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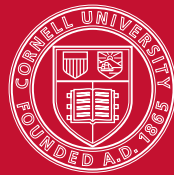
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Cornell University

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

## **Social Security: A Disability System for the 21st Century - Information and Discussion on the Report A Public Policy Forum**

January 12, 2007

10 am to 12 pm

Hall of the States

444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 333  
Washington, DC 20001



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## Program Topic

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment 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 explore the report of the Social Security Advisory Board, *A Disability System for the 21st Century* (see <http://www.ssab.gov/sumrDisabilitySystem.shtml>) which outlines the Board's vision of a disability system that is in alignment with the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act, "to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, full participation and economic self-sufficiency for such individuals."

## Speakers

**Dorcas Hardy**, Social Security Advisory Board

**Connie Garner**, Senate HELP Committee

**Kim Hildred**, Social Security Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee

**Alaine Perry**, United Spinal Association

**Bonnie O'Day**, Cornell University Institute for Policy Research, Moderator

## Funding Agency

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## Upcoming Policy Forums

### **Friday, July 27, 2007**

Higher Education Policy - a view point 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*

### **Friday, November 9, 2007**

Social Security Demonstrations: Reports on New Approaches

*Speakers & moderators to be determined*

*Location - TBD*

## For more information contact:

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## Biographies

The Subcommittee's agenda has included a hearing series on protecting and strengthening Social Security, Social Security's improved disability determination process, Social Security number high risk issues, "Ticket to Work" implementation, service delivery challenges, immigration policy impacts on Social Security programs and protecting Social Security from waste, fraud, and abuse.

**Alaine Perry** is the Director of Public Policy for the United Spinal Association. She has an extensive background in the Social Security and SSI disability programs and was one of the leading advocates in the development and passage of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, legislation to reduce barriers to employment for Social Security and SSI disability beneficiaries. As United Spinal's Director of Public Policy, she has continued to take a leadership role in advocating for improvements to the disability programs, for reducing barriers to employment, and for protecting access to cash benefits for those unable to work. Ms. Perry was recently nominated and selected as a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI).

## Upcoming Policy Forums

**Friday, March 16, 2007**

Private Disability Insurance Providers & Reforming the SSDI system - a review of some approaches and their implications for the Public System

*Speakers & moderators to be determined*

*Location - Hall of States*

**Friday, May 11, 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*

## Agenda

### **Social Security: A Disability System for the 21st Century - Information and Discussion on the Report**

Friday, January 12, 2007

Hall of States - 444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Room 333

#### **Welcome**

Susanne Bruyere,  
Director, Employment and Disability Institute  
Cornell University

#### **Introduction**

Bonnie O'Day, Cornell University Institute for Policy Research

#### **Panel**

Dorcas Hardy, Social Security Advisory Board  
Connie Garner, Senate HELP Committee  
Kim Hildred, Social Security Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee  
Alaine Perry, United Spinal Association

#### **Questions from the audience**

## Biographies

**Dorcas Hardy** is President of DRHardy & Associates, a government relations and public policy firm serving a diverse portfolio of clients. After her appointment as Assistant Secretary of Human Development Services, she served as Commissioner of Social Security from 1986 to 1989 and was recently appointed by President Bush to chair the Policy Committee for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. Ms. Hardy has launched and hosted her own primetime, weekly television program, "Financing Your Future," on Financial News Network and UPI Broadcasting and "The Senior American," an NET political program for older Americans. She speaks and writes widely about domestic and international retirement financing issues and entitlement program reforms and is the author of *Social Insecurity: The Crisis in America's Social Security System* and *How to Plan Now for Your Own Financial Survival* Random House, 1992. Ms. Hardy consults with seniors' organizations, public policy groups and businesses to promote redesign and modernization of the Social Security, Medicare and disability insurance systems. Additionally, she has chaired a Task Force to rebuild vocational rehabilitation services for disabled veterans for the Department of Veterans Affairs. She received her B.A. from Connecticut College, her M.B.A. from Pepperdine University and completed the Executive Program in Health Policy and Financial Management at Harvard University. She is a Certified Senior Advisor and serves on the Board of Directors of The Options Clearing Corporation, Wright Investors Service Managed Funds, and First Coast Service Options. First term of office: April 2002 to September 2004. Current term of office October 2004 to September 2010

**Connie Garner** is Policy Director for Disability and Special Populations for Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). Currently, she is responsible for interagency disability/health policy development for the HELP Committee, and she consults to the Senate Democratic Caucus on disability issues, mental health related issues, and domestic HIV/AIDS legislation.

She served as one of the lead Democratic staff persons for the "CHIP" legislation in 1997, was the lead Democratic staff person for the "Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999", and on the recently reauthorized special education legislation (IDEA) and the new "Family Opportunity Act of 2006" - a bill to allow states to offer a Medicaid buy-in to middle income families for their significantly disabled child.

## Biographies

She is now working as the lead Democratic staff person for: (1) the Mental Health Parity Equitable Treatment Act; (2) the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act; (3) the reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and (4) the new Class Act, designed to help adults with severe functional impairments obtain services and support they need to stay functional and independent.

Prior to joining Senator Kennedy in 1996, she was the Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, at the U.S. Department of Education. While working at the U.S. Department of Education, Ms. Garner was the Director of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities and also served as the liaison for the Secretary of Education in all interagency matters related to health and children - including representing the Secretary of Education's interests in the health care reform debate.

She received her B.S. in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, her M.S. in Nursing from George Mason University, her Ed.S. from George Washington University, and her Doctorate in Health and Education Policy from the George Washington University. Ms. Garner is also certified as Pediatric and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, and continues to work part-time at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. She is married to a Pediatrician and is the mother of seven children

**Kim Hildred** serves as the Chief Social Security Advisor for Committee on Ways and Means Republicans.

Kim's background includes addiction counseling, State disability claims adjudication, and various disability policy and program management positions in the Social Security Administration. She first came to the Congress via a fellowship with the American Political Science Association, and has worked for the Committee since December of 1994. Kim served as the Subcommittee on Social Security Staff Director from 1997-2006. Kim received her Bachelor's degree from Waynesburg College and her Master's degree from Duquesne University. Kim is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and an associate member of the American Political Science Association.

The Social Security Subcommittee has primary jurisdiction over legislation affecting Social Security retirement and disability programs and is responsible for congressional oversight of the Social Security Administration.