



# **Secretaries' Innovation Group**

**2012-2024**

**Summaries of Presentations**



**This book is intended for the use of any state or local government agency wishing to improve the effectiveness of its operations. The Secretaries' Innovation Group is a membership organization of state human service and workforce secretaries, founded in 2012. We exchange state program innovations and press for national solutions which favor healthy families, work, economic self-reliance, budget responsibility and limited government.**

**For more information and presenter contact info:**

Jason Turner, Executive Director, [rusticator@gmail.com](mailto:rusticator@gmail.com)  
Michelle Hays, Membership Director, [michelleh.sig@gmail.com](mailto:michelleh.sig@gmail.com)

**For presentations, please visit:**

**<http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>**



## **Secretaries' Innovation Group**

### ***Summaries of Presentations by Topic: 2012-2024***

#### **Summaries of Presentations by Topic:**

<b>Pages 1-24</b>	Requiring and Supporting Work
<b>Pages 24-31</b>	Skills Training and Apprenticeships
<b>Pages 32-35</b>	Performance Contracting Impact and Outcomes
<b>Pages 36-51</b>	Improving Operations - Efficiency and Effectiveness
<b>Pages 52-63</b>	Food Stamps
<b>Pages 64-72</b>	Drug Abuse and its Effects
<b>Pages 73-79</b>	Child Welfare
<b>Pages 80-89</b>	Unemployment Insurance
<b>Pages 90-94</b>	Mental Health
<b>Pages 95-102</b>	Disability
<b>Pages 103-104</b>	Preventing Unplanned Pregnancies
<b>Pages 105-108</b>	Supporting Relationships
<b>Pages 109-111</b>	Immigration
<b>Pages 111-117</b>	Housing, Medicaid, Culture, and Other



## SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP

### SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

## Requiring and Supporting Work Presentations

DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>The Success Sequence and the Middle Class</i></p>	<p><i>Brad Wilcox, University of VA and director of National Marriage Project Jason Turner, Secretaries' Innovation Group</i></p> <p>The "Success Sequence," a formula which if followed guarantees young adults will become part of America's middle class. The formula incorporates three stages <b><i>which are within every young persons' ability to control regardless of his initial personal family and economic circumstances.</i></b> The statistically proven formula is this - - get at least a high school education (anywhere), work full time after leaving school, and marry before having children.</p> <p>Among millennials who have followed this sequence, 97% are above poverty and safely into the middle class when they have reached adulthood. This fact has remained strong after this cohort of young Americans has reached their mid-30s, according to a new analysis of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). Even those who follow the first two steps but not the third are 90% out of poverty. But what exactly are the specific markers that indicate a family's membership in America's middle class?</p> <p>Our SIG secretaries and directors directly or indirectly touch our young people at each of these three success stages. We are going to spend the morning discussing steps our agencies and partners can take at each of the three success life points - - helping young people to graduate, get a job and remain employed, and get married before having children.</p>
<p><i>Graduating from High School</i></p>	<p><i>John Gardner, Former Milwaukee School Board member</i></p> <p>John Gardner is a former Milwaukee School Board member whose election in 1995 was sufficient to usher in the city's school choice policy under his leadership. Gardner has spent his career on the school to work practice, especially with males. His interventions have highlighted the merits of work and earnings while in school.</p>
<p><i>Getting a job immediately after finishing school and staying in the labor force</i></p>	<p><i>Earl Buford, Executive Director, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning</i></p> <p>CAEL is a fifty year old national, nonprofit membership organization that supports the creation of education-to-career pathways supporting workforce agencies, industrial partners, and adult educational institutions. By helping diverse organizations find common cause in adult learners and workers, CAEL keeps education and training providers aligned in real time. It focuses expertise</p>

	and resources to ensure adult learners and workers can navigate the on- and off-ramps between education and employment.
<i>Does work help make you happy independent of its economic benefits?</i>	<p><i>Erik Randolph, Director of Research and author, Non-Financial Impact of Non-Work, Georgia Center for Opportunity</i></p> <p>It is said that work brings economic benefits and permits parents to be good role models for their children. This is WAY too narrow a point of view! First, work is society's organized system of individual labor donations to members of a group (through the marketplace) thereby creating adherence, connections and loyalty to members of this group (tribe, society or nation). Such labor donations are <b>necessary</b> if not sufficient for individuals to seek and obtain true happiness - - as observed by Aristotle through Thomas Jefferson and never more so than now. Second in, the merits of work independent of its economic benefits include these - - physical health; mental health; family health; abstinence from drugs; law abidingness; and freedom from temptation. The Center's recent research paper is an extension of Randolph's argument from his first SIG- sponsored working paper presented in 2021 - - Non-Financial Impact from Non-Work.</p>
<p><i>The causes and reasons for the straight- line decline in male labor force participation with no interruptions since 1965.</i></p> <p><i>And how are they surviving?</i></p>	<p><i>Nicholas Eberstadt, author Men Without Work 2016, AEI</i></p> <p>Over the past two generations, America has suffered a quiet catastrophe. It is the collapse of work - - for men. In the half century between 1965 and 2015, work rates spiraled downward in a "flight from work". The pandemic made it worse but work levels have not recovered. America is now home to an immense army of jobless men no longer even looking for work - - more than seven million alone between the ages of 25 and 55, the traditional prime of working life.</p> <p>Over half the seven million non-working men between ages 25 and 55 are on disability and of the other half about half of these are living with someone on disability. Half take pain medication every day. The American time use survey indicates these men spend 2000 hours per year on screens (eight hours per day five days a week equivalent). Today fifty percent of men aged 18 to 30 say they are not looking for sex. What???</p> <p>Men are starving for meaning, for connections. You can take the technocratic approach to all this and pretend it is value neutral. But how will UBI fit in? Forget about bankrupting the system. Take a look at the time use of these men. Is that something we want more of?</p> <p>Participants will be provided copies of <i>Men Without Work 2016</i>.</p>
<i>Early considerations regarding a possible experimental work-only system of benefits in Columbus, Ohio</i>	<p><i>Matt Damschroder, Director, OH Jobs and Family Services</i></p> <p>At our SIG meeting in July, a presentation of a 1990s work-only system implemented in Wisconsin showed very favorable employment and other outcomes. Aspects of it are now under consideration by Director Matt Damschroder of Ohio who may offer his comments.</p>

## JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Committee staff invited from the following:</i>	<p><i>Legislative overview.</i></p> <p>We are joined by the staff directors of the committees advancing our program objectives in the House and Senate, along with analysts from AEI and Paragon</p>
--	--

<p>House - - <i>Ways and Means, Agriculture, Education and Workforce</i></p> <p>Senate - - <i>Finance, Agriculture, HELP</i></p>	<p>Health. We will learn of all the legislative developments in each of our program areas of responsibilities.</p> <p>Our other analysts joining us are Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute and Brian Blasé, Paragon Health Institute</p>
<p><i>Artificial Intelligence and the future of the State workforce</i></p>	<p><i>Stephen Goldsmith</i></p> <p>We are excited to have former Indianapolis Mayor and deputy NYC Mayor Steve Goldsmith join us at our upcoming meeting. Goldsmith is now at Harvard's Kennedy School and its Center for Cities. Steve and SIG's Turner teamed up in 2004 to help execute the privatization of Indiana's welfare eligibility and work system under Governor Mitch Daniels, and Steve last presented to SIG more than a decade ago along with Charles Murray.</p> <p>Recently this former deputy NYC Mayor provided ideas to NYC's police department on how AI can help predict and act on crime. His presentation to SIG will be suffused with actual operational experience from years in the cities, and we will be left with some predictions as to where AI can and will be implemented first on a large scale in our business.</p>
<p><i>Food Stamps is where we will find and meet the need for state labor</i></p>	<p><i>Doug Besharov and Doug Call, UMd; Steve Greene, former Kansas human service administrator and SIG activist; and Jason Turner SIG and former Wisconsin director for welfare replacement</i></p> <p>The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities claims most Food Stamp participants who can work are doing so, because in a typical month 74% of working age non-disabled adult beneficiaries worked within a year before or after the month of Food Stamp receipt. This is <b>highly misleading</b> because for CBPP just one hour counts as working, and many non-workers are not counted at all in this calculation. Presenters Besharov and Call show that at a given point in time, out of 100 Food Stamp working age adult beneficiaries, only 17 are working twenty hours or more. This is where in each state the tens or hundreds of thousands of non-workers are residing that our governors keep asking us to find on behalf of labor- starved businesses.</p> <p>Once we know where to find them how do we activate able bodied Food Stamp recipients to enter and remain in the labor force? This is where the second part of our session begins, because we have a former very active SIG state, Kansas, which implemented <b>and enforced</b> common sense work requirements for Food Stamp ABWODS in October 2013 under Governor Brownback. Just two and a half years later the <b>results were amazing</b> with virtually no negative consequences including these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nearly 60 percent of those leaving food stamps found employment within 12 months. Their combined income from food stamps and employment changed from a baseline of 50/50 benefits and work to 100% income from work and a 23% higher net total in just the first two years (while wages from earnings alone went up by more than two times).</li> <li>● The ABWOD caseload dropped from 27 thousand to 9 thousand in a year and 7 thousand in two years, or minus 74%. Average recipient time on benefits dropped from 14 months to 7 months.</li> <li>● Total state-funded administrative costs were <b>reduced</b> by 7% in just the first year because of the reduced caseload (while nationally state funded</li> </ul>

	<p>admin costs increased 4% over the same period). The Kansas payment error rate dropped from 4% to just 1% the year after the change.</p> <p>Jason Turner will describe the work-only system in Wisconsin's W-2 reform. The two Kansas Brownback administrators who implemented their change will explain how they did it and what you could expect in your state.</p>
<p><i>Expanding the state supply of in-home child care</i></p>	<p><i>Chris Bennett, CEO Wonderschool</i></p> <p><i>Wonderschool</i> helps states expand their in-home child care availability by recruiting providers on behalf of the state or community. They offer business planning and coaching for new providers in such SIG states as ID, MO, IN, FL, NE. They also provide business sustainability assistance to active service providers including such SIG states as TX, FL, ID, and WV. For certain employers they can help guarantee a supply of slots, and they also can help develop specialized ones such as those for children with special needs or for parents on the third shift. Wonderschool was named by TIME as one of 100 most influential companies in 2022.</p>
<p><i>Increasing opportunity by reducing restrictions on eligibility for effective programs</i></p>	<p><i>Beth Townsend, IA Workforce and Deniece Thomas, TN Labor</i></p> <p>Iowa created the Reemployment Case Management Program in 2022 (based on RESEA model). The program includes one on one job coaching and claim review that begins the first week an individual files for unemployment benefits. Customers are closely monitored including job search efforts while being provided resume, interview, and job search support afterward. Since implementation, Iowa has reduced the average duration of unemployment from 13 weeks to 9 weeks as well as reducing benefit payments since 2022 by approximately \$150 million per year.</p> <p>Tennessee-based businesses can uncover a pipeline of motivated young talent through Tennessee's Youth Employment Program. YEP is designed to create meaningful employment opportunities for young individuals by matching employers with talent who align perfectly with their business and industry requirements. This state-funded program provides a flexible eligibility designed to serve youth that may not qualify under WIOA.</p>

## DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Work, Welfare, UI and Food Stamps</i></p> <p><i>House and Senate congressional staff including:</i></p> <p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Brad Thomas and Marek Laco, House Education and Workforce</i></p> <p><i>Anne DeCesaro, Senate HELP committee;</i></p>	<p>At our recent SIG meeting in August, participants uniformly requested more time with congressional staff. We asked for more detailed reports and time for discussion of the pros and cons of many pending and likely legislative movements.</p> <p>Therefore we have dedicated all morning to this topic with the top congressional committee staff.</p>
---	---

<p><i>Matt Weidinger, former staff director and present AEI</i></p> <p><i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i></p>	
<p><i>Anna Hui, MO Workforce Director</i></p> <p><i>Annie Hermann, MO Director, ReEntry Program Dept Corrections</i></p>	<p>Workforce and Human Services agencies are tasked with combining our programs with the corrections systems to reduce recidivism. Returning offenders represent a large pool of workers in an economy that needs them. However, returning offender programs as a group have been shown to need improvement. Recognizing this, the Correctional Leaders' Association and Bureau of Justice Assistance have launched <i>Reentry 2030</i>. The goal of the initiative is to reduce by half the re-entry rate by 2030. MO was the first state to launch the initiative and since then a majority of states have joined the effort.</p>

## **JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Work, Welfare, UI and Food Stamps</i></p> <p><i>House and Senate congressional staff including:</i></p> <p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Brad Thomas, House Education and Labor</i></p> <p><i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i></p> <p><i>Anne DeCesaro Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee</i></p> <p><i>Rep. Warren Petryk, Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>Several good changes were made as a result of the debt negotiations although they do not go far enough. The House obtained improvements to TANF updating the caseload reduction benchmark, and the Food Stamp ABWOD age limits rose to 55 and closed excessive exemptions. Our presenters will discuss everything current and likely on the Hill among all programs.</p> <p>While overall, Democrats have reversed much of the 1996 reforms, some state legislators are fighting back. Joining this session will be <i>Rep. Warren Petryk of Wisconsin</i>. He has co-sponsored seven legislative initiatives aimed at advancing work among UI, Food Stamps and TANF recipients. Have you heard of UI recipients who “ghost” employers by arranging interviews to hit their job interview requirements and never show up?</p>
<p><i>The non-monetary benefits of work</i></p> <p><i>Angela Rachidi and Leslie Ford, AEI</i></p>	<p>With our obsession over poverty (which is merely an income measure) as an indicator of family and social well-being, we overlook the more important aspects of work - - and we don't just mean work as role modeling for children. Work is society's organized method of gift-giving to other members of our human social organism. By providing useful goods and services to others, work is as central to personal thriving as it is to society itself. We will look at what the research and experience shows about the non monetary benefits to individuals of this essential human activity.</p>
<p><i>Is “full engagement” in work activity as a condition of benefits dead? And what about those not ready to work for health reasons?</i></p> <p><i>Grant Collins, FedCap</i></p>	<p><i>Former HHS (ACF) official, NYC contractor and program manager Grant Collins</i> will argue that adopting WIOA employment metrics are not the best measures for determining state level of effort at engaging those residing on the couch into activities leading to employment. WIOA measures capture people already working and count them in the numerator, leaving the rest alone, a fact few non-specialists recognize. Perhaps counter intuitively, a better overall system for TANF and food stamps is to count “engagement”, or the level of work related attendance and activity, especially for those underprepared for work.</p>



**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The growing male drop out phenomenon</i></p>	<p><i>Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p>America is in the grip of a gradually building crisis of worklessness among men. It is not reflected in unemployment numbers, because the men involved are not even seeking work. Most experts argue this is a demand-side problem which requires significant improvements to American education to help men get the skills the economy requires. But what if that view is not accurate? Are skills really the issue? And is education in fact so central to addressing this particular crisis?</p> <p>Today's male labor force dropouts in prime working years age 25- 49 basically don't do civil society. They don't do worship. They don't do charity. They don't do volunteering work. Although they've got almost nothing but time on their hands, they don't do much help around the house. They don't get out of the house that much either, rather they say what they do is watch screens, about 2,000 hours a year, equivalent to a full-time job. And about half of these guys report using some sort of pain medication every day.</p>
	<p><i>Doug Besharov, University of Maryland</i>          Author of:  <u><a href="#">Work and the Social Safety Net: Labor Activation in Europe and the United States</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>*Wolfgang Hiller, Head, Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value, European Parliamentary Research Service</i></li> <li><i>*Emily Sinnott, Head of Policy and Strategy Division, European Investment Bank</i></li> <li><i>*Martin Weber, Director of Audit Chamber II, European Court of Auditors</i></li> <li><i>*Michele Zagardo, Senior Auditor, European Court of Auditors</i></li> <li><i>*Pedro de Lima, Permanent Representative, European Investment Bank Group in U.S.</i></li> <li><i>*Richard Burkhauser, Emeritus Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor, Dept. of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University</i></li> <li><i>*Larry Mead, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, NYU</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Here is a surprise for many - - Labor activation as a condition of benefits is alive and well in Europe. Joining us are the EU director equivalents of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and GAO.</i></p>
<p><i>If you leave the workforce for six weeks because of an injury you will never come back</i></p>	<p><i>Jennifer Christian, Alliance for Bridging Work and Health, former consultant to DOL</i></p> <p>Research and the experience of private employer disability insurance contractors show that if an individual does not return to work within six weeks of an injury the likelihood of permanent worklessness is highly probable. What can we do to get our out of work population back into employment as soon as possible?</p> <p>Our presenter Jennifer Christian initiated a program with DOL which promotes closer coordination among individuals and organizations who influence workers' decisions about how or whether to stay at or return to work after a work disability (such as Workforce agencies). These programs succeed by returning injured or ill workers to productive work as soon as medically possible. They use services through an integrated network of partners that includes close</p>

	collaboration between health care systems and/or providers; state workforce development boards and local employment service providers; and employers or industry organizations.
<i>How realistic is it for the low skilled to progress out of “dead end jobs”?</i>	<p><i>Jason Turner, Former NYC Workforce and Welfare Commissioner</i></p> <p>In a presentation by Jacob Klerman of Abt at our last meeting we learned that the research shows the biggest impact on UI duration is the effect of agency requirements to engage in job search, not the acquisition of new skills or wrap-around services although these can be helpful. But the question then becomes, for those who start with low skills and get a job, how much wage appreciation can they realistically expect to experience in so called “dead end jobs”?</p> <p>In a study commissioned by DOL and HHS in the 1990s over 5000 individuals were tracked over six years using census and wage match data. The study measured progress from among those who were earning \$24,000 or less (in today’s dollars, or \$12,000 then) and <b>importantly, consistently employed for at least three years prior to the start</b> of the six year measurement period. This means this cohort was made up of low wage reliable workers (employed consistently). The results will surprise you. Wage growth and progress was sizeable with a large part of the wage improvement resulting from employed individuals switching jobs into higher paying occupations and companies. Engagement and consistency of labor force participation is the key.</p>

## **JUNE 22-23, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Overview of the situation on the ground</i>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute</i>  <i>Robert Rector and Jamie Hall, Heritage Foundation</i>  <i>Jennifer Tiller, House Committee on Agriculture</i>  <i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means Human Resources subcommittee</i>  <i>Caitlin Burke, Education and Labor subcommittee</i></p> <p>With trillions of new dollars spent and unpaid for, new and expanded benefits at the same time we are fighting a labor shortage, what does it mean for society and our agencies to manage through these shoals? This session will review the evidence - - what has happened to the budget, the extent of new welfare and child credit distributions to lower middle class, and how we can advance our objectives of work, self-reliance and healthy families under the current environment.</p>
<i>Recruiting state employees</i>	<p><i>Secretaries’ Roundtable</i></p> <p>For some announcements, states are finding NO APPLICANTS. What can we do to improve recruitment results? States are facing backlog pressure for redeterminations after PHE is over. Yet Oklahoma has reduced its annual turnover rate to 13%. Secretaries will discuss what efforts they are making to recruit and retain valuable employees.</p>
<i>What works best in job training and employment?</i>	<p><i>Jacob Klerman, Senior Fellow, Abt Associates</i>  <i>Jason Turner, former NYC commissioner, TANF, SNAP and WIOA</i></p> <p>Most ordinary job training programs have marginal or weak net impacts on employment and wages, while specialized training programs in certain high demand occupations can have large and lasting impacts (such as have been featured at SIG). But the most important single characteristic of all programs</p>

