Insights from Federal Agencies on How to Engage People with Disabilities in Policies, Programs, and Evaluations

Speakers
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Jeffrey Hemmeter, Social Security Administration

Jeffrey Hemmeter is the acting deputy associate commissioner in the Office of Research, Demonstration, and Employment Support at the Social Security Administration (SSA) where he helps design, conduct, and oversee research, evaluation, and policies related to disability and return to work. Hemmeter's research focuses on transition-age youth and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and he has worked on several SSA demonstrations, evaluations, and studies, including as the SSA lead on the Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI evaluation. He also co-edited a compilation of papers on SSA's research, *Lessons from SSA Demonstrations for Disability Policy and Future Research*. Hemmeter received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Denise Hoffman, Mathematica

Denise Hoffman is a principal researcher at Mathematica. Her research focuses on the employment, program participation, and health insurance of adults with disabilities. Her research includes an analysis of the Benefit Offset National Demonstration, several investigator-initiated studies as part of the Social Security Administration Retirement and Disability Research Consortium, and impact analyses of federally-funded initiatives intended to help people with disabilities become self-sufficient, including the Promoting Opportunity Demonstration, Ticket to Work, the Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment, and the Non-Elderly Disabled Housing Voucher Program. Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Marie Lawrence, Administration for Children and Families

Marie Lawrence (she/her) is a senior social science research analyst and the acting team lead for welfare research in the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her portfolio focuses on improving family well-being through research and evaluation projects related to employment and training and the applications of behavioral science to human services. She is particularly interested in research that explores and addresses racial and ethnic disparities; engages

community members in program design and evaluation; and builds evaluation capacity in local programs. Prior to joining OPRE, she was an Emerson National Hunger Fellow and held positions at the National Conference of State Legislatures, New America, and community-based organizations in Arizona and California. Marie holds a B.A. from Duke University and an M.P.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School, and she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in public policy and administration at The George Washington University.

Purvi Sevak, Mathematica

Purvi Sevak directs business development activities related to disability projects. She has extensive research, program evaluation, and technical assistance experience. She has partnered with state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies, centers for independent living, and other community-based organizations working to help people with disabilities achieve their employment and independent living goals. Sevak was an engagement lead on the HHS Equity Technical Assistance Center and she leads Mathematica's work on the Minority Youth and Centers for Independent Living project, which includes research and technical assistance activities to increase and improve services for transition aged youth with disabilities from minority backgrounds. Sevak holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

Savi Swick, U.S. Department of Labor

Savi Swick is the director of research for employment and training programs in the Chief Evaluation Office (CEO), where she is responsible for helping oversee their employment and training evaluation research portfolio, staff, and office functions. Before joining CEO, Ms. Swick served as the director of research and evaluation in the DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy for over eight years leading the Research and Evaluation Division which conducts intramural and extramural research and analysis on disability employment. Previously, Ms. Swick was at DOL's Office of Policy Development and Research in Employment and Training Administration (ETA) as a supervisory workforce analyst. In ETA, Swick managed an extensive portfolio of federal evaluations employing rigorous evaluation methodologies. Prior to joining the federal government, Swick was an organizational development manager and a statistician at the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency. Ms. Swick received her M.A. and M.S.F.S. from Colorado State University and Georgetown University, respectively, in Political Science/Economics, and holds a B.A. in Political Science from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

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