SSA’s Plans to Develop Occupational Information

Inaugural Meeting
Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel
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So What is SSA’s Plan?

**Short-term Project**: Evaluate updated DOT-based data from a private vendor that may fit seamlessly into current disability process with no changes to policy or forms while long-term work is underway.

**Long-term Project**: Develop an occupational information system tailored for SSA’s disability programs.
Are there existing DOT-Based Data SSA Can Use in the Interim?

- Existing private-sector data and process for updates of some DOT titles
- Independent evaluation of DOT-based data
- No changes to current policy/process
- May inform long-term work.

Contracts awarded August 2008 to CPSSI (DOT-based data) and ICF (evaluator).

- Evaluation report due May 2009
- Pending results, plan to use data by December 2009
Long-Term Project Goals

- Develop integrated occupational information system tailored for SSA disability programs
- Update SSA’s disability policies, forms, and process in light of new occupational information
- Establish an ongoing process to keep the occupational information and policy current
- Note: Project assumes no change to Social Security Act
What Do We Mean by Integrated?

- “Integrated” in terms of methods to develop the OIS and in terms using OIS
- Use >1 most viable methods
- Where possible, build on relevant elements of DOT & O*NET
- Integrate new OIS into SSA’s disability policy and process
- Integrated methods keep OIS and SSA disability process current
Long-Term Project Stages

- Outreach -- throughout entire project; includes SSA workgroup
- Research and Development -- includes Advisory Panel; Data collection
- Policy Development
- Disability Process and Systems integration
- Ongoing Support and Maintenance
Outreach to be conducted at all stages of the long-term project to include stakeholders in the development of the new OIS
Occupational Information System Development Workgroup

- Outreach with SSA stakeholders
- Mechanism by which SSA offices will work together and with Advisory Panel
- Active throughout entire project
- Keep it real: help project team ensure that new OIS meets SSA program and data criteria and is operationally feasible
Research & Development:
Occupational Information Development
Advisory Panel

- Formed according to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972
- Composed primarily of experts external to SSA
- Will advise SSA on proposed plans and methods throughout the R&D stage of project
- Help SSA refine its project roadmap--SSA project team, OISD Workgroup, and OIDAP will work together to map SSA’s direction
Part I: What information do we need?

- Develop Content Model
- Identify “constructs” for physical and mental worker traits, work demands, other data critical for disability evaluation
- Develop initial classification
- Develop & test instruments
R&D: What Information Do We Need?

- RFC study: examine effects of using the new physical and mental/cognitive worker traits in RFC process
- RFC study results: refine content model & instruments, inform policy development.
- Test job analysis instrument(s)
- Other SSA research/studies to inform OIS development
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Part II: Once we know what we want, how do we get it?

- Develop & test data collection and sampling plans
- Collect and validate occupational information
- Revise classification based on data collection
- Conduct studies to inform policy development
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Study effects of introducing new work information (e.g. mental, cognitive, postural, manipulative) into med-voc rules
- Study effects of vocational factors (age, education, work skills) on disability claimants
- Develop & test policy options
- Draft & publish revised regulations, rulings, policy guidance, etc.
- Develop & conduct training
Incorporate national occupational information and updated policy into SSA’s disability process

Integrate new occupational information system into SSA’s modernized electronic systems to support disability adjudication
SSA will develop methods and business processes to keep the occupational information system current.