	<p>that produce big results across a spectrum of job seekers are those that feature enforced participation and monitoring with consequences for dropping out. Add to that an element in which performance payments are made to employment vendors for job acquisition and retention, and experience shows this combination is certain to bring in big results.</p>
<p><i>Returning offenders</i></p>	<p><i>Sam Schaeffer, CEO and Exec Director, Center for Employment Opportunities</i></p> <p>Nationally about 60% of prisoners will reoffend within three years of release. Most state workforce agencies are integrated into returning offender programs.</p> <p>The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) works to reduce recidivism and increase employment. It has been evaluated using random assignment by MDRC. CEO provides people returning from prison immediate paid employment, skills training, and ongoing career support. To offer work experience, CEO operates transitional work crews that provide supplemental indoor/outdoor maintenance and neighborhood beautification services to more than 40 customers across the U.S. CEO guarantees every participant who completes a brief paid orientation up to four days a week of transitional work on a crew and daily pay – a critical asset during an important time.</p> <p>CEO is operational in 12 states and 31 cities, including five SIG states - - OH, TN, GA, LA, OK. 8000 are served annually with 450 working daily.</p>
<p><i>Hidden workers and how to unlock their potential</i></p>	<p><i>Brent Orrell, American Enterprise Institute</i> <i>Joseph Fuller, Project on Managing the Future of Work at Harvard Business School</i></p> <p>Who are the hidden workers and how can we engage them? They do not represent a homogeneous group. They include caregivers, veterans, immigrants and refugees, those with physical disabilities, and relocating partners and spouses. They also include people with mental health or developmental/neurodiversity challenges, people who were previously incarcerated, and those without traditional qualifications. In the U.S there are by estimates more than 27 million hidden workers. Both government programs and business practice can unlock the potential of hidden workers.</p>

## NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC

<p>The pandemic and its aftermath - - excessive federal transfers, lessening of work obligations and increased fraud risk</p>	<p><i>Doug Besharov, University of Maryland</i> <i>Robert Rector, Heritage Foundation</i> <i>Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute</i> <i>Jennifer Tiller, House Nutrition Committee</i> <i>Ryan Martin, National Governors' Association</i></p> <p>Today social security pays monthly checks to <b>55 million</b> retirees. President Biden and the Congress have exceeded this number in one fell swoop by adding 65 million children in 39 million families to a new state of dependency equaling <b>30 percent of ALL households</b> in America through the child tax credit. Previously the non working income available via average national benefit levels (TANF and Food Stamps) was about \$11,500 per year; now to \$19,500 with the new tax credit. Our country is facing an acute labor shortage at the same time tens of millions are facing work as merely an option.</p>
---	---

	<p>How will the retreat from the idea of mutual obligation, e.g. work in exchange for benefits, affect individuals making life choices and the body politic? How will the explosion of new entitlements in all areas of the welfare state affect the responsibility of Americans to act as productive economic units and supportive family members? We will discuss the current national state of affairs with conservative's top thinkers in program and budget matters spanning all human services and workforce programs.</p>
<p><i>Secretaries' Roundtable with National Business Leadership</i></p>	<p><i>Dane Linn, VP for Policy and Strategy, Business Roundtable</i></p> <p>There is a severe labor shortage and if workers continue to stay home it will exacerbate the long-term decline in overall labor force participation just when we need workers to pay for the hundreds of billions in new benefits for lower and middle class CTC non-work welfare.</p> <p>Dane Linn will share the perspectives of the Business Roundtable and its interaction with the Congress and the business sector. In its turn SIG members will have the opportunity to reflect the labor shortage in their own states. When the business community says that excessive federal benefits have become counterproductive to state economic growth, that's when the state and federal legislators snap to attention. SIG members want to be part of this conversation nationally and learn from each other.</p>
<p><i>Why do most training programs fail? And..</i></p> <p><i>Big Wage Impacts from Project Quest</i></p>	<p><i>David Zammiello, President, Project Quest</i>  <i>Anne Roder, VP for Research and Evaluation, Economic Mobility Corporation</i>  <i>Grant Collins, FedCap</i>  <i>Matt Weidinger, AEI</i></p> <p>Project QUEST, located in San Antonio, provides comprehensive support to help low-income adults earn post-secondary credentials and access well-paying jobs in strong sectors of the local economy such as the health industry. Of a kind known as sector-based interventions, these have been shown as a group to have the largest net impacts among workforce programs, but never so large and long lasting as Quest, which has an eleven year net earnings impact of over \$5000.</p> <p>President David Zammiello will describe his program operations and Anne Roder will describe the impacts from its eleven year evaluation. Our goal from the session is to tease out the specific factors that seem to make the program so successful so that these factors can be introduced in part or whole in SIG state ongoing contracts for workforce operations.</p> <p>Grant Collins will describe the extraordinary employment results for those with health limitations using pay for outcomes contracts in NYC.</p>
<p><i>Personal consequences of Enforced Idleness</i></p>	<p><i>Erik Randolph, Georgia Center for Opportunity</i></p> <p>Poverty is a well understood consequence of non-work. But less discussed, especially among the Left, are the social, physical and psychological debilitations which arise over time. Erik Randolph will share the results of his literature review of the consequences of enforced idleness, which arise from benefits contingent upon inactivity.</p>

**AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Doug Besharov, U of MD</i>  <i>Robert Rector, Heritage Foundation</i>  <i>Leslie Ford, Heritage Foundation</i>  <i>Matt Weidinger, AEI</i>  <i>Jennifer Tiller House Nutrition</i></p>	<p><i>A Critique of the Evolving Biden Philosophy and Political Practice. What states acting on their own authority can do to counter many of the unwelcome federal policy trends.</i></p> <p>Secretaries and their governors act as agents in the national political conversation and SIG Secretaries and Directors allocate over \$200 billion annually that can be put to use promoting our objectives of work, healthy families and economic self-sufficiency.</p> <p>This morning session with our best and most senior Washington thinkers is dedicated to understanding the philosophical and research basis for our own conservative views. We will review each of the important Biden initiatives on spending and policy to shed light on their deeper long -term consequences.</p>
<p><i>Ryan Martin, former Senate Finance</i></p>	<p>How will the retreat from the idea of mutual obligation, e.g. work in exchange for benefits, affect individuals making life choices and the body politic? How will the explosion of new entitlements in all areas of the welfare state affect the responsibility of Americans to act as productive economic units and supportive family members? Our six panelists will each describe a topic followed by commentary and discussion among all the panel and our members. We will discuss what we can do as agency heads on our own with or without federal guidance.</p>
<p><i>Year Up Program</i></p>	<p><i>David Fein, Abt Associates and Duane Reid, Year Up DC</i></p> <p>Year Up is a full-time, year-long workforce training program for low-income young adults that focuses on economic sectors with jobs in high demand – namely, information technology and financial services. New findings from a national randomized controlled trial show earnings gains of 30-40% (\$7,000-\$8,000) per year, sustained over five years, for low-income, mainly minority young adults. These earnings gains are among the largest ever found in a high-quality RCT in the field of workforce development. We will meet with some of the SIG state program operators.</p>
<p><i>Standard treatment alone is insufficient if it makes no demands for action on the drug dependent personality. A proven alternative.</i></p>	<p><i>Isabel McDevitt, The Doe Fund, with two formerly homeless individuals with histories of addiction</i></p> <p>We will hear about the Work Works model as a solution to address homelessness, recidivism and addiction. Ready Willing &amp; Able, the original Work Works location in New York, is a 12-month residential program combining paid work in social enterprises, workforce development training, continuing education, and sobriety. It is the first program to combine paid work with comprehensive support services to help people with histories of substance abuse, homelessness and incarceration get onto the economic ladder and into mainstream housing. We will meet with individuals who have benefitted from the program in New York City who will describe how they overcame their condition with a combination of commitment to sobriety and work. The Work Works model has been adapted in six communities across the country and ready to be scaled nationally.</p>

## NOVEMBER 17-18, 2020 VIRTUAL

<p><i>Post election - - Democrat trends in national policy, UI, Food Stamps and tax credits</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, AEI; Anne DeCesaro USDA; Ryan Martin, Senate Finance; Robert Rector, Heritage; Doug Holmes, UWC; Jennifer Tiller, House Nutrition</i></p> <p>Roundtable discussion with senior administrators and thinkers on all topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where does work policy go in the absence of obligations?</li> <li>● Recreation of AFDC using refundable child tax credits with no concurrent work obligation.</li> <li>● Food Stamp ABWODs, UI work search. Will enforcement if any devolve to the states?</li> <li>● Blueprint for the next Administration on UI             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nationalize UI</li> <li>○ Establish new increased federal UI tax to cover admin and benefits</li> <li>○ Increase coverage and benefits</li> <li>○ Increase workplace regulation</li> <li>○ Pandemic as rationalization for permanent change</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Food Stamp regs, BBCE, ABWOD, E&amp;T, fraud. Where to?</li> <li>● UI solvency and taxes</li> <li>● PUA extensive fraud under current certifications</li> <li>● Senate turnover? Who are the new players?</li> </ul>
---	---

## DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Misused poverty statistics</i></p>	<p><i>Robert Rector, Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation</i></p> <p>Recently published research asserts that rates of extreme poverty, commonly defined as living on less than \$2/person/day, are high and rising, amounting to 3.6 million non-homeless households. This absurdity is disproven by common sense. Two dollars a day is barely enough to provide calories to survive. So from where did this commonly asserted misinformation make its way into common academic discourse?</p> <p>In another mis-used statistic, critics of American prosperity often attempt to tarnish that title by claiming income is distributed less equally in the U.S. than in other developed countries. These critics point to data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which ranks the U.S. as the least equal of the seven largest developed countries.</p> <p>But the OECD income-distribution comparison is biased because the U.S. underreports its income transfers in comparison to other nations. When the data are adjusted to account for all government programs that transfer income, the U.S. is shown to have an income distribution that aligns closely with its peers.</p>
<p><i>Federal and state workforce policy</i></p>	<p><i>John Pallasch, Assistant Secretary, DOL Employment and Training Administration</i>  <i>Scott Stump, Assistant Secretary, DOE Career, Technical and Adult Education</i>  <i>Adam Meier, Secretary, KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services</i></p> <p>Newly appointed Assistant Secretary for ETA and former KY labor director John Pallasch has these objectives - - performance and data integrity; skills based hiring; multiple pathways to work; and a focus in favor of skills based hiring and away from four year college enrollment for those unlikely to finish, Fortunately</p>

	<p>he is joined in his objectives on the other side by Education Assistant Secretary Scott Stump for technical and adult education. These two are pulling policy in the same direction, as are we SIG workforce directors. We will have an open dialogue and strategize as to how best to move forward together, states and feds. Along with the two federal officials we will be joined by KY secretary Adam Meier who has just received approval from USDA to use non-merit personnel to run his eligibility and call centers.</p>
	<p><i>Jason DeParle, New York Times reporter and author of</i>  <b><u>A Good Provider is One Who Leaves</u></b></p> <p>In book award winner <u>American Dream</u>, journalist Jason DeParle chronicled the 1990's politics of national welfare reform; Wisconsin's response in implementing a work-for benefits only plan; and how these tectonic forces wrenched and changed the lives of three women on welfare in Milwaukee.</p> <p>In his new book of epic storytelling about modern overseas migration, DeParle reports on one Filipino family of eleven siblings and their offspring which he has followed for the past thirty years. It is a story of family, economic deprivation and search for work in the middle east and the United States. It is the immigration issue we are struggling with here in the US played out against eleven lives from one family. A copy of his book will be provided to each diner.</p> <p>"Intimate narratives intertwined with sweeping, global accounts to produce one of the best books on immigration in a generation" - Matthew Desmond, author of <u>Evicted</u></p>

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The Labor supply in a booming economy</i></p>	<p><i>Nicholas Eberstadt Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute</i>  <i>Scott Winship, Executive Director, Joint Economic Committee</i></p> <p>From May 4 WSJ front page: <i>The labor market is as strong as it's been in a half century. The long jobs expansion is increasingly reaching Americans at the margins. Wage gains have strengthened in recent years, especially for workers earning the smallest paychecks and unemployment has fallen for those who have historically struggled, including those with lower levels of education. But a vexing challenge is that employers still struggle to pull workers off the sidelines. An economy's potential growth relies on the size of a nation's workforce and how much those workers are able to produce. Instead such participation was flat from a year ago, and the share of people in their prime who had a job or who were looking for one shrank in April, for the second month, cutting into recent gains.</i></p> <p>With unemployment at 3.6% is it possible for economic strength alone to pull very many more workers into the labor force, without tackling large scale voluntary non-work? For the past several years our governors have been pressing SIG secretaries to help solve state labor shortages.</p>
<p><i>Activating marginal non workers</i></p>	<p><i>Grant Collins, VP Fedcap - NYC operator of independent medical assessments</i></p> <p>What are the two most common reasons that idle recipients are not actively looking for work or training?</p> <p>1. The state has not called them in yet to enroll them in employment related</p>

	<p>activities.</p> <p>2. Recipients called in for employment activities claim a health reason for exemption.</p> <p>As it relates to #2, health exemptions - - for fourteen years NYC has conducted cost effective independent board certified medical assessments for all TANF recipients who claim health reasons for exemption from work. The results have been revealing - - only 17% are considered potentially eligible for disability. The rest are shown to be able to improve their health conditions or make Voc-Ed- like accommodations for work. Over 14 years over 84,000 assessments and follow ups have been made, with more than 24,000 job placements and a 73% average retention at 6 months.</p>
<p><i>Administration for Children and Families</i></p>	<p><i>Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families</i>  <i>Steve Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, ACF</i>  <i>Clarence Carter, Director, Office of Family Assistance</i></p> <p>Roundtable all matters ACF, including TANF, child welfare, child care, child support, and more. Clarence Carter has asked SIG for time to present his vision for a future welfare system wholly constructed around healthy family self-reliance. Time will also be devoted to new opportunities for state implementation of at-risk alternatives to disability with funding from SSA and demonstrations approved by ACF.</p>
<p><i>The Once and Future Worker</i></p>	<p><i>Oren Cass, Author and Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute</i></p> <p><b>From the author - - Wages have stagnated for more than a generation. Reliance on welfare programs has surged. Life expectancy is falling as substance abuse and obesity rates climb. These woes are not the inevitable result of irresistible global and technological forces. They are the direct consequence of a decades-long economic consensus that prioritized increasing consumption — regardless of the costs to American workers, their families, and their communities.</b></p> <p><i>Which is more important? Pristine air quality, or well-paying jobs that support families? Unfettered access to the cheapest labor in the world, or renewed investment in the employment of Americans? Smoothing the path through college for the best students, or ensuring that every student acquires the skills to succeed in the modern economy? Expanding the safety net, or adding money to low-wage paychecks? If we reinforce their vital role, workers supporting strong families and communities can provide the foundation for a thriving, self-sufficient society that offers opportunity to all.</i></p>
<p><i>USDA and White House Domestic Policy Council</i></p>	<p><i>Brandon Lipps, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service and FNS staff</i>  <i>Leslie Ford, White House Domestic Policy Council</i>  <i>Jennifer Tiller, House sub-committee on Nutrition</i>  <i>Brandon Hardin, Food Stamp Director, Alabama Dept. Human Services</i></p> <p>With the Farm Bill having failed to produce a new work program, attention has turned to the February publication of the NPRM relating to ABWODs, with the comment period now closed. The NPRM has been hotly contested by both sides and FNS is looking forward to discussion among SIG members as it makes decisions whether to modify. In addition, by the date of the SIG conference, it is possible that an additional NPRM will have been published on the topic of eligibility (categorical eligibility and so on) where there has already been a House hearing in which SIG Secretary John Davis testified with acclaim from</p>



	our side. In short, these next few months will be possibly be the most contentious and consequential of the four year period of the Administration. We will be joined by White House Domestic Policy Council deputy Leslie Ford, whose remit includes public assistance and disability.
<i>Medicaid Policy and State Options</i>	<p><i>Seema Verma, Administrator, CMS</i></p> <p>Fifteen states, most with Republican governors, have requested or received Medicaid work waivers. These include AL, AZ, AR, IN, KY, MI, MA, NH, OH, OK, SD, TN, UT, VA, WI. Medicaid waivers are in a flux, with states, CMS, the courts and state legislatures all playing a role in this extension of new work policy. Administrator Verma and we will discuss together the current state of play, how SIG states are progressing with this central issue, as well as growing interest in Medicaid block grants.</p> <p>There are many other CMS options for states being offered by Administrator Verma and we will discuss these too.</p>

## NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC

<i>ACF and TANF</i>	<p><i>Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary ACF</i>  <i>Steve Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary ACF</i>  <i>Clarence Carter, Director Office of Family Assistance</i>  <i>Anne DeCesaro, Ways and Means committee</i></p> <p>We will cover all other topics including TANF, child support and child welfare.</p>
<i>Ways and Means Committee</i>	<p><i>Ways and Means Committee private meeting</i></p> <p>Each November SIG participants meet in private with Republican Ways and Means members to discuss TANF, UI, WIOA, EITC and Child Welfare. Last year Ohio Rep. Jim Renacci reported that he had included SIG-recommended EITC anti-fraud measures in the Tax Bill. This year we will review SIG priorities with the Committee members post-election.</p>
<i>When and how to fight spurious studies from the poverty industry</i>	<p><i>Steve Greene, KS Policy Director, DCF</i>  <i>Professor Doug Besharov, University of Maryland</i></p> <p>We have all experienced written reports from academia or think tanks from the Left claiming that state efforts to improve parental responsibility and obligations for employment will harm both children and the parents themselves. Now the University of Kansas claims that work programs and time limits are throwing children into foster care (see excerpt below). The published report gained lots of publicity but the state did not take it lying down. Instead, they contracted for a more credible academic study of their own. Our own SIG member who commissioned the new study will describe the politics, the fervor, and the outcome of this high stakes academic conflict.</p> <p>From a KS NPR report - - A University of Kansas study supports the suspicions of lawmakers and advocates who believe there's a link between additional restrictions on welfare benefits and an increase in foster care cases. The researchers say their initial findings show that while Kansas was reducing the amount of time families could receive cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and increasing the requirements they</p>

	needed to meet for that assistance, the number of child abuse and neglect cases went up. Abuse and neglect are the leading reasons why Kansas kids enter foster care.
--	---

## DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Life sequencing for success</i>	<i>Bradford Wilcox, Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia</i>  Millennials are much more likely to flourish financially if they follow the “success sequence”—getting at least a high school degree, working full-time, and marrying before having any children, in that order. The vast majority of millennials who married before having any children appear to be headed toward realizing the American dream but more than half do not marry first.
<i>Full work engagement in TANF</i>	<i>Grant Collins, Senior Vice President, Fedcap</i>  Grant and his welfare to work vendor, Fedcap, have increased Maine’s work participation rate since they began there only nine months ago, from 16% to 50% - - and have boosted exits due to employment fourfold over the same period. We will take a look under the hood to explore the technical reasons for this achievement.
<i>Food Stamp Eligibility and Fraud</i>	<i>Brandon Hardin, AL; and the Secretaries</i>  As we prepare for our meeting with House and Senate members, and separately for our FNS roundtable later in the day below, we should take the opportunity to review our SIG recommendations on Food Stamp eligibility and fraud.
<i>ACF roundtable</i>	<i>Steve Wagner, ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary; Clarence Carter, Director, TANF and Child Care; Maggie Wynne, Office of the Secretary</i>  Open session with ACF senior team and possibly the nominated assistant secretary if confirmed by date of the event.
<i>Food Stamps and SIG priorities</i>	<i>The Secretaries</i>  In 2018 the Congress will reauthorize Food Stamps through the Farm Bill. SIG has proposed major changes to current law, including a work program for single parents which has many parallels to TANF. In addition we have proposed significant changes to basic eligibility and fraud detection. These issues will be discussed together in preparation for our meeting with senior FNS officials later in the day.
	<i>Adam Perkins, Neurobiologist and author, Kings College, London</i>  The award winning personality researcher Adam Perkins argues in his book <i>The Welfare Trait</i> that welfare induced mis-development promotes an employment resistant personality characterized by aggressive, antisocial and rule breaking tendencies. His provocative theory posits that these personality traits can be passed on to subsequent generations.
<i>House committees</i>	<i>Congressional members and staff</i>

