

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

Mary Barros-Bailey, Ph.D.
Interim Chair

May 26, 2009

Carlmar B. J. Andersson, M.D., Ph.D.
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David A. Rust
Deputy Commissioner
for Retirement and Disability Policy
Social Security Administration
Suite 100 Altmeyer
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Deputy Commissioner Rust:

I am writing to provide you and your staff with the status of the Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel (the "Panel"), its progress to date, and the continuing activities in support of the recommendations that the Panel will deliver to you in September 2009.

At the Inaugural Meeting in February, the Panel established four subcommittees in areas it identified as key to the creation of a new occupational information system: mental/cognitive, physical demands, taxonomy, and DDS. Each of these subcommittees has met and developed an agenda to identify, research, review and present information vital to the Panel as it deliberates toward the development of its recommendations.

On April 27-29, 2009, the Panel held a quarterly meeting in Atlanta, GA. During this meeting, we received an electronic adult disability case demonstration followed by specific analysis of the case from various stakeholder perspectives--including, SSA adjudicative and program staff, vocational experts, and claimant representatives. In addition to discussion and approval of Panel administrative and business items, the Panel held subcommittee meetings, reviewed its roadmap for completion of Panel tasks and developed the agenda for the upcoming quarterly meeting.

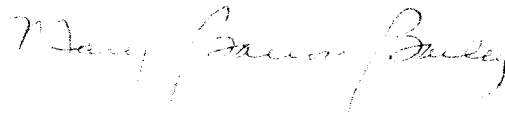
After consultation with numerous Panel members, stakeholders and SSA staff, we determined the need to refocus the work of one subcommittee—the DDS Subcommittee—to look at overall user needs and relationships and to establish a new subcommittee (the TSA

Subcommittee) that will focus on issues relating to the transferability of skills analysis. On Wednesday, May 13, 2009, the TSA Subcommittee hosted a roundtable at Social Security Headquarters that included well-known guest experts Dr. Karl Botterbusch, Jeff Truthan, Gale Gibson, Dr. Patrick Dunn, and Dr. Tim Field.

The Panel will hold its next quarterly meeting on June 10-11, 2009, in Chicago, IL. In addition to deliberation and discussion, we have confirmed appearances by Georgina Huskey, President of the National Association of Disability Examiners and Trudy Lyon-Hart, Secretary of the National Council of Disability Determination Directors. We expect to hear their organizational recommendations on the development and types of information they suggest for inclusion in SSA's disability specific occupational information system. The Panel will also hear presentations on classification structures; the specifics of job analysis; and, the logic of clinical reasoning. In addition, each subcommittee chair will report on their group's current findings and progress to date. In conjunction with this meeting, the Mental/ Cognitive Subcommittee will host a Roundtable of experts to include Dr. Gary Bond (Indiana University), Dr. Pamela Warren (Carle Clinic Association) and Dr. E. Sally Rogers (Boston University, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation).

On behalf of the Panel, it is our privilege to assist you and the agency in the undertaking and successful accomplishment of this critical effort. I hope that you find this information timely and helpful and will continue to send these status updates as we progress.

Sincerely,



Mary Barros-Bailey, Ph.D.
Interim Chair

cc:

Marianna LaCanfora
Richard Balkus
Sylvia E. Karman
Debra Tidwell-Peters