Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities

Prospects for Harnessing Private Sector Capabilities to Improve Employment for Social Security Disability Beneficiaries

A Public Policy Forum

February 21, 2007
1 pm to 3 pm
AARP Headquarters
Brickfield Conference Center
601 E St, NW
Washington, DC

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www.EmploymentPolicyRRTC.org
Program Topic

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities is hosting a series of policy forums to explore policy alternatives to promote employment of individuals with disabilities. This forum will focus on how the capabilities of the private sector -- private disability insurers, disability management firms, and the employers they serve -- can potentially be harnessed to better support employees, and thereby also improve the public system of support for workers with disabilities and Social Security Disability Insurance more broadly. Presenters will discuss which approaches might best improve the lives of workers with disabilities by assisting them to maintain self-sufficiency, also thereby simultaneously contributing more broadly to a reduction in the growth of federal program expenditures.

Upcoming Policy Forums

Friday, November 9, 2007
Social Security Demonstrations: Reports on New Approaches

Speakers & moderators to be determined
Location TBD

Funding Agency

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Speakers

Winthrop Cashdollar, America’s Health Insurance Plans

Ken Mitchell, Unum Corporation

John Lancaster, National Council on Independent Living, Discussant

David Stapleton, Cornell University Institute for Policy Research, Moderator

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Biographies

development centers. He is co-editor of two books on disability, *Growth in Disability Benefits: Explanations and Policy Implications* (1998, with Kalman Rupp), and *The Decline in Employment of People with Disabilities: A Policy Puzzle* (2003, with Richard Burkhauser). Dr. Stapleton also conducts evaluation work in the area of health care services. He recently was co-PI for the design of CMS’s Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration and is currently co-PI for the design of Medicare Chiropractic Services Demonstration and the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Services Demonstration. Prior to his Cornell appointment, Dr. Stapleton was Senior Vice President and Director of the Applied Economics Practice at The Lewin Group. He has previously held tenured appointments at both Dartmouth College and the University of Maryland at College Park. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1978.

Upcoming Policy Forums

**Friday, June 8, 2007**

Disability System Changes in UK/Back to Work - A Report on the Current System and Recent Changes with Discussion of Implications for US Systems

*Speakers & moderators to be determined*

*Location - Hall of States*

**Friday, July 27, 2007**

Higher Education Policy - a viewpoint on the role of higher education and how it is/is not working for young adults with disabilities

*Speakers & moderators to be determined*

*Location - TBD*

**Friday, September 7, 2007**

Accessibility of Technology: Employment Aspects for PWDs - reports on recent legislative and regulatory developments and policy directions

*Speakers & moderators to be determined*

*Location TBD*

Agenda

**Prospects for Harnessing Private Sector Capabilities to Improve Employment for Social Security Disability Beneficiaries**

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

AARP Headquarters - Brickfield Conference Center

601 E St, NW - Washington, DC

Welcome

Susanne Bruyere,

Director, Employment and Disability Institute

Cornell University

Introduction

David Stapleton, Cornell University Institute for Policy Research

Panel

Winthrop Cashdollar, America’s Health Insurance

“SSDI: Challenges and Opportunities”

Ken Mitchell, Unum Corporation

“Public/Private DI Partnerships: Opportunities and Options”

John Lancaster, National Council on Independent Living, Discussant

Questions from the audience
Winthrop Cashdollar

As Executive Director for Disability Insurance at America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), Winthrop S. Cashdollar oversees AHIP’s advocacy on behalf of disability insurance products. He promotes private disability income protection nationwide through efforts to educate policymakers, the media, and the public on the role and value of disability coverage in helping families maintain financial security against the risk of serious illness or injury. Winthrop oversees AHIP research on disability and disability income protection; leads industry efforts to improve the coordination of private and public disability income benefits; and spearheads industry efforts to develop and implement private-public partnerships between private insurers and the Social Security Administration.

Prior to joining AHIP, Winthrop served as Executive Director of the Nevada Health Care Association and as Director of Legislative Policy and Analysis for the American Health Care Association (AHCA), where he was instrumental in AHCA’s work on long-term care financing reform and long-term care insurance. Winthrop began his career in Washington, D.C., as an advisor on health and other issues to then Senator William Cohen (R-ME). A native of Pennsylvania, Winthrop received a bachelor of science degree from Pennsylvania State University and a master’s in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

Ken Mitchell

Ph.D, is the Vice President of Health & Productivity Development for Unum Corporation, Chattanooga, TN, where he has been since 1997. Unum is the largest disability insurer in North America. In this role Dr. Mitchell coordinates the research and education activities related to the corporate lost time, health and productivity management development activities. Dr. Mitchell has contributed as a Assistant Clinical Professor at the Ohio State University, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from 1982 – 1992. During this time he also served as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Case Western University Medical School’s Department of Rheumatology. From 1982 to 1984 Dr. Mitchell was the Director of Rehabilitation for the Ohio Industrial Commission. From 1984 to 1997 Dr. Mitchell concurrently held the positions of President of the National Rehabilitation Planners and as the Executive Director of the International Center for Industry, Labor and Rehabilitation, a private non-profit research and education group. He served for seven years (1975-1982) as an assistant and tenured associate professor in the School of Medicine, University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. Dr. Mitchell received his bachelor of science in Psychology at the Ohio State University (1969) and his Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University (1975).

John Lancaster

serves as the Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living. NCIL is the oldest disability grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. NCIL advances the independent living philosophy and advocates for the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in society. Mr. Lancaster is a native of the Hamburg, New York. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1967 with a B.A. in the General Program of Liberal Studies. As a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, he commanded an infantry platoon in combat during the Vietnam War earning a Purple Heart and Bronze Star in 1968. Following military service, he returned to Notre Dame for a law degree.

Since 1974, he has worked as a civil rights attorney working on issues related to the integration and empowerment of people with disabilities. He has served in government from 1981-1987 for Governor Harry Hughes of Maryland as the Director of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities and again from 1991-2000 with the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. From 1995-2000, he distinguished himself in the Clinton Administration in the formulation of disability employment policy as the President’s Committee’s Executive Director. In October 2004, he returned to Washington after 4 years in Hanoi, Vietnam where he was a consultant providing advice and technical assistance on law, policy and programs concerning business, government relations and people with disabilities in Vietnam. He and his wife of 22 years, B. Christine Lancaster, reside in Potsdam, New York.

David Stapleton

Ph.D. (Economics) is the Director of the Cornell University Institute for Policy Research in Washington, DC. For the past 13 years, Dr. Stapleton’s work has focused on programs for people with disabilities, especially their impacts on employment and economic independence. He is currently Co-PI and Research Director for Cornell’s Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for People with Disabilities, and a Co-PI for Cornell’s Disability Statistics and Demographics and Statistics Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, both funded by the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), and for the Social Security Administration’s evaluation of the Ticket to Work program. He also is a consultant to Abt Associates in their effort to design SSA’s Benefit Offset Demonstration, is assisting the State of Massachusetts in their efforts to improve Medicaid services for workers with disabilities, under grants from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and is assisting the State of Colorado in its evaluation of the use of Disability Navigators in local workforce