	We will have open discussion with members and staff of Ways and Means (TANF, UI, taxes); and Education and Workforce (WIOA, adult education, family leave).
<i>HUD roundtable</i>	<p><i>Senior officials, Department of Housing and Urban Development</i></p> <p>How will public and subsidized housing residents fit in with Speaker Ryan’s universal work engagement legislative initiative? For years, public housing residents have been left out of national programs intended to encourage work and self- sufficiency. Beyond the benefits of work to residents themselves, HUD stands to gain a lot from increased rent paid by employed families. We will discuss mechanisms and plans to integrate housing programs with workforce and universal welfare-to-work.</p>
<i>Stay at Work and Return to Work</i>	<p><i>Jennifer Sheehy DOL deputy assistant secretary from the Office of Disability and Employment Policy</i></p> <p>Is work good for your health? With national rates of disability sharply increasing, enrollment in federal disability programs e.g. SSI and SSDI is often associated with decline in recipients’ well-being - - physical health, mental health, substance abuse and family conflict. It is essential that public policies favor staying at work upon the onset of a health problem, and that those who leave work temporarily return as soon as possible before their absence leads to permanent withdrawal from the labor force. DOL has funds available for state experimentation.</p>

## **JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute</i>	<p><i>Men Without Work - - America’s Invisible Crisis</i></p> <p>Nicholas Eberstadt holds the Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he researches and writes extensively on demographics and economic development. Nick will present the findings from his recent book in which he describes “the great male flight from work”.</p>
<i>Robert Rector, Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation</i>	<p><i>The Five Myths of Welfare</i></p> <p>Public discussion of welfare is often misdirected because it is informed by faulty assumptions. For example one myth is that the welfare state in the U.S. is small, particularly compared to Europe. This and four other faulty commonplaces will be debunked.</p>
<i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i>	<p><i>Food Stamp Reform</i></p> <p>In this session we SIG secretaries will discuss reforms we wish to propose to Agriculture Secretary Perdue when we meet with USDA chief of staff and newly appointed FNS officials on Wednesday. Among the extensive discussions SIG members have had over the years related to Food Stamps, most prominent is the explosion in the caseload over the past twelve years and the absence of work requirements, unlike TANF.</p>
	<i>Peter Cove, founder America Works Inc. and author <u>Poor No More</u></i>
<i>Dr. Jennifer Christian, member Stay at Work/Return</i>	<i>The positive health effects of work. Preventing needless work disability by helping people stay employed despite medical conditions</i>

<p><i>to Work Policy Collaborative, DOL Office of Disability Employment Policy</i></p>	<p>The likelihood that an individual will return to employment and close his or her disability case after enrolling in SSDI or SSI is under five percent over their lifetime. Research shows the loss of one's livelihood is a devastating health outcome. This session will shed light on the process by which jobs and livelihoods are lost – and the harm it creates. Part of the solution is to “upstream” private sector programs and interventions before deterioration leads to permanent disability. The cost-benefit numbers reveal under current national policies there is a misalignment between the economic interests of workers, government, and private sector employers. A better solution will be proposed.</p>
<p><i>The Secretaries</i></p>	<p><i>Implementing Universal engagement in work activities for benefit applicants and recipients</i></p> <p>In his plan <i>A Better Way</i>, Speaker Paul Ryan calls for job search and work requirements across a range of benefit programs, including Food Stamps, Housing, UI and TANF. Ryan intends to move his plan into legislation beginning this fall. But if enacted, how would such a concept function in practice by states charged with implementing it? Which state agencies would have the lead in providing work services, and how would such services be cross-funded? We will engage in an open ended discussion among our SIG state workforce and human services secretaries to propose practical solutions.</p>
<p><i>Angela Hawken, Associate Professor Public Policy, Pepperdine University</i>  <i>Edward Banks, DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance</i></p>	<p><i>Criminal Justice - substance abuse and work.</i></p> <p>Workforce directors interact with the state and local criminal justice systems around probation and parole, which often include requirements to work and stay off drugs. This session will describe the randomized controlled trial of Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program which produced big positive impacts on recidivism and is now deployed in many places across the country. The program was initiated by Judge Steven Alm in 2004 and its distinctive feature is that it seeks to reduce crime and drug use through swift-and-certain-sanctions to manage high-risk probationers. Former US Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske identified HOPE as the most promising initiative that "not only prevents recidivism, but also actively assists individuals to transition to productive lives."</p>
<p><i>Doug Holmes, President UWC (Unemployment/ Workers' Comp)</i>  <i>Jason Turner SIG</i></p>	<p><i>Proposal for Legislative Action - - The SIG reform of Unemployment Compensation</i></p> <p>The basic structure of the UI system has seen little to no change in the nearly eighty years it has existed. We can learn lessons from other programs. Unlike UI, the workers' compensation system has adapted over time because it incorporates flexibility for states to respond to industry and regulatory change. TANF is another example - - after most states secured waivers of AFDC requirements, the most successful state experiments were later embodied in the 1996 federal reform.</p> <p>An overhaul of the UI system is long due. Federal law should allow states to take control of their trust fund under better policies favoring return to work. Even more modest changes will allow states to offer innovative methods to find jobs for the short-term and long-term unemployed while preserving benefits to support them in the meantime.</p>

## NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Speaker Paul Ryan's plan for entitlement reform - A Better Way</i></p>	<p><i>Five principles and how SIG can help achieve Ryan's vision as described in his plan:</i></p> <p>Reward Work; Tailor benefits to needs; Improve skills and schools; Save for the future; Demand results.</p>
<p><i>TANF reauthorization, defining outcomes and boosting performance</i></p>	<p><i>The Secretaries with Cynthia Dungey, Director Ohio; Grant Collins, former HHS official, now FedCap; and Jim Riccio, Manpower Demonstration Research Corp</i></p> <p>On the year of the twentieth anniversary of TANF, a lookback and discussion of changes as proposed by Ways and Means and other options to the program in light of reauthorization. Grant Collins will describe the thinking behind the Bush Administration's TANF 2006 changes which were codified into current law. Jim Riccio of MDRC was part of the team that conducted the seminal experimental studies on the net impacts of various approaches to welfare and work, and will describe the results. Ohio Director Cynthia Dungey will help facilitate discussion among secretaries of the pros and cons of prospective changes to federal requirements.</p>
<p><i>Food Stamps and WIC</i></p>	<p><i>The Secretaries with Mary Mayhew, Commissioner, Maine</i></p> <p>Discussion of the status of Food Stamps, the ending of ABWOD waivers, federal opposition to state fraud initiatives, and how we can help move FNS and the Congress in the right direction. We will review and update the SIG Food Stamp policy statement prior to our meetings on the Hill. We will also discuss WIC, its health benefits and how to reduce improper payments.</p>
<p><i>Universal engagement in work</i></p>	<p><i>Michelle Beebe, Director, Unemployment Insurance Utah Department of Workforce Services</i></p> <p>Big impacts on work rates and dependency can be obtained where there is a mandatory requirement for job search and job readiness, before resorting to enrollment in more expensive or lengthier interventions such as skills training. Utah is able to reach all its unemployment applicants and recipients in a cost effective way through the use of online tools combined with profiling for those who are more likely to need more intensive services.</p>
<p><i>Disability state demonstrations</i></p>	<p><i>Ellie Hartman, Ph.D., Wisconsin Promise Project Manager for SSI teens.</i></p> <p>Wisconsin has enrolled over a thousand high school students receiving SSI into a program of work readiness and work experience to help merge them into employment upon graduation. The pilot, in its third year, is being evaluated using experimental design. How is it going and what lessons can be learned so far? .</p>
<p><i>Managing exemptions of TANF participation requirements because of excessive health exemptions</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner, SIG</i></p> <p>As TANF caseloads have fallen, the remaining caseload is increasingly populated by those exempt from work participation requirements because of stated health reasons, both necessary and questionable. Milwaukee has adopted a system of health review using the assessment team from the state Voc Rehab division that looks at the capabilities of participants rather than just their health barriers. This adds participants to the pool of those who are subject to work requirements, activates them and boosts the federal TANF participation rate.</p>

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Food Stamps and TANF</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i></p> <p>Discussion of the proposed TANF legislative changes with staff director Anne DeCesaro of the Ways and Means committee, and the latest since the publication of the Ryan Task force on Opportunity. This is followed by open discussion on the status of Food Stamps, the ending of ABWOD waivers, other current state issues and how we can help move FNS and the Congress in the right direction. We will discuss and debate various proposals for national action to be considered at our subsequent meeting to take place in Washington in November 2016.</p>
<p><i>Kansas Ho!</i></p>	<p><i>Secretary Phyllis Gilmore David Kurt, Deputy Secretary for Operations Andrew Wiens, Policy Director</i></p> <p>Secretary Gilmore will report on Kansas' latest legislative accomplishment HOPE One and Two. She and her team will also report on the employment results of its work program for ABWODs in the period since the waiver ended. And there is still more - - the agency has proposed the extension of universal work engagement to the adult parents of children over age 6 via the FSET program.</p>
<p><i>How to influence the culture we live in</i></p>	<p><i>Christopher Brown, President, National Fatherhood Initiative Maggie Spain, The Bawmann Group Advertising and Marketing Ian Dallimore, Director of Digital Innovation + Sales Strategy, Lamar Advertising</i></p> <p>It's this simple to reduce your chances of living in poverty to under five percent - - just finish high school, get a job, any job, and delay pregnancy. Easy to say, but how to communicate this in a way that is absorbed by those who would most benefit by it? The National Fatherhood Initiative has twenty years' experience communicating the importance of fathers to low income men and mothers. Aided by a combination of thoughtful public service announcements, social media and outdoor advertising (e.g. bus and billboard) they have been able to break through the clutter and have the evidence to show for it. Did you know advertising is an eligible TANF expenditure?</p>

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Report from the Congress</i></p>	<p><i>Ways and Means human services staff director Matt Weidinger Nutrition subcommittee staff director Anne DeCesaro</i></p> <p>What is next on TANF, Disability, and Chairman Ryan's Economic Opportunity proposal.</p>
<p><i>Food Stamps and other programs</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i></p> <p>Most ABWOD waivers end December 31 unless renewed. State secretaries discuss plans for transition to regular program opportunities plus operational and political considerations. How states are teaming up with Workforce agencies to provide program capacity. Review and discuss recommendations from the workbook.</p>

	<p>Photos on EBT cards, investigating retailer fraud; making retail data available to states; everything fraud related. Director Jesse Panuccio FL and Jane Johnson FL discuss the likely transition of the UI fraud system to FS.</p> <p>Reports from recent state interactions with FNS.</p>
<i>Discussion prior to Hill meetings</i>	<p>Food Stamps TANF Reauthorization Unemployment Disability SSI and SSDI</p>
<i>Hill Meeting</i>	<p><i>Meeting with Chairman Kevin Brady, Ways and Means Committee, and Republican members of W&amp;M</i></p> <p><i>Mike Conaway (TX), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; with Nutrition Subcommittee Chairwoman Jackie Walorski (IN) and Republican members</i></p> <p>Candid two way discussion with Congressional members.</p>

## **JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<i>Report from the Congress.</i>	<p><i>Ways and Means human services staff director Matt Weidinger, and social security staff director Ted McCann.</i></p> <p>What is next on TANF, Disability, and Chairman Ryan's Economic Opportunity proposal.</p>
<i>Achieving full engagement in work activities without access to new funds.</i>	<p><i>Jason Turner and others</i></p> <p>Workforce Agency connections, including inexpensive orientation and job search; adding no-cost Wagner-Peyser financed job search at front end; unpaid work experience; low cost on-line activities. Reports from IL, TX, UT and other states.</p>
<i>Family income and the welfare effect. The EITC and fraud.</i>	<p><i>Robert Rector, Senior Research Fellow, DeVos Center for Religion and Domestic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation; and Erik Randolph, Senior Fellow, Illinois Policy Institute</i></p> <p>Stacked welfare benefits with phase outs make it very difficult to increase family income as a result of wage increases. EITC is rife with fraud.</p>

## **FEBRUARY 12, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><b>David Stapleton, Director, Center for Studying Disability Policy, Mathematica</b></p> <p><i>Respondent: Steve Bell, Vice President, Social &amp; Economic Policy, Abt Associates</i></p> <p>The Integrated Employment Support and Eligibility Determination proposal would integrate timely employment support systems after the onset or worsening of a medical condition, along with an improved disability determination process so as to improve economic outcomes for workers and reduce entry into SSDI.</p>
<p><b>David Autor, Associate Department Head, MIT Department of Economics</b></p> <p><i>Respondent: Terri Rhodes, Vice President Disability Management Employer Coalition</i></p>

The proposal would extend private disability insurance coverage so as to support workers for up to 2.25 years following onset of disability. It would provide partial income replacement and supports geared toward helping individuals maximize work readiness and self-sufficiency. After receiving private insurance benefits for twenty-four months, individuals who are unable to engage in substantial gainful employment would transition into the SSDI system.

### NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Meet with Budget Chairman Paul Ryan and Republican members of Ways and Means and other committees</i>	SIG Members Discuss · Ryan Economic Opportunity plan · Disability · Food Stamps
<i>Lillian Koller, former SIG Secretary, Dept. Social Services, South Carolina</i>	The Four Disciplines of Execution

### JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA

<i>Important research findings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicholas Eberstadt, Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute; <i>America's Entitlement Epidemic</i></li> <li>• Harry Holzer, Professor of Public Policy, Georgetown University; <i>Who Advances in the Low Wage Labor Market – Surprising findings of strong wage growth for consistent workers</i></li> <li>• David Muhlhausen, Research Fellow in Empirical Policy Analysis, Heritage Foundation; <i>Do Federal Social Programs Work?</i></li> </ul>
------------------------------------	--

### APRIL 10, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<p><b>Possible Approaches to State Demonstrations (Job Search and Related Work First Strategies)</b></p> <p>New York City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Doar, Morgridge Fellow in Poverty Studies, American Enterprise Institute; former Commissioner, NYC Human Resources Administration</li> </ul> <p>Arizona</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarence Carter, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security</li> </ul> <p>Utah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathy Link, Food Stamp Program Manager, Utah Department of Workforce Services</li> </ul> <p>Florida</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chad Poppell, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity</li> </ul> <p>Texas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larry Temple, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Commission</li> </ul> <p>Abt Associates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard Rolston, Principal Associate, Abt Associates</li> </ul>
<p><b>Possible Approaches to State Demonstrations (Workforce Development Strategies)</b></p> <p>Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services; President, APHSA Board of Directors</li> </ul> <p>Washington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Stillman, Assistant Secretary for the Economic Services Administration, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services</li> </ul>



Washington, D.C.

- David Berns, Director, Department of Human Services
- Lee Bowes, CEO, America Works

Mathematica Policy Research

- Sheena McConnell, Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research

## DECEMBER 2013 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Vocational Rehab</i>	<i>KS Vocational Rehabilitation Director and NYC WeCare vendor director.</i> Diverting to employment those likely to fall into SSI.
-------------------------	--

## AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE

<b>Food Stamps</b>	Update on SIG Work Demonstration. It will be included in the upcoming FS extension bill, according to reports. Staff from House will report on prospects and next legislative steps.
<b>FS Work Demo Operations</b>	Technical aspects of implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managing the counterfactual provision</li><li>• Rollout</li><li>• Options for financing new activities</li><li>• Messaging</li></ul>
<b>Labor Force Shortage</b>	How can unmet demand from employers for skilled workers co-exist with over 30% effective urban unemployment, and what are some answers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providers working with men, what works best · Work Habits vs. Work Skills - - Is the former necessary for the latter?</li></ul>

## APRIL 12&19, 2013 WASHINGTON DC

*Topic B*

**Hypothesis: Disability approvals have expanded to enroll many individuals who are capable of working full time or part time in the private economy.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution

*Opening in Support of Hypothesis:*

Richard V. Burkhauser, Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Policy Analysis, Professor of Economics, Cornell University; and Adjunct Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute

*Presenters:*

- Michael Donnelly, Director, Kansas Rehabilitation Service
- Bob Steggert, Former Vice President Casualty Claims, Marriott International
- Bryon Macdonald, Program, Policy and Development Manager, World Institute on Disability
- Dorcas Hardy, Former Commissioner, Social Security Administration

*Topic C*

**Hypothesis: Increasing work participation has a positive effect on the health and well-being of disability applicants and beneficiaries, and the absence of work activity has an independent negative effect on individuals' health and well-being.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution

*Opening in support of hypothesis:*

Kim Burton, Ph.D., Center for Health and Social Care Research UK; Co-Author, *Is Work Good for Your Health and Well-Being?*, publication of the Department of Work and Pensions, UK

*Presenters:*

- Jennifer Christian, MD, President and Chief Medical Officer, Webility Corporation
- Robert E. Drake Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and the Dartmouth Institute, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

*Topic E*

***Hypothesis:* The business sector must become engaged in finding ways to support employment rather than transferring marginal employees onto public benefits. Incentives must be aligned to engage business in behavior that is both socially constructive and profitable.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution

*Opening in Support of Hypothesis:*

Kim Jinnett, Ph.D., Research Director, Integrated Benefits Institute

*Presenters:*

- Allyn C. Tatum, Vice President, Tyson Foods; and former Chairman, Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission
- Richard Victor, Workers Compensation Research Institute (invited)

## NOVEMBER 13-14, 2012 MILWAUKEE

*Preparation for Congressional Members Meeting*

Lead Secretaries and their workgroup members present each of five issues to the Group for vetting.

*Congressional Members Meeting*

Secretaries present Innovation Group recommendations to Members of Congress and staff:

Back from the Abyss – Why 18 SIG member secretaries are agreeing to accept significant political and fiscal risk in exchange for state authority and accountability over benefit programs.

- Food Stamps
- Disability
- Unemployment insurance
- TANF
- The Group's Vantage Point – wasted money, wasted lives - - the urgency for change.

