

# Jump Start Disability Policy Reform: Two Goals and a Process

David C. Stapleton

AEI—Brookings—SIG forum on:

**Disability Insurance: Inherent Problems,  
Practical Solutions, and Action for Reform**

Washington, DC  
April 19, 2013

---

**MATHEMATICA**  
Policy Research, Inc.

---

Center for  
Studying  
**DISABILITY POLICY**



---

# References

---

- **David R. Mann and David C. Stapleton.**
  - **“Fiscal Austerity and the Transition to a 21st-Century Disability Policy: A Roadmap.” Working Paper. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research, November 2011**
  - **A Roadmap to a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Disability Policy.” Issue Brief no. 12-01, Mathematica Policy Research, January 2012.**
  - **Beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act: Restructuring Disability Policy to Increase Economic Well-being and Independence.” In Heymann, J., M.A. Stein and G. Moreno (Eds.) *Disability and Equity at Work*. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.**

# Two Disability Policy Reform Goals

---

- **Increase employment opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities**
- **Reduce growth in public expenditures to support working-age people with disabilities**

# Three Barriers Block Progress

---

- **A legacy of distrust**
- **Financing is misaligned with goals**
- **Fragmentation of responsibilities**

# Provisions of Legislation to Support Positive Reforms

---

- **Goals**
  - Better economic opportunities and outcomes
  - Reduced growth in public expenditures
- **Management and oversight**
- **Transparent accounting**
- **Waivers**

# Management and Oversight Provisions (1)

---

- **A federal entity with a charter to:**
  - **Establish and lead the reform process**
  - **Grant cross-cutting waivers from current programs to states, localities, private entities and federal agencies**
  - **Coordinate cross-cutting activities under the waivers**
  - **Monitor disability population outcomes**
  - **Establish and operate an appellate process**
  - **Support continual improvement through evaluation, dissemination ,and technical assistance**
  - **Make midcourse adjustments**

# **Management and Oversight Provisions (2)**

---

- **Establish an independent consumer review board system**
- **Encourage or require state governments to charter comparable entities**

# Full and Transparent Accounting

---

- **Rolling 10-year budget projections**
  - Encompass all federal and state expenditures for working-age people with disabilities
  - Based on current law initially
  - Divide into state-level projections
  - Include projections for state matching dollars
  - Produce annually
  
- **Account for actual expenditures at the end of each year**
  
- **Option: gradually reduce the budget**



# Waivers

---

- **Default: None.**
  - Continue to administer current programs
- **Preferred: States, localities, private entities and even federal agencies propose waivers designed to:**
  - Improve economic outcomes for the disability population
  - Reduce expenditures relative to projections
  - Start small, build on initial successes, discard initial failures

# What might the waivers allow?

---

- **Single door to disability supports**
- **Restructure benefits to make work pay, encourage savings, support community living**
- **Short-term disability benefits**
- **Experience rating**
- **Integrate SSDI with workers' compensation and private disability benefits**
- **Innovative transition programs for youth and young adults with disabilities**
- **...and many more**

# Contact Information

---

**David Stapleton**

**David Mann**

**Center for Studying Disability Policy**

**Mathematica Policy Research**

**1100 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Washington, DC 20024**

**(202) 484-9227**

**[dstapleton@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:dstapleton@mathematica-mpr.com)**

**[dmann@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:dmann@mathematica-mpr.com)**

**[www.DisabilityPolicyResearch.org](http://www.DisabilityPolicyResearch.org)**