that SSA hopes will allow it to improve the disability determination process and target work supports to disability beneficiaries with a high probability of returning to work. The team presented their findings and explained next steps in their research.

I certify that the minutes written for the September 16, 2016 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.

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Henry J. Aaron