## AUGUST 19-21, 2012 CHICAGO

Secretary Introductions and Discussion

- Chair Secretary Eloise Anderson, State of Wisconsin, Overview
- Budget briefing - - Unsustainable entitlements and federal mandates
- State specific issues for consideration - - around the table

## Participants

- Topics and speakers to include performance contracting; privatization; policy and political implications from the proposed revised poverty rate; the sharp increase in disability; actions to improve family functioning; other issues.
- Short presentations by Secretaries, staff and outside experts followed by discussion
- Strategies for exerting constructive influence into the national political conversation
- Action steps for Secretary's Innovation Group after November



## SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP

### SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

## Skills Training and Apprenticeships Presentations

### DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Graduating from High School</i></p>	<p><i>John Gardner, Former Milwaukee School Board member</i></p> <p>John Gardner is a former Milwaukee School Board member whose election in 1995 was sufficient to usher in the city's school choice policy under his leadership. Gardner has spent his career on the school to work practice, especially with males. His interventions have highlighted the merits of work and earnings while in school.</p>
<p><i>Getting a job immediately after finishing school and staying in the labor force</i></p>	<p><i>Earl Buford, Executive Director, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning</i></p> <p>CAEL is a fifty year old national, nonprofit membership organization that supports the creation of education-to-career pathways supporting workforce agencies, industrial partners, and adult educational institutions. By helping diverse organizations find common cause in adult learners and workers, CAEL keeps education and training providers aligned in real time. It focuses expertise and resources to ensure adult learners and workers can navigate the on- and off-ramps between education and employment.</p>

### JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Growing and expanding successful sector- based training programs that have large net impacts</i></p>	<p><i>Brent Orrell, AEI and Garrett Warfield, Year Up</i></p> <p>Certain sectoral programs can have sizable measured impacts on enrollees. Sectoral programs focus their training and placement among specific industries in heavy demand occupations such as health and IT. The question for the workforce system is how these smaller effective sectoral programs be scaled up to provide meaningful results across larger populations.</p> <p>Brent Orrell, AEI will show that the key to effective scaling lies in successful replication, fidelity to the original models, and stable, flexible funding. Garrett Warfield, author of <i>Scaling Year Up to Maximize Access and Impact</i> will discuss the national workforce development program <i>Year Up</i>, a high impact sectoral program previously featured at SIG. Warfield is currently responsible for expanding and scaling Year Up in Texas and other states while maintaining its measured impacts.</p>
<p><i>Accelerating two year and certificate graduates in community college training programs</i></p>	<p><i>Grace Mukupa, Complete College America</i></p> <p>Workforce and human services agencies are frustrated by the lack of accountability community colleges sometimes exhibit in course offerings and</p>

	<p>completion times. Complete College America (CCA) is a national advocate for dramatically increasing college completion rates and closing institutional performance gaps by working with states, systems, institutions, and partners.</p> <p>Community colleges have low graduation rates - - 23% for one year certificates and 14% for two year (remedial even lower), in part because students are taking many more credits than necessary to complete their degree requirements (33% more for two year degrees) The <i>Georgia Complete College Initiative</i> has nearly doubled on-time graduation rates for community college students. And after working with CCA, Indiana experienced a 30 percent increase in certificate attainment for bachelors, associate, and certificate programs.</p>
<p><i>Helping our young conservatives make careers in state government</i></p>	<p><i>Chase Martin, Health Reformers' Academy</i></p> <p>Our presenters bring on young conservatives in their 30s for training in the conservative health care field - - about a third each from the Hill, think tanks and state staff.</p>

### **JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Moving from federally regulated apprenticeship programs to State Authorized Apprenticeship Programs</i></p> <p><i>Beth Townsend, IA Workforce</i></p> <p><i>Josh Laney, AL Dept. Apprenticeships</i></p>	<p><i>Beth Townsend, IA Workforce is moving to State Authorized Apprenticeships (SAAs) as has Fitzgerald Washington AL and an increasing number of states. Beth says the benefits include these: The certification requirements do not change (and are not diminished) when a state becomes an SAA state, we are still required to provide the minimal requirements in the CFR. The differences are the state gets to make more decisions in terms what programs are approved, more control over the length of time and amount of bureaucracy involved in applying for and getting approval of Recognized Apprenticeship programs, and getting access to RAPIDS which gives us a much better view of the RA programs operating in a particular state (which USDOL will not provide to Office of Apprenticeship (OA) states).</i></p>
--	--

### **JUNE 22-23, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>What works best in job training and employment?</i></p>	<p><i>Jacob Klerman, Senior Fellow, Abt Associates</i> <i>Jason Turner, former NYC commissioner, TANF, SNAP and WIOA</i></p> <p>Most ordinary job training programs have marginal or weak net impacts on employment and wages, while specialized training programs in certain high demand occupations can have large and lasting impacts (such as have been featured at SIG). But the most important single characteristic of all programs that produce big results across a spectrum of job seekers are those that feature enforced participation and monitoring with consequences for dropping out. Add to that an element in which performance payments are made to employment vendors for job acquisition and retention, and experience shows this combination is certain to bring in big results.</p>
---	--

### **NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>How the state workforce system can influence community colleges to perform better</i></p>	<p><i>Michael Bettersworth, Vice Chancellor for Innovation, Texas State Technical College</i></p> <p>Why do we care so much about our statewide community college system? As Willie Sutton would say... “because that’s where the money is”. Community and</p>
---	--

	<p>technical colleges educate more people each year than apprenticeship programs, coding bootcamps and government job training combined—nearly 11 million students a year before the pandemic, compared to fewer than 500,000 from all others. Some state directors express frustration that they have only a marginal influence on the community college curricula and would like the system to shift away from classroom instruction to more hands-on practical skill acquisition and certification.</p> <p>Although some states attempt to track post-college outcomes, this is hampered by insufficiently detailed wage match and other data. Now comes ten campus Texas State Technical College which is the only known example of a state college which <b>obtains 100% of its state budget</b> from meeting performance contracts related to jobs and wage growth. VP Michael Bettersworth will explain how this works, how TSTC is flourishing financially, and how to mobilize state policymakers to shift the community college system to better reflect demands from employers and the state workforce system.</p>
<p><i>Educating Our Youth for the Future</i></p>	<p>Ian Rowe, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute</p> <p>Mr. Rowe is co-founder of Vertex Partnership Academies and formerly CEO of Public Prep, a nonprofit network of public charter schools based in the South Bronx and Lower East Side of Manhattan. His upcoming book <i>Agency</i> posits that young people should be invested in Agency, which is “the force of free will guided by moral discernment”.</p> <p>Oregon Governor Kate Brown recently signed a law eliminating the requirement that high school graduates be able <b>to demonstrate an ability to read, do math, and write at a high school level</b>. Proponents of the law claim it would promote “equitable graduation standards” that will benefit Oregon’s students of color. This law covers the <b>entire state</b>, not just inner cities and will suppress learning and achievement everywhere on the spurious grounds that the covered population finds it too difficult to learn. George Bush called such ideas the “soft bigotry of low expectations” and dedicated his presidency to improving public schools for all or allowing parents to transfer out (No Child Left Behind 2002 with bi-partisan support).</p>
<p><i>Why do most training programs fail? And..</i></p> <p><i>Big Wage Impacts from Project Quest</i></p>	<p><i>David Zammiello, President, Project Quest</i>  <i>Anne Roder, VP for Research and Evaluation, Economic Mobility Corporation</i>  <i>Grant Collins, FedCap</i>  <i>Matt Weidinger, AEI</i></p> <p>Project QUEST, located in San Antonio, provides comprehensive support to help low-income adults earn post-secondary credentials and access well-paying jobs in strong sectors of the local economy such as the health industry. Of a kind known as sector-based interventions, these have been shown as a group to have the largest net impacts among workforce programs, but never so large and long lasting as Quest, which has an eleven year net earnings impact of over \$5000.</p> <p>President David Zammiello will describe his program operations and Anne Roder will describe the impacts from its eleven year evaluation. Our goal from the session is to tease out the specific factors that seem to make the program so successful so that these factors can be introduced in part or whole in SIG state ongoing contracts for workforce operations.</p> <p>Grant Collins will describe the extraordinary employment results for those with health limitations using pay for outcomes contracts in NYC.</p>

**AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Year Up Program</i></p>	<p><i>David Fein, Abt Associates and Duane Reid, Year Up DC</i></p> <p>Year Up is a full-time, year-long workforce training program for low-income young adults that focuses on economic sectors with jobs in high demand – namely, information technology and financial services. New findings from a national randomized controlled trial show earnings gains of 30-40% (\$7,000-\$8,000) per year, sustained over five years, for low-income, mainly minority young adults. These earnings gains are among the largest ever found in a high-quality RCT in the field of workforce development. We will meet with some of the SIG state program operators.</p>
-------------------------------	--

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Work apprentice high schools</i></p>	<p><i>John Gardner, Milwaukee Careers Co-op and former Milwaukee School Board member</i></p> <p>State workforce directors are perplexed with the challenge of bringing enough work ready graduates to take the places in skilled trades and beyond. Various efforts are underway to merge high school learning with apprenticeships, but most of these have struggled to become systematized and scalable. And yet the Cristo Rey network of high schools has done just that in 37 schools across 24 states. These private Catholic college preparatory schools serve low income students who spend a day a week at paid apprenticeships which help pay tuition. College matriculation rates are very high and Milwaukee’s first year graduating class boasted 100% college acceptance and enrollment.</p> <p>Gardner will profile three network schools and describe how the lessons can be applied elsewhere.</p>
<p><i>Federal and state workforce policy</i></p>	<p><i>John Pallasch, Assistant Secretary, DOL Employment and Training Administration</i>  <i>Scott Stump, Assistant Secretary, DOE Career, Technical and Adult Education</i>  <i>Adam Meier, Secretary, KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services</i></p> <p>Newly appointed Assistant Secretary for ETA and former KY labor director John Pallasch has these objectives - - performance and data integrity; skills based hiring; multiple pathways to work; and a focus in favor of skills based hiring and away from four year college enrollment for those unlikely to finish, Fortunately he is joined in his objectives on the other side by Education Assistant Secretary Scott Stump for technical and adult education. These two are pulling policy in the same direction, as are we SIG workforce directors. We will have an open dialogue and strategize as to how best to move forward together, states and feds. Along with the two federal officials we will be joined by KY secretary Adam Meier who has just received approval from USDA to use non-merit personnel to run his eligibility and call centers.</p>

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Industry – sponsored apprenticeships</i></p>	<p><i>Tamar Jacoby, President Opportunity America and representatives from two industry sponsored apprenticeship programs - -</i>  <i>Laura Beeth, Vice President Talent Acquisition, Human Resources, Fairview Health Services</i></p>
--	---

	<p><i>Tony Ayotte, Craft Training Manager, Cianbro</i></p> <p>Apprenticeships which combine classroom learning and paid work experience are active among only 450,000 individuals as opposed to the 20 million in degree granting post secondary education. In the national thrust to dramatically increase the number of apprenticeships so as to populate our workforce of the future and provide middle class income opportunities, President Trump and DOL have encouraged industry groups to develop and oversee their own programs, including within sectors that have not traditionally relied on apprenticeship training. On June 25<sup>th</sup> DOL published new guidance intending to promote the greater use of industry sponsored apprenticeships.</p>
--	--

## NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Job Corps</i></p>	<p><i>Tom Deuschle, DOL ETA</i></p> <p>One of the very oldest Great Society programs, Job Corps, has operated for over 60 years, but has been resistant to improving employment results. Mathematica's most recent study uses survey and tax data on a nationwide sample of 15,400 treatments and controls. The findings indicate the Job Corps increases educational attainment and reduces criminal activity but fails to increase earnings after an early phase-out period.</p> <p>DOL Secretary Acosta has embarked on a ground up overhaul and Tom Deuschle, responsible for Job Corps, will present steps DOL is taking to make fundamental changes.</p>
-------------------------	--

## JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Jacob Klerman, Principal Associate, Abt Associates</i></p>	<p><i>Why do federal job training programs fail to have larger impacts on employment and wages than they do?</i></p> <p>Using before and after outcome comparisons from job training programs can be misleading. This presentation will review issues related to estimating the net impacts of job training programs and describe what the evidence shows are true net impacts. This will be followed by a discussion of hypotheses and conjectures as to why impacts from most of these programs are not larger than they are. This session will also highlight cost effective programs including mandatory job search for benefit applicants.</p>
	<p><i>Amy Goldstein, Washington Post staff writer and author of Janesville: An American Story</i></p> <p>From the New York Times book review:  <i>It is 2008, and Congressman Paul Ryan has just received a phone call from Rick Wagoner, then the chairman and chief executive of General Motors, to alert him that the company will shortly be stopping all production in Janesville WI. The news is too improbable to register. Janesville has a storied place in labor history, changing and repurposing itself as the times required. The place has been manufacturing Chevrolets for 85 years. The congressman is stunned..... "Moving and magnificently well researched"</i></p>



	<p>This is the riveting story of how Janesville lost its core economic engine, how the federal dislocated worker programs and Blackhawk Technical College responded, how families struggled to reorient their careers and families, and how Janesville ended up with an unemployment rate today of only 4 percent. The full impact of the change even in this resilient community came at a cost in lives and futures. The author will also reveal a surprise to this story that bears upon our dislocated worker programs. Each dinner guest will receive a copy of the book.</p>
<p><i>Dane Linn, VP Business Roundtable</i></p> <p><i>Steve Partridge, Vice President of Workforce Development Northern Virginia Community College</i></p> <p><i>John Gardner, Founder Milwaukee Careers Co-operative</i></p> <p><i>Tamar Jacoby, President, Opportunity America</i></p> <p><i>James Kemple, Professor NYU</i></p>	<p><i>From Career Academies to Apprenticeships - - Doing the hard work of integrating work and learning to provide meaningful advancement opportunities</i></p> <p><i>From MDRC - - Established more than 30 years ago, Career Academies are organized as small learning communities, combining academic and technical curricula around a career theme with partnerships with local employers to provide work-based learning opportunities. Through a combination of increased wages, hours worked, and employment stability, real earnings for young men in the Academy group increased by \$3,731 (17 percent) per year — or nearly \$30,000 over eight years.</i></p> <p><i>From the President Trump's executive order - - It shall be the policy of the Federal Government to provide more affordable pathways to secure, high paying jobs by promoting apprenticeships and effective workforce development programs, while easing the regulatory burden on such programs and reducing or eliminating taxpayer support for ineffective workforce development programs.</i></p> <p>This session will explore avenues of integrating work and learning for both youth and adults.</p>

### NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Innovation from Wyoming</i></p>	<p><i>Ray Fleming Dinneen, PsyD, Executive Director, CLIMB Wyoming</i></p> <p>This twelve week intensive training and placement program in operation since 1986 boasts a 90% program completion rate with 85% of graduates placed in full time jobs at the end of program, and a 75% employment rate two years after program completion. What makes it unusual is the structured therapeutic focus on mental health through the application of a calm and secure environment for groups of ten women who have experienced toxic stress in their personal lives.</p>
---------------------------------------	---

### NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Robert Lerman, fellow in labor and social policy, Urban Institute; and Dwayne Hobbs, GA Work Based Learning Director</i></p>	<p>Engaging men - - Bringing men back into the economy using apprenticeships as a guided pathway</p>
--	--

### AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE

<p><b>Community Colleges</b></p>	<p>SIG members are major customers of community colleges through their referrals and sometimes direct purchases. How well are they working for us?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only 19% of associate degree candidates and 8% part time candidates graduate in four years.</li> <li>• Remediation doesn't help with employment and retards completion.</li> </ul>
----------------------------------	--

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time is of the Essence - - Findings from how Tennessee restructured its system to focus on short term completion in vocation specific certificates.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

Speakers include executive director of Complete College America (invited), and focus group of community college administrators and users of system from Milwaukee.



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Performance Contracting Impact and Outcomes Presentations**

**DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Scaling up Successful job trainings with good performance</i></p> <p><i>Richard Hendra, MDRC</i></p>	<p>If our mission is to substantially improve job prospects over large populations, this has in practice been difficult to achieve since the singular event of 1990s welfare reform. There are several sector based programs which have very high impacts on a modest scale. The challenge? Combining proven high impact programs and imprinting these onto a large state population.</p> <p>This session will break down the issues and requirements to scale up various innovations and proven state programs. We will use as one example a thirteen year old high impact program, which combines sector training with internships for HS and GED grads. Year Up has over two decades of practice and operates in 14 states including six SIG states. Year Up has staff and evaluators whose assignment is to <i>find ways to expand its natural reach</i>. We will also explore the better use of data analysis to achieve results.</p>
--	--

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Best practices in using performance criteria to generate positive outcomes</i></p>	<p><i>Michael Grossman, Social Finance</i></p> <p>Social Finance has helped state and local agencies assess problems, create programs likely to succeed, fund, measure and adapt operations in a continuous improvement loop in which success payments are recycled into funds for new projects. They will describe some of their current outcome based state and local initiatives, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google has funded a training program through Social Finance in which payments to trainers are paid a portion of their costs upfront and receive additional payments only if their graduates land and keep higher-paying jobs.</li> <li>● An outcomes rate card is a menu of outcomes that defines how much a government is willing to pay each time that a positive outcome is achieved. A score card rates vendors against metrics. Both can be used together to improve performance and reduce per outcome costs.</li> <li>● Pay It Forward Funds create sustainable cycles of training that are focused on outcomes. Students who experience positive employment outcomes repay the cost of their training, paying it forward into a common fund to support future students.</li> </ul>
--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data insights help make predictions such as the likelihood of homelessness, allowing agencies to step in to help at-risk individuals with preventive measures.</li> </ul>
--	--

**JUNE 22-23, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>What works best in job training and employment?</i></p>	<p><i>Jacob Klerman, Senior Fellow, Abt Associates</i>  <i>Jason Turner, former NYC commissioner, TANF, SNAP and WIOA</i></p> <p>Most ordinary job training programs have marginal or weak net impacts on employment and wages, while specialized training programs in certain high demand occupations can have large and lasting impacts (such as have been featured at SIG). But the most important single characteristic of all programs that produce big results across a spectrum of job seekers are those that feature enforced participation and monitoring with consequences for dropping out. Add to that an element in which performance payments are made to employment vendors for job acquisition and retention, and experience shows this combination is certain to bring in big results.</p>
---	---

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Why do most training programs fail? And..</i></p> <p><i>Big Wage Impacts from Project Quest</i></p>	<p><i>David Zammiello, President, Project Quest</i>  <i>Anne Roder, VP for Research and Evaluation, Economic Mobility Corporation</i>  <i>Grant Collins, FedCap</i>  <i>Matt Weidinger, AEI</i></p> <p>Project QUEST, located in San Antonio, provides comprehensive support to help low-income adults earn post-secondary credentials and access well-paying jobs in strong sectors of the local economy such as the health industry. Of a kind known as sector-based interventions, these have been shown as a group to have the largest net impacts among workforce programs, but never so large and long lasting as Quest, which has an eleven year net earnings impact of over \$5000.</p> <p>President David Zammiello will describe his program operations and Anne Roder will describe the impacts from its eleven year evaluation. Our goal from the session is to tease out the specific factors that seem to make the program so successful so that these factors can be introduced in part or whole in SIG state ongoing contracts for workforce operations.</p> <p>Grant Collins will describe the extraordinary employment results for those with health limitations using pay for outcomes contracts in NYC.</p>
---	---

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Federal funds for pay for success</i></p>	<p><i>Oscar Benitez, Director, Third Sector Capital Partners</i></p> <p>In February 2018, SIPPRA was established by the federal government to provide up to \$100 million for state and local governments to use as outcome payments in Pay for Success (PFS) projects. The legislation is an important step in the transformation of the ongoing management of public dollars for outcomes and will accelerate local government’s capacity to use data-driven decision-making across multiple agencies and programs. By the time we meet, the Treasury Department will have announced the first round Pay for Success grants.</p>
---	--

	<p>Our discussion will focus on the states that were funded and what we can learn from the winning proposals to help SIG states apply for the next round. Federal funds will also be available for planning grants.</p>
--	---

**NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Competitive federal program launch SIPPPRA</i></p>	<p><i>Caroline Whistler, Third Sector Capital</i></p> <p>An underappreciated provision of the FY 2019 budget is the Social Impact Partnerships and Pay for Results Act (SIPPPRA). For the first time the law establishes a federal funding stream and structure to support and advance the implementation of pay for success contracting, including \$100 million for outcome payments, feasibility studies, and project evaluations. This session will help prepare SIG states for the upcoming RFP published about February. SIG can provide on-site assistance to states wishing to respond to the RFP.</p>
--	--

**JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Caroline Whistler, Third Sector Capital Partners</i></p> <p><i>Jeff Shumway, Vice President of Advisory Services, Social Finance</i></p> <p><i>Jason Turner, SIG</i></p>	<p><i>The future of government programs is to pay for outcomes, not process. From concept to action.</i></p> <p>After Mayor Giuliani changed the way NYC paid for WIA and TANF work programs so that vendors received payment only for job placement and retention, in the first year after the change, job placements doubled and total program expenditures dropped by one third. This session will explore what we know about pay for outcomes, and how it can be implemented across a range of programs, while acknowledging the challenges in doing so.</p>
--	--

