



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

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Claire Green, Staff Director

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 Mandycz, 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

**National Institutes of Health (NIH) and SSA's
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy
(ORDP)**

Dr. Leighton Chan, Chief, Rehabilitation
Medicine Department, Clinical Center, NIH
Dr. Beth Rasch, Staff Scientist and Chief,
Epidemiology and Biostatistics, NIH
Dr. Diane Brandt, Protocol Manager,
Epidemiology and Biostatistics, NIH
Representatives from ORDP:
Virginia Reno, Deputy Commissioner, ORDP
Susan Wilschke, Deputy Associate
Commissioner, Office of Research,
Demonstration, and Employment Support
(ORDES)
Reafel Rigg, Acting Director, Office of Data
Analysis, ORDES
Tony Notaro, NIH Project Manager, ORDES
Tamar Khafi, Social Science Research Analyst,
ORDES
Gina Clemons, Associate Commissioner, Office
of Disability Policy (ODP)
Dan O'Brien, Director, Office of Vocational,
Evaluation, and Process Policy, ODP
Deborah Harkin, Senior Advisor, ODP

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.



Henry J. Aaron