Disability and Well-Being: Barriers to Improving Quality of Life for People with Disabilities

PRESENTERS

Priyanka Anand, Mathematica Policy Research

Dr. Anand is a researcher at Mathematica whose work focuses on social insurance programs, disability, and health policy. Her projects include a study of the ways in which people exit the Social Security Administration’s (SSAs) disability programs, an analysis of private disability insurance in the U.S., and an evaluation of unemployment compensation during the Great Recession. She has also analyzed how rising health insurance costs affect employee compensation and how people with disabilities use their time. Dr. Anand holds a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

Gina Livermore, Mathematica Policy Research

Dr. Livermore, a senior researcher at Mathematica, is an expert in health insurance and employment policy issues for people with disabilities. Her research focuses on issues related to improving the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of working-age people with disabilities, including studies of long-term poverty and material hardship in this population. Dr. Livermore directed an evaluation of the Ticket to Work program for SSA, and she is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Previously, she was assistant director of Cornell University’s Institute for Policy Research as well as a vice president and senior manager at the Lewin Group. She has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jody Schimmel Hyde, Mathematica Policy Research

Dr. Schimmel Hyde is a senior researcher at Mathematica whose work focuses on disability policy, the employment of people with disabilities, and issues related to retirement and the elderly. She leads two research projects assessing the interaction between SSA disability programs and federal and state vocational rehabilitation programs. For the past several years, she has directed studies assessing work-related activities among SSA disability beneficiaries and has led evaluations of SSA’s Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Medicaid Buy-In program. Dr. Schimmel Hyde also co-leads the training and education activities of the Disability Research Consortium. She has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.
John Tschida, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

Mr. Tschida, director of NIDRR, has spent the last 15 years using data and research to drive policy change. Before joining NIDRR in 2014, he served as director of public policy and innovation at Allina Health in Minnesota, where he developed integrated health delivery systems and financing models for people with disabilities. At the Courage Center, Minnesota’s leading nonprofit provider of rehabilitation services, Mr. Tschida was vice president of public affairs and research, directing a public policy and research team that focused on defining and achieving better outcomes for complex populations. His team received one of the first Health Care Innovation Awards from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mr. Tschida has a master’s degree in public policy and a health services research certificate from Georgetown University.