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Performance Management</i></p>	<p><i>Carlyle Van Outten, Director, America Works of Wisconsin</i></p> <p>Milwaukee TANF eligibility and work programs are run by four contracted agencies, both profit and non-profit. Revenue is generated from outcome payments, mainly job placement and retention. What happens if a state miscalculates payment milestones and over-spends what it needs to? Or conversely, what happens to contract agencies when caseloads go down and new referrals dry up? Or recipients exempt themselves from the work program with doctors' notes? How one of the Milwaukee agencies, America Works, reacts to these stresses and strains, and how states can maximize the value of their state program dollar.</p>
--------------------------------------	--

**AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE**

<p><b>Performance Management</b></p>	<p>How you can boost performance and program effectiveness using proven data-driven management systems, along with staged interactions with field operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bob Behn, Kennedy School expert on national examples, author of upcoming book</li> <li>● Member Robert Doar on JobStat</li> </ul>
--------------------------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Milwaukee E&amp;T vendors on changes to their business behavior resulting from new pay for performance contract</li><li>● Additional member state examples</li></ul>
--	--



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Improving Operations - Efficiency and Effectiveness Presentations**

**DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Larry Mead, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, NYU, and conservative author of thirteen books on welfare, politics, and culture since 1986</i></p> <p>Entrenched poverty and dependency is America’s most serious domestic problem. And yet traditional anti-poverty policy has exhausted itself. Mead’s upcoming book <i>Poverty and Culture</i> takes a distinctive approach to the challenge of poverty. Mead focuses on culture, meaning the beliefs and lives of the poor themselves, rather than on their material condition.</p>
<p><i>Leveraging Social Capital and Innovation to Increase Opportunity</i></p>	<p><i>Scott Winship, Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility, AEI, and Editor 2024 Doing Right By Kids</i></p> <p>Material hardship among American children has fallen dramatically over the past 60 years. Child poverty measured by consumption declined from 62% in 1963 to 13% in 2022. It has fallen by one-third <b>just since 2001</b> and in families headed by a single mother it has dropped by 75 percent since 1993.</p> <p>However the social component of opportunity has fared much worse. Social capital (the value inherent in our relationships) and associational life (the sum of what we do together) have deteriorated over the past 50 years.</p> <p>The ever-growing safety net, while reducing immediate hardship, has also encouraged behaviors that lower income in the longer term, reduce intergenerational mobility, and weaken family and associational life. Perverse incentives discourage work, marriage, saving, human capital investment and deferred gratification. Welfare policy has actually contributed to the deterioration of opportunity.</p> <p>A modern conservative post-populist agenda should focus on children and youth, and take steps to increase the seven domains of social capital. Some of these steps are the subject of this presentation.</p>

**JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Artificial Intelligence and the future of the State workforce</i></p>	<p><i>Stephen Goldsmith</i></p> <p>We are excited to have former Indianapolis Mayor and deputy NYC Mayor Steve Goldsmith join us at our upcoming meeting. Goldsmith is now at Harvard’s Kennedy School and its Center for Cities. Steve and SIG’s Turner teamed up in 2004 to help execute the privatization of Indiana’s welfare</p>
---	---

	<p>eligibility and work system under Governor Mitch Daniels, and Steve last presented to SIG more than a decade ago along with Charles Murray.</p> <p>Recently this former deputy NYC Mayor provided ideas to NYC’s police department on how AI can help predict and act on crime. His presentation to SIG will be suffused with actual operational experience from years in the cities, and we will be left with some predictions as to where AI can and will be implemented first on a large scale in our business.</p>
	<p>Howard Husock, Author: <i>Who Killed Civil Society? The Rise of Big Government and the Decline of Bourgeois Norms</i></p>
<p><i>Universal Basic Income and its potential negative impact on society</i></p>	<p><i>Les Ford, Ford Policy Solutions</i></p> <p>Universal basic income (UBI) is a social welfare proposal that would give citizens a regular, unconditional guaranteed cash payment without conditions based on income level or employment. The post-COVID relaunch of the expanded Child Tax Credit is a step toward UBI and has all the negative features of the pre-reformed welfare but on a much larger scale. Many forms of unconditional transfer payments have been tried and tested in the past. All of these lead to less work and accountability from the beneficiaries which our presenter Leslie Ford will describe. Local lawmakers with or without state participation, are currently piloting versions of UBI which SIG secretaries should be aware of.</p>
<p><i>Acting on opportunities to implement a WIOVA consolidated single state agency and adopting Empowerment Accounts to promote individual self sufficiency</i></p>	<p><i>Rachel Barkley, Alliance for Opportunity</i> <i>Aly Rau, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Support</i></p> <p>In 1997 Utah Governor Leavitt consolidated workforce and benefit programs into a single state agency, the Department of Workforce Services. The recently passed House WIOA bill HR 6655 would permit four low population demonstration states (up to eight in Senate under consideration) to consolidate their WIOA workforce system into a single state agency. Louisiana has begun to take certain steps in this direction.</p> <p>Our presenter will also describe empowerment accounts (EAs) which would provide benefit funding to certain eligible recipients on a debit card. To qualify, individuals would need to be working, training, or following an education program while meeting with a community case manager to help attain financial cogency and to act on savings opportunities.</p>
<p><i>Increasing opportunity by reducing restrictions on eligibility for effective programs</i></p>	<p><i>Beth Townsend, IA Workforce and Deniece Thomas, TN Labor</i></p> <p>Iowa created the Reemployment Case Management Program in 2022 (based on RESEA model). The program includes one on one job coaching and claim review that begins the first week an individual files for unemployment benefits. Customers are closely monitored including job search efforts while being provided resume, interview, and job search support afterward. Since implementation, Iowa has reduced the average duration of unemployment from 13 weeks to 9 weeks as well as reducing benefit payments since 2022 by approximately \$150 million per year.</p> <p>Tennessee-based businesses can uncover a pipeline of motivated young talent through Tennessee’s Youth Employment Program. YEP is designed to create meaningful employment opportunities for young individuals by matching employers with talent who align perfectly with their business and industry requirements. This state-funded program provides a flexible eligibility designed to serve youth that may not qualify under WIOA.</p>



<p><i>Introduction to the Cicero Institute</i></p>	<p><i>Adam Meier, Cicero Institute</i></p> <p>The Cicero Institute is a nonpartisan public policy organization with deep experience in government which encompasses legislation and the law, technology, and entrepreneurship. It helps develop and fight for policies at the state level that restore liberty, accountability, and innovation in American governance.</p> <p>Our presenter is a former SIG secretary, Adam Meier from KY. Our discussion will include how to partner with this conservative lobbying group to advance our Governor’s objectives in the state legislatures.</p>
--	---

## DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Jon Baron, Coalition for Evidence Based Policy</i></p>	<p>In a high quality RCT, the study found Nevada’s RESEA program increases earned income by 13% over five years or \$2400 per year for each of four years. The best part? The intervention costs just \$290, which is the cost of a one-on-one hour and a half consultation to the unemployed by a UI staff member who combines the tasks of eligibility and work programs into one. This differs from most programs where the newly eligible UI recipient goes home and waits to be called back. A sizeable proportion never come back and are lost to the work program system.</p>
<p><i>John Courtney, American Institute for Full Employment</i></p>	<p>UI work search requirements can be requirements in name only without tracking and monitoring. For those who follow the standard suggestion of simply contacting employers and hoping for a connection, the outcome is often unsatisfactory. Utah and Wisconsin utilized a version of mandatory online up front engagement, using a program tapping online job search skill workshops that prepared claimants to make a smart job search while tracking the activity level of the job searchers. This approach can be effective especially in remote areas where frequent office visits are not practical. A random study in Utah showed the program led to shorter claims and stronger integrity.</p>
<p><i>Scaling up Successful job trainings with good performance</i></p> <p><i>Richard Hendra, MDRC</i></p>	<p>If our mission is to substantially improve job prospects over large populations, this has in practice been difficult to achieve since the singular event of 1990s welfare reform. There are several sector based programs which have very high impacts on a modest scale. The challenge? Combining proven high impact programs and imprinting these onto a large state population.</p> <p>This session will break down the issues and requirements to scale up various innovations and proven state programs. We will use as one example a thirteen year old high impact program, which combines sector training with internships for HS and GED grads. Year Up has over two decades of practice and operates in 14 states including six SIG states. Year Up has staff and evaluators whose assignment is to <i>find ways to expand its natural reach</i>. We will also explore the better use of data analysis to achieve results.</p>

## JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>How Missouri side-tracked a certain ticking time bomb in child welfare.</i></p> <p><i>Kris Cox, former Utah Office of Management and Budget</i></p>	<p>When <i>Steve Corsi, former SIG member and past Secretary in WY and MO</i>, arrived at his new job in Jefferson City, he learned that there was a backlog of 7583 child welfare alerts and reports <b>for which no worker had been to visit</b>. Alarmed, he called in the staff and immediately introduced a certain process reform he had used in WY and that at least four other SIG states have adopted to good effect (and have reported their results back to SIG). The process reform is</p>
---	--

<p><i>and current exec director of Epiphany Associates</i></p> <p><i>Jonathan Coneby, Epiphany Associates</i></p>	<p>called the Theory of Constraints (TOC). After eight months of initiating TOC for the backlog, Corsi had reduced it to 400 and two months after that to zero.</p>
<p><i>Foster Care aging out</i></p> <p><i>Ankita Patnaik, Ph.D., Mathematica</i></p> <p><i>Ellie Hartman, DWD, State of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>PROMISE (Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI) was a national random control demonstration ending in 2019 intended to improve the transition of SSI youth to adult employment and self-reliance. This demonstration offers lessons to child welfare agencies managing the problem of foster care aging out. The services provided to parents and children enrolled in SSI included intensive case management and employment services to families who volunteered. All sites experienced good short-term impacts but only WI and NYC had large impacts sustained over five years. What did WI and NYC do differently? We will have the program evaluator and the state operations manager from WI explain.</p>

## NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Best practices in using performance criteria to generate positive outcomes</i></p>	<p><i>Michael Grossman, Social Finance</i></p> <p>Social Finance has helped state and local agencies assess problems, create programs likely to succeed, fund, measure and adapt operations in a continuous improvement loop in which success payments are recycled into funds for new projects. They will describe some of their current outcome based state and local initiatives, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google has funded a training program through Social Finance in which payments to trainers are paid a portion of their costs upfront and receive additional payments only if their graduates land and keep higher-paying jobs.</li> <li>● An outcomes rate card is a menu of outcomes that defines how much a government is willing to pay each time that a positive outcome is achieved. A score card rates vendors against metrics. Both can be used together to improve performance and reduce per outcome costs.</li> <li>● Pay It Forward Funds create sustainable cycles of training that are focused on outcomes. Students who experience positive employment outcomes repay the cost of their training, paying it forward into a common fund to support future students.</li> <li>● Data insights help make predictions such as the likelihood of homelessness, allowing agencies to step in to help at-risk individuals with preventive measures.</li> </ul>
<p><i>SIG secretary members at the forefront of innovation</i></p>	<p><i>Clarence Carter, Commissioner, TN Human Services</i>  <i>Greg Jones, Belmont University, Nashville</i>  <i>Kim Tan, Chairman, SpringHill Management</i></p> <p>Longtime SIG Secretary Clarence Carter, whose career spans 30 years, has been a commissioner in five states as well as deputy assistant secretary at HHS. He has embarked on a project in conjunction with Belmont University of Nashville to maximize personal thriving among the formerly dependent. Together the agency and Belmont have founded the Evergreen Fund, which is a public/private partnership investing in projects intended to create wealth and opportunity. The</p>

	<p>returns from investments are used to add back to the principal in perpetuity. Clarence will report on this and the latest developments in his seven-project initiative financed with TANF state savings from prior years.</p>
<p><i>New opportunities for states to advance using federal funds</i></p>	<p><i>Michelle Beebe, Office of Unemployment Insurance, ETA</i></p> <p>DOL has issued guidance on UI changes including a new \$2 billion expansion as part of the CARES Act. The purpose is to detect and prevent fraud; to promote equitable access; and to ensure timely payment of benefits to eligible workers. Funds may be used for federal administrative costs including system-wide infrastructure investment and development.</p> <p>Separately, the use of the new RESEA grant funds must demonstrate the ability to reduce the average number of weeks participants receive UI by improving employment outcomes, and use evidence-based practices as defined by DOL. Michelle Beebe will discuss these new expansions and how states can best take advantage of these opportunities.</p>
<p><i>The latest in positive identification</i></p>	<p><i>Teresa Wu, Vice President, Innovation and Client Engagement</i> <i>Awilda Gunderson, National Director Digital Identity, IDEMIA</i></p> <p>This session will present the latest innovations in identity verification solutions by leveraging digital identity, biometrics and document authentication all at once.</p> <p>IDEMIA's digital identity platform enables service providers to enroll, manage, and authenticate the digital identities of applicants from the moment that it is created, and for its use by any number of additional agencies and programs for secure and trusted authentication, all while remaining subject to a user's consent.</p>

## **JUNE 22-23, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Overview of the situation on the ground</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute</i> <i>Robert Rector and Jamie Hall, Heritage Foundation</i> <i>Jennifer Tiller, House Committee on Agriculture</i> <i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means Human Resources subcommittee</i> <i>Caitlin Burke, Education and Labor subcommittee</i></p> <p>With trillions of new dollars spent and unpaid for, new and expanded benefits at the same time we are fighting a labor shortage, what does it mean for society and our agencies to manage through these shoals? This session will review the evidence - - what has happened to the budget, the extent of new welfare and child credit distributions to lower middle class, and how we can advance our objectives of work, self-reliance and healthy families under the current environment.</p>
<p><i>National legislation</i></p>	<p>In preparation for the resumption of our private SIG meetings with Republican members of Ways and Means, we will use this session to organize our thinking. These meetings are valuable to the committee as it is their opportunity to learn what is working well on the ground and what improvements should be made to the law. We will discuss what we might wish the committee to consider inasmuch as TANF reauthorization is up soon, while in addition the Farm Bill and WIOA are on the table for next year after the election when Republicans will regain clout. SIG is influential. In 2013 the House Majority Leader put the SIG proposal to the floor during the Farm Bill negotiations and it passed intact.</p>

<p><i>Recruiting state employees</i></p>	<p><i>Secretaries' Roundtable</i></p> <p>For some announcements, states are finding NO APPLICANTS. What can we do to improve recruitment results? States are facing backlog pressure for redeterminations after PHE is over. Yet Oklahoma has reduced its annual turnover rate to 13%. Secretaries will discuss what efforts they are making to recruit and retain valuable employees.</p>
<p><i>Ways and Means</i></p>	<p>Private meeting with House Ways and Means Republicans to discuss all topics, hosted by Worker and Family Support Subcommittee, ranking member Jackie Walorski.</p> <p>Back and forth discussion with members about our work, and options for improvements to the law.</p>
<p><i>Positive identity and fraud</i></p>	<p><i>Pete Eskew, ID.me</i> <i>Joel Savell, LexisNexis</i></p> <p>Despite the enormous increase in fraudulent benefit payments across UI, Food Stamps, disability and other programs, remote ID verification seems here to stay superseding office visits. As fast as better systems are put in place, organized criminals move to weaker systems, as do fraudsters working for themselves. For example, normally ten percent of UI benefits are paid out of state, a proxy for suspicious activity, but during the pandemic this jumped to 60%. Of \$700 billion paid out in UI benefits during the pandemic, some estimates indicate that \$400 billion was stolen, or \$7,700 per net income tax paying household (!). States have been working against headwinds of Biden policy which prioritizes fast distribution of benefits over accuracy. We intend to ask pointed questions to representatives of two of the most prominent positive ID systems, LexisNexis and ID.me. For example, why have these systems not performed better given the scale of fraud, and what can states do to better implement these and other systems to protect the taxpayers?</p>

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Secretaries' Roundtable with National Business Leadership</i></p>	<p><i>Dane Linn, VP for Policy and Strategy, Business Roundtable</i></p> <p>There is a severe labor shortage and if workers continue to stay home it will exacerbate the long-term decline in overall labor force participation just when we need workers to pay for the hundreds of billions in new benefits for lower and middle class CTC non-work welfare.</p> <p>Dane Linn will share the perspectives of the Business Roundtable and its interaction with the Congress and the business sector. In its turn SIG members will have the opportunity to reflect the labor shortage in their own states. When the business community says that excessive federal benefits have become counterproductive to state economic growth, that's when the state and federal legislators snap to attention. SIG members want to be part of this conversation nationally and learn from each other.</p>
<p><i>Why do most training programs fail? And..</i></p> <p><i>Big Wage Impacts from Project Quest</i></p>	<p><i>David Zammiello, President, Project Quest</i> <i>Anne Roder, VP for Research and Evaluation, Economic Mobility Corporation</i> <i>Grant Collins, FedCap</i> <i>Matt Weidinger, AEI</i></p>

	<p>Project QUEST, located in San Antonio, provides comprehensive support to help low-income adults earn post-secondary credentials and access well-paying jobs in strong sectors of the local economy such as the health industry. Of a kind known as sector-based interventions, these have been shown as a group to have the largest net impacts among workforce programs, but never so large and long lasting as Quest, which has an eleven year net earnings impact of over \$5000.</p> <p>President David Zammiello will describe his program operations and Anne Roder will describe the impacts from its eleven year evaluation. Our goal from the session is to tease out the specific factors that seem to make the program so successful so that these factors can be introduced in part or whole in SIG state ongoing contracts for workforce operations.</p> <p>Grant Collins will describe the extraordinary employment results for those with health limitations using pay for outcomes contracts in NYC.</p>
--	---

**AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Tennessee requests guidance from SIG members</i></p>	<p><i>Clarence Carter, Commissioner Tennessee Department of Human Services</i></p> <p>Longtime SIG secretary member from AZ and later Deputy Assistant Secretary for ACF at HHS, Clarence is newly in the position of TN Commissioner. When he showed up for work his first day he was told the state was in possession of \$700 MILLION in unexpended TANF funds. To productively use this windfall, Clarence intends to authorize seven pilots around the state, paying for outcomes not process, with an emphasis on growing healthy families and economic self-reliance and independence from government programs. Here is the fun part for SIG secretaries - - he has asked all of us to brainstorm with him on how to best use these funds to achieve his objectives via the seven pilots, nothing is off the table. This will be the subject of the session.</p>
--	---

**JANUARY 15, 2021 VIRTUAL**

<p><b>VACCINATION ROLL OUT</b></p> <p>Kristen Cox, Former UTAH Executive Director of Management and Budget, and possibly the leading authority on how to apply TOC to governments and nonprofits has presented to SIG members on various topics related to Utah’s 35 percent improvement across all of the state’s \$20B executive branch. She will discuss - -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How well government rolls out the vaccination will depend upon how well decision makers learned lessons from how we responded to COVID.</li> <li>● The four biggest mistakes government made in its COVID response and how to avoid repeating them.</li> <li>● Specific actions secretaries or governor’s offices can take, to ensure a timely and effective vaccination roll out.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EXPECTATIONS OUT OF THE NEW CONGRESS</b></p> <p>Matt Weidinger, AEI Fellow and former staff director Ways and Means subcommittee, on UI and welfare.</p> <p><b>COMBATTING UI FRAUD</b> under stress from high applications and remote determinations - -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SIG state of Arkansas - - How AR uses their comprehensive UI fraud detection system. What is working best right now?</li> </ul>

- *On Point* Vendor - - Seven SIG states use one or more functions of the company's OPTIMUM Integrity tool for UI fraud detection and management including Arkansas. Is it cost effective?

## DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Federal funds for pay for success</i></p>	<p><i>Oscar Benitez, Director, Third Sector Capital Partners</i></p> <p>In February 2018, SIPPRA was established by the federal government to provide up to \$100 million for state and local governments to use as outcome payments in Pay for Success (PFS) projects. The legislation is an important step in the transformation of the ongoing management of public dollars for outcomes and will accelerate local government's capacity to use data-driven decision-making across multiple agencies and programs. By the time we meet, the Treasury Department will have announced the first round Pay for Success grants.</p> <p>Our discussion will focus on the states that were funded and what we can learn from the winning proposals to help SIG states apply for the next round. Federal funds will also be available for planning grants.</p>
<p><i>Utah's Theory of Constraints continues to produce big results in SIG states</i></p>	<p><i>Kristen Cox, Executive Director, UT Office Management and Budget</i>  <i>Steve Corsi, former Secretary, MO Dept. Social Services</i>  <i>Sara Stolt, Transformation Manager, ND Dept. Human Services</i></p> <p>Kristen Cox has brought Utah's pre-eminent management effectiveness system, Theory of Constraints to several SIG states over the past few years with big impacts. States include TX, FL, OH, MO, WY and now ND. Now former MO secretary and SIG member Steve Corsi, and ND transformation manager Sara Stolt will describe their remarkable cost reduction and performance achievements using the Utah system. TOC includes these characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No budget increases</li> <li>• No system upgrades</li> <li>• No added staff</li> <li>• No new training</li> </ul> <p>Kristen will describe how the Utah model can be brought into any SIG state, and the two secretaries will describe how these results were achieved.</p>
<p><i>Impact investing</i></p>	<p><i>Jay Hein, President, Sagamore Institute</i></p> <p>The Boston Federal Reserve reports that the average net worth of white households in Boston is \$247,000, while the net for black households is under \$1000. This is a shocking statistic, and only market solutions can close this gap. The Sagamore Institute is custodian of an Impact Fund for investors who want to achieve social goals while obtaining a return to their investments. States can set up their own Impact Funds to help guide social investments within their states to promote economic growth in specific projects including minority and faith-based businesses without public contributions. Jay Hein will describe how states can encourage this using Sagamore's own Impact Fund as an example.</p>
<p><i>Food Stamps and new rules -- what next on implementation</i></p>	<p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Subcommittee on Nutrition</i>  <i>Anne DeCesaro, Chief of Staff, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services</i>  <i>Brent Newman, President, Accuity Inc.</i></p> <p>USDA may have issued its final ABAWD rule by the time we meet and it is</p>

	<p>possible that all states will have to plan for enrollment. Other FNS rules are pending or being contemplated and this is the final opportunity for new rules to be generated, or those in process to be modified so as to take effect before the end of the administration. We will discuss all matters Food Stamps with the new FNS chief of staff, Anne DeCesaro, a SIG friend and colleague formerly with the Ways and Means committee, along with Jennifer Tiller of the House nutrition subcommittee.</p> <p>Also joining us is Brent Newman of Accuity Inc. This company has access to all bank numbers and manages the commercial routing numbered system. Almost all states use its program for SSI and Medicaid automated asset checks. The program can be adapted for Food Stamps, making implementing the new anticipated BBCE rules easy.</p>
--	--

## JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Activating marginal non workers</i></p>	<p><i>Grant Collins, VP Fedcap - NYC operator of independent medical assessments</i></p> <p>What are the two most common reasons that idle recipients are not actively looking for work or training?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The state has not called them in yet to enroll them in employment related activities.</li> <li>2. Recipients called in for employment activities claim a health reason for exemption.</li> </ol> <p>As it relates to #2, health exemptions - - for fourteen years NYC has conducted cost effective independent board certified medical assessments for all TANF recipients who claim health reasons for exemption from work. The results have been revealing - - only 17% are considered potentially eligible for disability. The rest are shown to be able to improve their health conditions or make Voc-Ed- like accommodations for work. Over 14 years over 84,000 assessments and follow ups have been made, with more than 24,000 job placements and a 73% average retention at 6 months.</p>
<p><i>Medicaid Policy and State Options</i></p>	<p><i>Seema Verma, Administrator, CMS</i></p> <p>Fifteen states, most with Republican governors, have requested or received Medicaid work waivers. These include AL, AZ, AR, IN, KY, MI, MA, NH, OH, OK, SD, TN, UT, VA, WI. Medicaid waivers are in a flux, with states, CMS, the courts and state legislatures all playing a role in this extension of new work policy. Administrator Verma and we will discuss together the current state of play, how SIG states are progressing with this central issue, as well as growing interest in Medicaid block grants.</p> <p>There are many other CMS options for states being offered by Administrator Verma and we will discuss these too.</p>
<p><i>The Immigration Crisis at the border and worksite enforcement</i></p>	<p><i>Theo Wold, Special Assistant to the President, Domestic Policy</i>  <i>Steven Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies</i>  <i>Jerry Kammer, author <u>What Happened to Worksite Enforcement?</u>, Center for Immigration Studies</i></p> <p>By Presidential Memorandum issued May 23 on enforcing the legal responsibility for sponsors of aliens - -</p>

	<p><i>A key priority of my Administration is restoring the rule of law by ensuring that existing immigration laws are enforced. The immigration laws currently require that, when an alien receives certain forms of means-tested public benefits, the government or non-government entity providing the public benefit must request reimbursement from the alien's financial sponsor. These laws also require that, when an alien applies for certain means-tested public benefits, the financial resources of the alien's sponsor must be counted as part of the alien's financial resources in determining both eligibility for the benefits and the amount of benefits that may be awarded. Financial sponsors who pledge to financially support the sponsored alien in the event the alien applies for or receives public benefits will be expected to fulfill their commitment under law.</i></p> <p><i>Several major means-tested public benefits programs — including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — require updated procedures and guidance to ensure that the requirements of existing law are enforced. The purpose of this memorandum is to direct relevant agencies to update or issue procedures, guidance, and regulations, as needed, to ensure that ineligible non-citizens do not receive means-tested public benefits, in better compliance with the law.</i></p> <p>E-Verify - - Border crossings can be stopped by highly policed walls such as the Berlin wall. But the two thousand mile border with Mexico presents more challenges. E-Verify, run by the US Citizenship and Immigration Service allows employers to check whether documents presented by prospective employees correspond to an existing social security number. States that require it (Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah) have changed worker behavior according to studies. Curiously, candidate Trump promoted E-Verify which is popular, but has not referenced it as much since then. We will discuss E-Verify, how to make it more effective, and its current status in the debate over immigration.</p>
--	--

**NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>White House and Washington post election agenda</i></p>	<p><i>Rich Burkhauser, White House Council of Economic Advisors Ben Hobbs, White House Domestic Policy Council (Housing) Leslie Ford (DPC Food Stamps/TANF) Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson (DPC Medicaid) James Redstone (DPC Workforce)</i></p> <p>We will engage in a wide ranging discussion of the post-election Washington political environment and how the Administration and SIG members can work together to arrive at policy objectives and accomplish these as implemented on the ground through the states. What are the ideas, the priorities and best opportunities?</p>
<p><i>Ways and Means Committee</i></p>	<p><i>Ways and Means Committee private meeting</i></p> <p>Each November SIG participants meet in private with Republican Ways and Means members to discuss TANF, UI, WIOA, EITC and Child Welfare. Last year Ohio Rep. Jim Renacci reported that he had included SIG-recommended EITC anti-fraud measures in the Tax Bill. This year we will review SIG priorities with the Committee members post-election.</p>



## DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Full work engagement in TANF</i></p>	<p><i>Grant Collins, Senior Vice President, Fedcap</i></p> <p>Grant and his welfare to work vendor, Fedcap, have increased Maine’s work participation rate since they began there only nine months ago, from 16% to 50% - - and have boosted exits due to employment fourfold over the same period. We will take a look under the hood to explore the technical reasons for this achievement.</p>
<p><i>State job performance measurement</i></p>	<p><i>Doug Besharov, University of Maryland; Randy Eberts, Upjohn Institute</i></p> <p>The presenters will argue that modest adjustments to TANF and WIOA metrics could better measure relative efficiency and effectiveness of programs state to state by taking into account differences in program components, client characteristics, and social and economic conditions. In that way, the best and worst performers could better be identified, and their characteristics and operations analyzed for emulation or correction.</p>

## JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Maura Corrigan, Former Michigan director, Supreme Court justice and AEI scholar</i></p>	<p><i>Update on Consent Decree reform efforts</i></p> <p>Former Michigan human services director and SIG member Maura Corrigan is the author with John Bursch of <i>Rethinking Consent Decrees</i>. She will update us on consent decree reform efforts and promising developments in several states regarding child safety and workforce retention.</p>
<p><i>CMS Administrator Seema Verma</i></p>	<p><i>Federal Medicaid reform and Medicaid waiver opportunities</i></p> <p>For more than two decades, Seema Verma has guided healthcare policy in the public and private sector. She has worked with states to build flexibility into their Medicaid programs so as to help them meet the diverse needs of their unique populations. As the architect of the Healthy Indiana Plan, she helped create and implement the first consumer-directed Medicaid program. In this session we will discuss plans underway for federal reform, and the various options states may access under waivers likely to be approved by CMS.</p>
<p><i>Kevin McCabe, Senior Director, Health &amp; Human Services, Lexus Nexus</i></p>	<p><i>Reducing fraudulent duplicate payments</i></p> <p>The purpose of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse is to stop dual benefit payments and improve application processing accuracy in human services programs. It is currently centered in five southeastern states with a dozen more considering joining the network. Estimated food stamp savings if fully deployed are \$200 million annually, with the potential for Medicaid savings many times higher than that.</p>
<p><i>Jason Conley, Executive Director, Identification Technical Association (IdTA)</i></p>	<p><i>Fraud prevention using biometric techniques for positive identification</i></p> <p>Government offices everywhere are transitioning to on-line applications for benefits. However, the absence of in-person interactions comes at a cost of increased benefit fraud. Florida has experienced large scale organized fraud through false UI on-line applications. Elsewhere theft of income tax refunds and duplicate Food Stamp issuances are costing individuals, governments and the economy billions of dollars. Using biometric solutions such as low cost/no cost</p>

	<p>smartphones owned by applicants, positive identification can be established from applicant snapshots of their driver’s license along with photo selfies matched against electronic DMV records on file. In another example, low cost finger imaging reduced Louisiana’s child care expenditures by 23% the first year and 65% by the fifth year.</p>
<p><i>Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Utah Office Management and Budget</i></p>	<p><i>Six Sigma or Lean may not be the best systems for government management improvement - - the Theory of Constraints (TOC) may be more adaptable.</i></p> <p>When FL SIG member Cissy Proctor called upon Utah to import its management effectiveness approach called Theory of Constraints (TOC), its implementation applied to Florida’s UI program resulted in an increase in UI on-time payments of twenty percentage points, from the high 60s to the high 80s, in a period of just months. Utah OMB director Kristen Cox will show how this management efficiency and effectiveness system is being used across program areas in her state to decrease costs and improve outcomes.</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Child Welfare continued</i></p>	<p><i>Greg Povolny, CEO Mindshare Technology</i> <i>Will Jones, SAS State and Local Government Practice</i></p> <p>Rapid Safety Feedback uses predictive analytics to prioritize calls of suspected child abuse. Predictive analytics in child protective services means assigning suspected abuse cases to different risk levels based on characteristics that have been found to be linked with child abuse. These risk levels can automatically revise as administrative data is updated. Administrative data may be as simple as school reports or could delve deeper into other information that the state holds: the parents’ welfare checks, new criminal offenses or changing marital status.</p>
<p><i>Marriage and child support</i></p>	<p><i>David Blankenhorn, President, Institute for American Values; and author of Fatherless America and The Future of Marriage</i></p> <p>From troubled family structures to the emerging age of the unformed family - - Ten trends that are influencing how public policy and human services programs must respond.</p>
<p><i>Ways and Means private discussion</i></p>	<p><i>Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX)</i> <i>Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman Vern Buchanan (R-FL)</i></p> <p>The SIG annual discussion with the Ways and Means is an opportunity for the secretaries and Congressional members to interact and share information in a candid private setting. Members of Congress look forward to hearing what is going on at the “street level” and from these conversations legislative ideas often emerge from the Committee.</p>
<p><i>Innovation from Wyoming</i></p>	<p><i>Ray Fleming Dinneen, PsyD, Executive Director, CLIMB Wyoming</i></p> <p>This twelve week intensive training and placement program in operation since 1986 boasts a 90% program completion rate with 85% of graduates placed in full time jobs at the end of program, and a 75% employment rate two years after program completion. What makes it unusual is the structured therapeutic focus on mental health through the application of a calm and secure environment for groups of ten women who have experienced toxic stress in their personal lives.</p>

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Theory of Constraints</i></p>	<p><i>Cissy Proctor, Executive Director, FL Department of Economic Opportunity</i></p> <p>It is not an exaggeration to say that Cissy has presided over a remarkable turnaround, measured not only by metrics but equally in terms of group staff morale, self-initiated problem solving and reported job satisfaction. On-time UI payments have increased from percentages in the sixties to the high eighties, combined with reductions in personnel through attrition - - all with no IT changes or adds to budget.</p>
<p><i>Biometric Positive Identification</i></p>	<p><i>Teresa Wu, Board Member, Secure Identity &amp; Biometrics Association</i>  <i>Guy Sylvester, Executive Director Program Integrity and Improvement, Louisiana Department of Human Services</i></p> <p>Keying off of former SIG member Jesse Panuccio’s alarming presentation on the topic of UI fraud in Florida, and subsequent SIG webinar from FL on the same topic, presented here is a cost-effective solution for your consideration, particularly in programs where on line application processing has substituted for office visits.</p> <p>Biometrics (finger imaging and its alternatives) assures participant identity, eliminates duplicate payments, and flags multiple abusers. Uses of this solution include those for eligibility processing of UI, Food Stamps and TANF, plus time and attendance tracking for child care, work programs and residential treatment facilities. Other applications include Medicaid prescription integrity. When Louisiana implemented finger imaging for child care attendance tracking, expenditures immediately dropped by 23% and five years later are down 65%.</p>
<p><i>Beta Gov</i></p>	<p><i>Steve Corsi, Director, Wyoming Department of Family Services</i>  <i>Andrew Wiens, Policy Director, Kansas Department of Children and Families</i></p> <p>Wyoming and Kansas have each engaged in two rounds of Beta Gov, where staffs generate their own ideas for program improvement testing and implementation. What did their staffs produce for experimental testing? What do we know about the ease of transfer of this concept? Steve and Phyllis report.</p>
<p><i>Disability Beta Gov</i></p>	<p><i>Steve Corsi, Director, Wyoming Department of Family Services</i>  <i>Jason Turner</i></p> <p>Open discussion of Beta-like experiments states might try on their own to keep more prospects in the labor force.</p>
<p><i>New Work on Consent Decrees</i></p>	<p><i>Maura Corrigan, AEI</i></p> <p>Former SIG member and Michigan Supreme Court justice Maura Corrigan along with US Supreme Court litigant John Bursch, have finished a full scale analysis of the process of resisting and challenging consent decrees which is essential for any secretary under periodic attack, namely all of us. Maura will update us on their most recent work with the states.</p>

<i>Monthly reporting</i>	<p><i>Jeff Mays, Director, IL Department of Employment Security</i></p> <p>Not for the faint hearted because of its burden on business, Illinois has nevertheless enacted a requirement that employers report income on a monthly basis. Originally for the purpose of reducing Medicaid expenditures, monthly reporting has identified for UI a new \$160 million potential capture from overpayments. How to realize this savings is an administrative question.</p>
<i>Managing Sovereign Relationships</i>	<p><i>Steve Corsi, Director, Wyoming</i></p> <p>Western and rural states in particular struggle with lack of authority over tribal programs. Wyoming has certain legislative accomplishments and Steve will explain the resulting improvements.</p>

## **NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Lifting Consent decrees</i>	<p><i>Maura Corrigan, AEI and formerly Director, Michigan Human Services</i></p> <p>Former Director Corrigan challenged a longstanding child welfare consent decree containing more than 200 promises. It is being renegotiated. How did she and her counsel John Bursch do it? Maura currently helps represent South Carolina as they negotiate a child welfare class action lawsuit. She offers advice for states confronting adverse legal action as well as those subject to existing consent orders.</p>
<i>Program Effectiveness</i>	<p><i>Angela Hawkins, Professor, Pepperdine University</i>  <i>Dir. Steve Corsi, WY</i>  <i>Sec. Phyllis Gilmore, KS</i></p> <p>How to create fast low cost randomized experiments to test interventions (without a contractor) that you and your agency invent yourself. Reports from SIG member trials in Wyoming and Kansas.</p>
<i>Theory of Constraints</i>	<p><i>Cissy Proctor, FL</i>  <i>Steve Cuthbert, UT</i></p> <p>Implementing the output boosting and cost reduction initiative in Florida.</p>

## **JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<i>Lifting Consent decrees</i>	<p><i>Maura Corrigan, AEI and former Director Michigan; and John Bursch, Partner and Co-Chair Appellate and Supreme Court Practice, Warner, Norcross &amp; Judd</i></p> <p>Former Director Corrigan successfully overturned a longstanding child welfare consent decree with over a hundred requirements to just a few. How did she do it? Her co-presenter, John Bursch, has argued nine U.S. Supreme Court cases since 2011, many involving issues of federalism, and currently represents Michigan and New Jersey as they renegotiate their child welfare consent decrees. They offer advice for states confronting adverse legal action as well as those subject to existing consent orders.</p>
<i>Theory of Constraints</i>	<p><i>Steve Cuthbert, Deputy Director, Utah Governor's Office of Excellence</i></p>

	Steve will describe two Utah human services projects which achieved very high impacts on throughput and expenditure reductions.
--	---

### NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Clarence Carter, Director, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security</i>	Innovative public relations strategies – getting ahead of the game before they get to you first; and should SIG organize orientations for newly appointed secretaries?
<i>Secretary Sidonie Squier NM; and Greg Gardner, Governor's Director of Operational Excellence, Office of Management and Budget, Utah</i>	Improving New Mexico's call center operations through the implementation of Theory of Constraints
<i>Lillian Koller, former SIG Secretary, Dept. Social Services, South Carolina</i>	The Four Disciplines of Execution

### JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA

<i>Management - - Theory of Constraints</i>	<p>Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Utah Governor's Office of Management and Budget</p> <p>Alfredo Mycue, Director of Business, Texas Workforce Commission</p> <p>The Government Efficiency Exemption Policy - - bringing modern management advances into dark places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utah - - Applications UP 48%; FTEs DOWN 29%</li> <li>• Texas RFP days from idea to publish DOWN by two thirds.</li> <li>• Bonus - How to shame a government lawyer into approving an RFP draft within 48 hours.</li> </ul>
<i>Communications</i>	SIG Chair Eloise Anderson, Secretary, Wisconsin Dept. of Children and Families
How conservatives should talk about our beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Kwong, Philanthropy Roundtable Director of Economic Opportunity Programs</li> </ul>

### DECEMBER 2013 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Communication and policy</i>	<p><i>Communications Director, UK Department of Work and Pensions</i></p> <p>How to cultivate and generate positive human stories which support our agenda</p>
<i>Culture Change and Faith Initiatives</i>	<p><i>Director of Economic Opportunity Programs, Philanthropy Roundtable; and former Bush Administration HHS director of Faith Based initiatives</i></p> <p>Expanding impact through program innovations connected to faith and culture</p>
<i>State-to-state innovations, and coordination with state think-tanks and wrap up.</i>	<p><i>SIG members, State Policy Network staff</i></p> <p>Utilizing state think tanks to advance agenda; trading current ideas and making plans for transfers</p>

## AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE

<p><b>Arizona et al</b></p>	<p>Member Clarence Carter will describe his initiative for a complete review of the state safety net system Clarence is looking for input from SIG members to help inform his far reaching changes. SIG-wide discussion of both ambitious and shorter term system changes, e.g. emanating from our Federalism Issue Brief.</p>
<p><b>State Think Tanks</b></p>	<p>Limited government think tanks supported by conservative foundations are operating in all 50 states. Most do not interact frequently with human services secretaries. How to form partnerships for think tanks to produce reports of value to SIG members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using think tank reports in your messaging strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Speakers include Tracey Sharp, executive director of State Policy Network (invited) and the director of Wisconsin Policy Research Institute.</p>
<p><b>Legal Services and how to counteract lawsuits</b></p>	<p>Lawsuits by the poverty interests are a major impediment to productive agency freedom of action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are some preventive actions states can take in anticipation of lawsuits?</li> <li>● Is part of your budget allocated to pay for legal services for the poor?</li> </ul> <p>If so you are a customer! The chief counsel of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty will help you think through how to fight back.</p>

## NOVEMBER 13-14, 2012 MILWAUKEE

<p><i>Strategy for National Action and Influence; and State-to-State Innovation Transfer</i></p> <p><i>Group to National</i> - - Mobilization of Governors and the Group; Congressional action; Coordinated petitions to Federal agencies; RGA annual meeting ongoing simultaneously (November 12 – 15 Las Vegas).</p> <p><i>State-to-State</i> - - Importation of ideas or program innovations from member states using SIG assistance for initial transfer of on-site development and expertise (as budget permits). Secretaries wishing to avail themselves as state hosts for site visits by member states, likely will find appreciative acceptances. We begin plans for 2014 New Secretary Training organized and delivered by SIG Members.</p>
<p><b>OUR MISSION</b></p> <p>The Secretary’s Innovation Group is made up of state secretaries who favor limited government along with programs which foster self-reliance and healthy families.</p> <p>The three objectives of the organization are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To encourage chief executives to form professional friendships with their colleagues in relaxed private settings</li> <li>2. To form common alliances in order to achieve national objectives viz a viz Congress and the Administration</li> <li>3. To teach and learn of innovations in other states, and to transfer in and out the best of these</li> </ol>



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Food Stamps Presentations**

**DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Post-election Food Stamp Legislative and Administrative Reform</i></p>	<p><i>Angela Rachidi, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise</i></p> <p>In the original authorization of the Food Stamp Program, Congress stated, “It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress, in order to promote the general welfare, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s population by raising levels of nutrition among low-income households.” Today, SNAP needs substantial reform to realize this goal. As caseloads and expenditures have grown, SNAP has become increasingly disconnected from the core goal of reducing food insecurity and improving nutrition, failing to reverse downward trends in work and other various measures of health and well-being. The AEI report offers specific SNAP reforms that maximize the program’s strengths while addressing certain weaknesses that limit its effectiveness.</p> <p>The AEI report focuses on five areas in SNAP that particularly need reforming: (1) program administration, (2) eligibility and benefit levels, (3) employment and poverty reduction, (4) nutrition improvement, and (5) program integrity. The recommendations were compiled by AEI supported conservatives policy makers over the course of a year. Not all authors needed to agree with each recommendation before this report was published on October 29th. SIG secretaries and workforce directors at this session will review or modify these recommendations for use in their own state. Depending upon election results some or all of these recommendations may become law.</p>
<p><i>Early considerations regarding a possible experimental work-only system of benefits in Columbus, Ohio</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Damschroder, Director, OH Jobs and Family Services</i></p> <p>At our SIG meeting in July, a presentation of a 1990s work-only system implemented in Wisconsin showed very favorable employment and other outcomes. Aspects of it are now under consideration by Director Matt Damschroder of Ohio who may offer his comments.</p>

**JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Food Stamps is where we will find and meet the need for state labor</i></p>	<p><i>Doug Besharov and Doug Call, UMD; Steve Greene, former Kansas human service administrator and SIG activist; and Jason Turner SIG and former Wisconsin director for welfare replacement</i></p> <p>The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities claims most Food Stamp participants who can work are doing so, because in a typical month 74% of working age non-disabled adult beneficiaries worked within a year before or</p>
---	--

	<p>after the month of Food Stamp receipt. This is <b>highly misleading</b> because for CBPP just one hour counts as working, and many non-workers are not counted at all in this calculation. Presenters Besharov and Call show that at a given point in time, out of 100 Food Stamp working age adult beneficiaries, only 17 are working twenty hours or more. This is where the tens or hundreds of thousands of non-workers are residing that our governors keep asking us to find on behalf of labor- starved businesses.</p> <p>Once we know where to find them how do we activate able bodied Food Stamp recipients to enter and remain in the labor force? This is where the second part of our session begins, because we have a former very active SIG state, Kansas, which implemented <b>and enforced</b> common sense work requirements for Food Stamp ABWODS in October 2013 under Governor Brownback. Just two and a half years later the <b>results were amazing</b> with virtually no negative consequences including these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly 60 percent of those leaving food stamps found employment within 12 months. Their combined income from food stamps and employment changed from a baseline of 50/50 benefits and work to 100% income from work and a 23% higher net total in just the first two years (while wages from earnings alone went up by more than two times).</li> <li>• The ABWOD caseload dropped from 27 thousand to 9 thousand in a year and 7 thousand in two years, or minus 74%. Average recipient time on benefits dropped from 14 months to 7 months.</li> <li>• Total state-funded administrative costs were <b>reduced</b> by 7% in just the first year because of the reduced caseload (while nationally state funded admin costs increased 4% over the same period). The Kansas payment error rate dropped from 4% to just 1% the year after the change.</li> </ul> <p>Jason Turner will describe the work-only system in Wisconsin’s W-2 reform. The two Kansas Brownback administrators who implemented their change will explain how they did it and what you could expect in your state.</p>
--	--

**DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Work, Welfare, UI and Food Stamps</i></p> <p><i>House and Senate congressional staff including:</i></p> <p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Brad Thomas and Marek Laco, House Education and Workforce</i></p> <p><i>Anne DeCesaro, Senate HELP committee;</i></p> <p><i>Matt Weidinger, former staff director and present AEI</i></p>	<p>At our recent SIG meeting in August, participants uniformly requested more time with congressional staff. We asked for more detailed reports and time for discussion of the pros and cons of many pending and likely legislative movements.</p> <p>Therefore we have dedicated all morning to this topic with the top congressional committee staff.</p>
---	---



<i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i>	
----------------------------------	--

**JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Work, Welfare, UI and Food Stamps</i></p> <p><i>House and Senate congressional staff including:</i></p> <p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Brad Thomas, House Education and Labor</i></p> <p><i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i></p> <p><i>Anne DeCesaro Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee</i></p> <p><i>Rep. Warren Petryk, Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>Several good changes were made as a result of the debt negotiations although they do not go far enough. The House obtained improvements to TANF updating the caseload reduction benchmark, and the Food Stamp ABWOD age limits rose to 55 and closed excessive exemptions. Our presenters will discuss everything current and likely on the Hill among all programs.</p> <p>While overall, Democrats have reversed much of the 1996 reforms, some state legislators are fighting back. Joining this session will be <i>Rep. Warren Petryk of Wisconsin</i>. He has co-sponsored seven legislative initiatives aimed at advancing work among UI, Food Stamps and TANF recipients. Have you heard of UI recipients who “ghost” employers by arranging interviews to hit their job interview requirements and never show up?</p>
---	--

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p>The pandemic and its aftermath - - excessive federal transfers, lessening of work obligations and increased fraud risk</p>	<p><i>Doug Besharov, University of Maryland</i>  <i>Robert Rector, Heritage Foundation</i>  <i>Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute</i>  <i>Jennifer Tiller, House Nutrition Committee</i>  <i>Ryan Martin, National Governors’ Association</i></p> <p>Today social security pays monthly checks to <b>55 million</b> retirees. President Biden and the Congress have exceeded this number in one fell swoop by adding 65 million children in 39 million families to a new state of dependency equaling <b>30 percent of ALL households</b> in America through the child tax credit. Previously the non working income available via average national benefit levels (TANF and Food Stamps) was about \$11,500 per year; now to \$19,500 with the new tax credit. Our country is facing an acute labor shortage at the same time tens of millions are facing work as merely an option.</p> <p>How will the retreat from the idea of mutual obligation, e.g. work in exchange for benefits, affect individuals making life choices and the body politic? How will the explosion of new entitlements in all areas of the welfare state affect the responsibility of Americans to act as productive economic units and supportive family members? We will discuss the current national state of affairs with conservative’s top thinkers in program and budget matters spanning all human services and workforce programs.</p>
---	--

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2020 VIRTUAL**

<p><i>Post election - - Democrat trends in national policy, UI, Food Stamps and tax credits</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, AEI; Anne DeCesaro USDA; Ryan Martin, Senate Finance; Robert Rector, Heritage; Doug Holmes, UWC; Jennifer Tiller, House Nutrition</i></p> <p>Roundtable discussion with senior administrators and thinkers on all topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where does work policy go in the absence of obligations?</li> <li>● Recreation of AFDC using refundable child tax credits with no concurrent work obligation.</li> <li>● Food Stamp ABWODs, UI work search. Will enforcement if any devolve to the states?</li> <li>● Blueprint for the next Administration on UI             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nationalize UI</li> <li>○ Establish new increased federal UI tax to cover admin and benefits</li> <li>○ Increase coverage and benefits</li> <li>○ Increase workplace regulation</li> <li>○ Pandemic as rationalization for permanent change</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Food Stamp regs, BBCE, ABWOD, E&amp;T, fraud. Where to?</li> <li>● UI solvency and taxes</li> <li>● PUA extensive fraud under current certifications</li> <li>● Senate turnover? Who are the new players?</li> </ul>
---	---

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Food Stamps and new rules -- what next on implementation</i></p>	<p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Subcommittee on Nutrition Anne DeCesaro, Chief of Staff, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Brent Newman, President, Accuity Inc.</i></p> <p>USDA may have issued its final ABAWD rule by the time we meet and it is possible that all states will have to plan for enrollment. Other FNS rules are pending or being contemplated and this is the final opportunity for new rules to be generated, or those in process to be modified so as to take effect before the end of the administration. We will discuss all matters Food Stamps with the new FNS chief of staff, Anne DeCesaro, a SIG friend and colleague formerly with the Ways and Means committee, along with Jennifer Tiller of the House nutrition subcommittee.</p> <p>Also joining us is Brent Newman of Accuity Inc. This company has access to all bank numbers and manages the commercial routing numbered system. Almost all states use its program for SSI and Medicaid automated asset checks. The program can be adapted for Food Stamps, making implementing the new anticipated BBCE rules easy.</p>
--	--

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>USDA and White House Domestic Policy Council</i></p>	<p><i>Brandon Lipps, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service and FNS staff Leslie Ford, White House Domestic Policy Council Jennifer Tiller, House sub-committee on Nutrition Brandon Hardin, Food Stamp Director, Alabama Dept. Human Services</i></p>
--	---

	<p>With the Farm Bill having failed to produce a new work program, attention has turned to the February publication of the NPRM relating to ABWODs, with the comment period now closed. The NPRM has been hotly contested by both sides and FNS is looking forward to discussion among SIG members as it makes decisions whether to modify. In addition, by the date of the SIG conference, it is possible that an additional NPRM will have been published on the topic of eligibility (categorical eligibility and so on) where there has already been a House hearing in which SIG Secretary John Davis testified with acclaim from our side. In short, these next few months will be possibly be the most contentious and consequential of the four year period of the Administration. We will be joined by White House Domestic Policy Council deputy Leslie Ford, whose remit includes public assistance and disability.</p>
<p><i>The Immigration Crisis at the border and worksite enforcement</i></p>	<p><i>Theo Wold, Special Assistant to the President, Domestic Policy Steven Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies Jerry Kammer, author <u>What Happened to Worksite Enforcement?</u>, Center for Immigration Studies</i></p> <p>By Presidential Memorandum issued May 23 on enforcing the legal responsibility for sponsors of aliens - - <i>A key priority of my Administration is restoring the rule of law by ensuring that existing immigration laws are enforced. The immigration laws currently require that, when an alien receives certain forms of means-tested public benefits, the government or non-government entity providing the public benefit must request reimbursement from the alien's financial sponsor. These laws also require that, when an alien applies for certain means-tested public benefits, the financial resources of the alien's sponsor must be counted as part of the alien's financial resources in determining both eligibility for the benefits and the amount of benefits that may be awarded. Financial sponsors who pledge to financially support the sponsored alien in the event the alien applies for or receives public benefits will be expected to fulfill their commitment under law.</i></p> <p><i>Several major means-tested public benefits programs — including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — require updated procedures and guidance to ensure that the requirements of existing law are enforced. The purpose of this memorandum is to direct relevant agencies to update or issue procedures, guidance, and regulations, as needed, to ensure that ineligible non-citizens do not receive means-tested public benefits, in better compliance with the law.</i></p> <p>E-Verify - - Border crossings can be stopped by highly policed walls such as the Berlin wall. But the two thousand mile border with Mexico presents more challenges. E-Verify, run by the US Citizenship and Immigration Service allows employers to check whether documents presented by prospective employees correspond to an existing social security number. States that require it (Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah) have changed worker behavior according to studies. Curiously, candidate Trump promoted E-Verify which is popular, but has not referenced it as much since then. We will discuss E-Verify, how to make it more effective, and its current status in the debate over immigration.</p>

## NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Food Stamps</i></p>	<p><i>Brandon Lipps, Deputy Undersecretary, FNS</i>  <i>Maggie Lyons, FNS chief of staff</i>  <i>Jennifer Tiller, House Nutrition subcommittee</i></p> <p>This is a critical time for SIG members to weigh in, because in addition to the new statute emanating from the Farm Bill, USDA will be publishing proposed rules which are intended to reverse the Obama policies and allow states much more running room on a variety of fronts.</p>
---------------------------	---

## DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Food Stamp Eligibility and Fraud</i></p>	<p><i>Brandon Hardin, AL; and the Secretaries</i></p> <p>As we prepare for our meeting with House and Senate members, and separately for our FNS roundtable later in the day below, we should take the opportunity to review our SIG recommendations on Food Stamp eligibility and fraud.</p>
<p><i>ACF roundtable</i></p>	<p><i>Steve Wagner, ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary; Clarence Carter, Director, TANF and Child Care; Maggie Wynne, Office of the Secretary</i></p> <p>Open session with ACF senior team and possibly the nominated assistant secretary if confirmed by date of the event.</p>
<p><i>Food Stamps and SIG priorities</i></p>	<p><i>The Secretaries</i></p> <p>In 2018 the Congress will reauthorize Food Stamps through the Farm Bill. SIG has proposed major changes to current law, including a work program for single parents which has many parallels to TANF. In addition we have proposed significant changes to basic eligibility and fraud detection. These issues will be discussed together in preparation for our meeting with senior FNS officials later in the day.</p>
<p><i>FNS roundtable</i></p>	<p><i>FNS Senior Staff</i></p> <p>FNS and SIG will have a wide ranging discussion of regional staff operations and national policy issues. Both internal FNS administrative issues will be discussed as well as the important and challenging Farm Bill legislation coming up.</p>
<p><i>Senate committees</i></p>	<p><i>Senate staff and members</i></p> <p>We will have open discussion with staff and members of each of the three important committees - - Finance, Agriculture and HELP (Health, Education, Labor and Pensions).</p>

## JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i></p>	<p><i>Food Stamp Reform</i></p> <p>In this session we SIG secretaries will discuss reforms we wish to propose to Agriculture Secretary Perdue when we meet with USDA chief of staff and newly</p>
--	---

	<p>appointed FNS officials on Wednesday. Among the extensive discussions SIG members have had over the years related to Food Stamps, most prominent is the explosion in the caseload over the past twelve years and the absence of work requirements, unlike TANF.</p>
<p><i>Kevin McCabe, Senior Director, Health &amp; Human Services, Lexus Nexus</i></p>	<p><i>Reducing fraudulent duplicate payments</i></p> <p>The purpose of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse is to stop dual benefit payments and improve application processing accuracy in human services programs. It is currently centered in five southeastern states with a dozen more considering joining the network. Estimated food stamp savings if fully deployed are \$200 million annually, with the potential for Medicaid savings many times higher than that.</p>
<p><i>Agriculture Chief of Staff Heidi Green and new FNS appointees</i></p>	<p>This is our opportunity to discuss all matters Food Stamps and related.</p>
<p><i>Jason Conley, Executive Director, Identification Technical Association (IdTA)</i></p>	<p><i>Fraud prevention using biometric techniques for positive identification</i></p> <p>Government offices everywhere are transitioning to on-line applications for benefits. However, the absence of in-person interactions comes at a cost of increased benefit fraud. Florida has experienced large scale organized fraud through false UI on-line applications. Elsewhere theft of income tax refunds and duplicate Food Stamp issuances are costing individuals, governments and the economy billions of dollars. Using biometric solutions such as low cost/no cost smartphones owned by applicants, positive identification can be established from applicant snapshots of their driver's license along with photo selfies matched against electronic DMV records on file. In another example, low cost finger imaging reduced Louisiana's child care expenditures by 23% the first year and 65% by the fifth year.</p>
<p><i>The Secretaries</i></p>	<p><i>Implementing Universal engagement in work activities for benefit applicants and recipients</i></p> <p>In his plan <i>A Better Way</i>, Speaker Paul Ryan calls for job search and work requirements across a range of benefit programs, including Food Stamps, Housing, UI and TANF. Ryan intends to move his plan into legislation beginning this fall. But if enacted, how would such a concept function in practice by states charged with implementing it? Which state agencies would have the lead in providing work services, and how would such services be cross-funded? We will engage in an open ended discussion among our SIG state workforce and human services secretaries to propose practical solutions.</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Food Stamps and WIC</i></p>	<p><i>The Secretaries with Mary Mayhew, Commissioner, Maine</i></p> <p>Discussion of the status of Food Stamps, the ending of ABWOD waivers, federal opposition to state fraud initiatives, and how we can help move FNS and the Congress in the right direction. We will review and update the SIG Food Stamp policy statement prior to our meetings on the Hill. We will also discuss WIC, its health benefits and how to reduce improper payments.</p>
-----------------------------------	---

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Food Stamps and TANF</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i></p> <p>Discussion of the proposed TANF legislative changes with staff director Anne DeCesaro of the Ways and Means committee, and the latest since the publication of the Ryan Task force on Opportunity. This is followed by open discussion on the status of Food Stamps, the ending of ABWOD waivers, other current state issues and how we can help move FNS and the Congress in the right direction. We will discuss and debate various proposals for national action to be considered at our subsequent meeting to take place in Washington in November 2016.</p>
<p><i>Kansas Ho!</i></p>	<p><i>Secretary Phyllis Gilmore David Kurt, Deputy Secretary for Operations Andrew Wiens, Policy Director</i></p> <p>Secretary Gilmore will report on Kansas’ latest legislative accomplishment HOPE One and Two. She and her team will also report on the employment results of its work program for ABWODs in the period since the waiver ended. And there is still more - - the agency has proposed the extension of universal work engagement to the adult parents of children over age 6 via the FSET program.</p>
<p><i>Biometric Positive Identification</i></p>	<p><i>Teresa Wu, Board Member, Secure Identity &amp; Biometrics Association Guy Sylvester, Executive Director Program Integrity and Improvement, Louisiana Department of Human Services</i></p> <p>Keying off of former SIG member Jesse Panuccio’s alarming presentation on the topic of UI fraud in Florida, and subsequent SIG webinar from FL on the same topic, presented here is a cost-effective solution for your consideration, particularly in programs where on line application processing has substituted for office visits.</p> <p>Biometrics (finger imaging and its alternatives) assures participant identity, eliminates duplicate payments, and flags multiple abusers. Uses of this solution include those for eligibility processing of UI, Food Stamps and TANF, plus time and attendance tracking for child care, work programs and residential treatment facilities. Other applications include Medicaid prescription integrity. When Louisiana implemented finger imaging for child care attendance tracking, expenditures immediately dropped by 23% and five years later are down 65%.</p>

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Food Stamps and other programs</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i></p> <p>Most ABWOD waivers end December 31 unless renewed. State secretaries discuss plans for transition to regular program opportunities plus operational and political considerations. How states are teaming up with Workforce agencies to provide program capacity. Review and discuss recommendations from the workbook.</p> <p>Photos on EBT cards, investigating retailer fraud; making retail data available to states; everything fraud related. Director Jesse Panuccio FL and Jane Johnson FL discuss the likely transition of the UI fraud system to FS.</p>
--	---

	Reports from recent state interactions with FNS.
<i>Discussion prior to Hill meetings</i>	Food Stamps TANF Reauthorization Unemployment Disability SSI and SSDI
<i>Hill Meeting</i>	<i>Meeting with Chairman Kevin Brady, Ways and Means Committee, and Republican members of W&amp;M</i>  <i>Mike Conaway (TX), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; with Nutrition Subcommittee Chairwoman Jackie Walorski (IN) and Republican members</i>  Candid two way discussion with Congressional members.

### **JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<i>Food Stamps</i>	<i>Jason Turner and Mary Mayhew, ME</i>  Moving the SIG Statement on Food Stamp problems and recommended solutions to the next level. Progress on purchase data available to states; photos and verification; investigating retailer fraud; other issues. Reports from Members; reactions and interactions with FNS.
--------------------	--

### **NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Mary Mayhew, Commissioner, Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services</i>	The Good Fight - - Maine battles FNS over implementation of FS fraud initiatives
<i>Meet with Budget Chairman Paul Ryan and Republican members of Ways and Means and other committees</i>	SIG Members Discuss · Ryan Economic Opportunity plan · Disability · Food Stamps

### **JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA**

<i>Food Stamps and TANF</i>	Update on SIG sponsored Food Stamp Work Demo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jesse Panuccio, Executive Director, Florida Dept. of Economic Opportunity - on FS drug test court challenge and back-end fraud detection</li> <li>● Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary, Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services – End of the ABWOD waiver</li> <li>● Mary Mayhew, Commissioner, Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services - on photos on EBT cards</li> <li>● Suzy Sonnier, Secretary, Louisiana Dept. of Children &amp; Family Services – Asset test waiver re-evaluation; smoothing out eligibility workload; TANF restrictions on cash purchase and FS implications</li> <li>● Brian Rooney, Deputy Director on MI fraud initiatives</li> <li>● Mark Hoover - - Innovations in the use of TANF/FS attendance tracking to improve outcomes among offenders</li> </ul>
-----------------------------	---

## APRIL 10, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

### **Implementing the SNAP Pilot Projects to Reduce Dependency and Increase Work Levels Welcome and Introductions**

Douglas Besharov, Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Policy;  
Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council  
Jason Turner, Executive Director, Secretary's Innovation Group  
Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services;  
President, APHSA Board of Directors

### **Keynote**

Rep. Steve Southerland (R-FL), Chair, Republican Study Committee Anti-Poverty Initiative; House Legislative Author, SNAP Pilot Projects

### **Legislative Background**

Brandon Lipps, Counsel & Senior Professional Staff, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture  
Lisa Shelton, Minority Professional Staff, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

### **SNAP Overview**

Jason Turner, Executive Director, Secretary's Innovation Group  
Stacy Dean, Vice President for Food Assistance Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

### **Possible Approaches to State Demonstrations (Job Search and Related Work First Strategies)**

#### New York City

- Robert Doar, Morgridge Fellow in Poverty Studies, American Enterprise Institute; former Commissioner, NYC Human Resources Administration

#### Arizona

- Clarence Carter, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security

#### Utah

- Kathy Link, Food Stamp Program Manager, Utah Department of Workforce Services

#### Florida

- Chad Poppell, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

#### Texas

- Larry Temple, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Commission

#### Abt Associates

- Howard Rolston, Principal Associate, Abt Associates

### **Possible Approaches to State Demonstrations (Workforce Development Strategies)**

#### Colorado

- Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services; President, APHSA Board of Directors

#### Washington

- David Stillman, Assistant Secretary for the Economic Services Administration, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

#### Washington, D.C.

- David Berns, Director, Department of Human Services
- Lee Bowes, CEO, America Works



<p>Mathematica Policy Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheena McConnell, Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research</li> </ul>
<p><b>The View from Food and Nutrition Service (FNS): Comments and Implications</b></p> <p>Moira Johnston, Chief, SNAP Program Design Branch, Food and Nutrition Service</p>
<p><b>Possible Approaches to Program Evaluation (round robin discussion)</b></p> <p>Rick Hendra, Senior Associate, Low-Wage Workers and Communities Policy Area, MDRC</p> <p>Jacob Klerman, Principal Associate/Scientist, Social and Economic Policy, Abt Associates</p> <p>Peter Schochet, Senior Fellow and Senior Economist, Mathematica</p>
<p><b>The View from Food and Nutrition Service (FNS): Comments and Implications</b></p> <p>Rich Lucas, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service</p>
<p><b>Conclusions and Next Steps</b></p> <p>Douglas Besharov</p>

## DECEMBER 2013 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Food Stamps</i>	<i>Michael Tanner, CATO</i> The national dilemma
<i>Food Stamps</i>	<i>Leading conservative communications strategy and public affairs expert</i> How FNS has deliberately worked to gain acceptance of high ongoing caseloads and what can be done to challenge this
<i>Food Stamps</i>	<i>SIG members and Staff Director, House sub-committee on Nutrition</i> SIG/Southerland work demonstration legislative update; current policy and program issues emanating from FNS
<i>Fraud</i>	<i>SIG members and USDA Assistant Inspector General</i> Food Stamp fraud initiatives and the state role
<i>Rep. Steve Southerland (sponsor of SIG Food Stamp work demo)</i>	Private meeting to discuss our SIG legislation and to foster ongoing working relationship with conservative members

## AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE

<b>Food Stamps</b>	Update on SIG Work Demonstration. It will be included in the upcoming FS extension bill, according to reports. Staff from House will report on prospects and next legislative steps.
	Members describe recent interactions with FNS and suggestions for SIG action, if any: Mississippi South Carolina Maine Michigan Louisiana

<b>FS Work Demo Operations</b>	Technical aspects of implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Managing the counterfactual provision</li> <li>● Rollout</li> <li>● Options for financing new activities</li> <li>● Messaging</li> </ul>
--------------------------------	--

**NOVEMBER 13-14, 2012 MILWAUKEE**

<p><i>Preparation for Congressional Members Meeting</i></p> <p>Lead Secretaries and their workgroup members present each of five issues to the Group for vetting.</p>
<p><i>Congressional Members Meeting</i></p> <p>Secretaries present Innovation Group recommendations to Members of Congress and staff:          Back from the Abyss – Why 18 SIG member secretaries are agreeing to accept significant political and fiscal risk in exchange for state authority and accountability over benefit programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Food Stamps</li> <li>● Disability</li> <li>● Unemployment insurance</li> <li>● TANF</li> <li>● The Group’s Vantage Point – wasted money, wasted lives - - the urgency for change.</li> </ul>



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Drug Abuse and its Effects Presentations**

**DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>SAM Update</i>	<p><i>Jordan Davidson, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i></p> <p>SAM accomplishments in four states and new research on birth defects.</p>
-------------------	---

**JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Helping individuals succeed in substance abuse and mental health treatment using mandatory Assisted Outpatient Treatment</i></p>	<p><i>Amy Lukes, Treatment Advocacy Center</i></p> <p>With substance abuse and mental illness such a large feature in non-functioning adults receiving benefits or preparing for work, how can agencies better help individuals caught in the cycle of repeat hospitalizations, homelessness, and incarcerations? Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) aims to motivate and assist individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) usually with the cooperation of the civil court system to enforce participation.</p> <p>The AOT participant is court-ordered to follow an individualized treatment plan in the community for a specific period, and the local mental health system monitors adherence to the treatment plan. When implemented effectively, AOT significantly increases treatment adherence.</p>
<p><i>Reduction in marijuana schedule I to III proposed and current approaches to drug policy</i></p>	<p><i>Elinore McCance-Katz, M.D., former Administrator, SAMSHA</i></p> <p>The last decade has seen the liberalization of cannabis product use at the state level with 38 states having passed ‘medical marijuana’ laws and 24 allowing recreational use. The current administration now proposes to place marijuana on Schedule III, a move that would increase even further the number of cannabis users and claims of medical uses for these products. We can expect greater numbers with addiction, cannabis-associated toxicities, adverse health effects and injuries related to intoxication based on currently available data and trends.</p> <p>Over the past three years we have seen a major push toward harm reduction interventions including use of fentanyl test strips, syringe exchange, establishment of safe consumption sites, and decriminalization of illicit drugs as part of the response to address the opioids crisis. This approach has been touted as more compassionate and accepting of people ‘where they are’.</p> <p>This presentation will take a look at the most recent trends and data in these two major areas impacting American life, available outcomes data, and the implications of the above policies will be discussed.</p>

**DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Growing acceptance of drug use. Its effect on society and children.</i></p> <p><i>Sally Satel, Senior Fellow, AEI</i></p>	<p>Oregon voters in 2020 passed Measure 110, a first-in-the-nation law decriminalizing the possession of controlled substances such as heroin, methamphetamines, cocaine and fentanyl. Three years later, reports the local newspaper, public drug use has wearied even the most tolerant of Oregonians.</p> <p>If Portland is at the extreme on hard drugs, the rest of the country is about to experience marijuana everywhere. Ohio voters who would reject hard drug legalization, on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> responded to the message to commercialize and tax marijuana like alcohol. Thirty- seven states have legalized medical marijuana use and twenty three have legalized its recreational use (in practice medical and recreational use are conflated). Federal legislation has been proposed for the safe production and distribution of marijuana, taxation of the substance and user safety. Federal banking law makes it difficult for producers and distributors to access.</p> <p>What is preventing the explosion of the marijuana industry is banking law which restricts accounts for schedule one substances. If this restriction is lifted the industry will explode. Total pharmaceutical sales in the US right now is \$603 billion. Legal and illegal marijuana sales are about \$100 billion with 50 – 150 million users or former users. If legalizing marijuana doubles its sales to \$200 billion, the industry will be one third the size of the ENTIRE legal pharma industry and it will no longer be possible to control it in any meaningful way. “Safe Banking” legislation would unlock the US banking system to the drug, and this measure has lost only narrowly in the Senate already seven times.</p>
---	---

**JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Fentanyl was a factor in over 100,000 overdose deaths in 2022</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Wilson Compton, National Institute on Drug Abuse</i></p> <p><i>Jaime Zerbe, Foundation for Drug Policy Solutions</i></p> <p><i>Sandy Snodgrass, Alaska activist</i></p>	<p>Fentanyl’s ubiquity and potency, alone or mixed with other drugs takes lives, but equally important to SIG members are the shattered lives of workers and children who cannot function properly within the environment of the drug. We will talk about the looming threat from fentanyl and what is being done to counter its spread from China through the Mexican border and elsewhere.</p>
---	--

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Is society giving up on the idea the underclass be uplifted into the mainstream?</i></p>	<p><i>Paul Webster, Hope St. Coalition</i></p> <p>Housing First policy sweeping the country is a disaster. To give away free taxpayer funded housing to those with behavior problems such as drug abuse and non-work, with no help and no obligations puts these individuals behind closed doors and isolated from society while they continue their destructive behavior alone. Regrettably during the last Administration no push-back was mounted from HUD.</p> <p>We need to put some rungs on the ladder - - sober living facilities and adult residential options for high acuity individuals. We need more types of places e.g. Medicaid 1115 facilities for increased time in detox. We need more public</p>
--	--

	psychiatric beds for those who need to be hospitalized in locked facilities until they are stabilized.
--	--

**JUNE 22-23, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Best practices in addiction treatment and the changing landscape of marijuana use</i></p>	<p><i>Wilson Compton, Deputy Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse</i> <i>Luke Niforatos, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i></p> <p>Addiction treatment is often inaccessible to those who need it. Further, treatment programs that are available frequently fail to provide quality care. The National Institute on Drug Abuse has identified 13 principles of effective treatment based on practice and research findings. Most states use addiction treatment vendors or state hospitals to administer treatment programs. But are they using the most effective approaches? How can states monitor and use performance contracting to addiction treatment vendors to improve results?</p> <p>The second part will describe three new studies which highlight the danger of legalizing marijuana:</p> <p>Study 1: Largest-Ever Commercial Marijuana Study Reveals Widespread Mislabeling Issues Among State-Legal Products  Study 2: Marijuana is associated with significantly increased risk for many health conditions, especially behavioral health and HIV  Study 3: Marijuana vaping, especially very frequent use, is on rise among U.S. adolescents; highly associated with other drug use.</p>
---	---

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Drugs - - The Demand and Supply</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Chief Medical Officer, RI Slater Hospital</i></p> <p>Dr. McCance-Katz served as Assistant Secretary Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), having held positions in both Trump and Biden administrations.</p> <p>With her extensive knowledge both academic and practical on drug use and government policy, Ellie McCance-Katz will discuss the current state of play in this national issue in which much of what is known about the use and treatment is not prominent in the movements toward acceptance and legalization.</p> <p>Interviews with foster parents suggest that there are very few cases of children in the system that don't involve substance abuse, not even considering the hundreds of thousands of children who are in the care of a single parent or other guardian because of a mother or father's drug use. In a recent paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research, three professors estimated that "if drug abuse had remained at 1996 levels, 1.5 million fewer children aged 0-16 would have lived away from a parent in 2015." Decriminalization efforts will likely exacerbate these problems.</p>
---	---

**AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The interaction of drug supply, demand and treatment in an environment</i></p>	<p><i>Ellie McCance-Katz, former Assistant Secretary Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) and now at the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)</i></p>
--	---

<p><i>of increasing acceptance of use</i></p>	<p>With her extensive knowledge both academic and practical on drug use and government policy, Ellie McCance-Katz has held federal positions in both the Trump and Biden administrations. She will discuss the current state of play in this national issue in which much of what is known about the use and treatment is not prominent in the movements toward acceptance and legalization.</p>
<p><i>Standard treatment alone is insufficient if it makes no demands for action on the drug dependent personality. A proven alternative.</i></p>	<p><i>Isabel McDevitt, The Doe Fund, with two formerly homeless individuals with histories of addiction</i></p> <p>We will hear about the Work Works model as a solution to address homelessness, recidivism and addiction. Ready Willing &amp; Able, the original Work Works location in New York, is a 12-month residential program combining paid work in social enterprises, workforce development training, continuing education, and sobriety. It is the first program to combine paid work with comprehensive support services to help people with histories of substance abuse, homelessness and incarceration get onto the economic ladder and into mainstream housing. We will meet with individuals who have benefitted from the program in New York City who will describe how they overcame their condition with a combination of commitment to sobriety and work. The Work Works model has been adapted in six communities across the country and ready to be scaled nationally.</p>

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2020 VIRTUAL**

<p><i>Holiday time in Oregon</i></p>	<p><i>Bertha K. Madras, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Dr. Kevin Sabet, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i></p> <p>Nationally Oregon is first in pain killer abuse, second in methamphetamine abuse, and fourth in cocaine addiction. So what did the voters just do? They decriminalized everything including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, oxycontin, and psilocybin hallucinating mushrooms. Did the voters leave any soul destroying drugs out by mistake?</p> <p>The Left and the drug industry had a field day with referenda across the country, outspending opposition 400 to 1. What does easing the path to addiction mean for our families and our country?</p> <p>Bertha Madras is formerly chair of Harvard’s Department of Neurochemistry and deputy director at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Kevin Sabet is the executive director of SAM, which opposes marijuana legalization.</p>
--------------------------------------	---

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The Surgeon General’s Advisory on Marijuana</i></p>	<p><i>VADM Jerome Adams, MD, MPH, United States Surgeon General Michael Fraser, CEO, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Randall Williams, Director, Missouri Dept. Health and Senior Services</i></p> <p>Just as new states are enacting medical marijuana, and this is leading to subsequent legislation legalizing recreational marijuana, the US Surgeon General Jerome Adams issued a new warning. He wrote that marijuana can affect brain development in newborns and lead to conditions such as hyperactivity and poor</p>
---	--

	<p>cognitive functioning. He went on to say the brain continues to develop into early adulthood, and marijuana damages areas of the brain linked to attention, memory and decision-making. Moreover, evidence now shows use of the drug increases the risk for psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia and heightens the risk of opioid misuse. Apart from the issue of recreational marijuana, why shouldn't "medical marijuana" be stripped of THC?</p> <p>In this session the Surgeon General will be joined by Mike Fraser, the CEO of the national organization of state public health officials (ASTHO). These officials are responsible for communicating to the public health prevention measures and risks. We would like to team up with the surgeon general and the association of state public health officials to bring evidence of risks to the human services and workforce beneficiaries.</p>
--	---

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Housing First</i></p>	<p><i>Kevin Corinth, Chief Economist for Domestic Policy, Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), Executive Office of the President</i>  <i>Ben Hobbs, Domestic Policy Council, Housing Programs</i>  <i>Paul Webster, Vice President, Solutions Enterprises, a San Diego housing non-profit</i></p> <p>For those who receive it, subsidized housing is more valuable than Food Stamps, Disability or TANF in the pantheon of welfare benefits. We don't pay as much attention to it because it is not in our program chain. And yet we should be aware of a change in the housing policy zeitgeist having to do with the distribution of these benefits. Most public housing benefits including entry into homeless shelters have been contingent upon certain behavioral conditions related to crime and substance abuse, for reasons affecting individual recipients themselves and the people around the housing stock they reside in.</p> <p>However, the public housing industry has now become enamored of "Housing First", which posits that behavior pre-conditions such as engagement in substance abuse treatment should not affect the distribution of benefits. Yet the conditioning of benefits is essential.</p>
<p><i>Medical marijuana</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Jack Stein, Chief of Staff, National Institute on Drug Abuse</i>  <i>Garth Van Meter, Vice President of Government Affairs, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i></p> <p>Medical marijuana has been used as the gateway to state recreational legalization ever since Gorge Soros was reported to have told his employees "start with medical marijuana". It has been a spectacularly successful strategy. But leaving the strategy aside, is there any basis for the claim that for certain symptoms there are no FDA approved safe and effective alternatives to marijuana?</p>

**DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Child Support</i></p>	<p><i>Robert Doar, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p>Various priorities among states such as child welfare and opioids seem to be contributing to less agency emphasis on child support. Beyond that, there is a debate about the right balance between enforcement of collections and</p>
-----------------------------	---

	encouraging work among parents delinquent in their obligations. What are some of the options?
<i>Trump Drug Policy</i>	<p><i>Richard Baum, Acting White House Director, National Drug Control Policy; Chris Jones Deputy Assistant Secretary HHS; Garth Van Meter, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i></p> <p>By the time of our meeting, the Trump administration be near publication of its National Drug Control Strategy paper. The administration is also considering an anti-drug media campaign, and opioid addiction is one of three HHS high priorities. Separately, the Food and Drug Administration is considering taking on as an issue the alleged “science” behind medical marijuana. It is essential that our democratic society converge to confront this fatal growing infection.</p>
<i>Drug Free Recovery</i>	<p><i>Paul Molloy, Founder, Oxford House</i></p> <p>Oxford House is a concept in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. In its simplest form, an Oxford House describes a democratically run, self-supporting and drug free home. The number of residents in a House may range from six to fifteen; there are houses for men, houses for women, and houses which accept women with children. Each House represents a remarkably effective and low cost method of preventing relapse. The Oxford House model is mature and widespread, with 18,000 beds throughout the country, 32 houses in Washington DC and 250 houses in Texas.</p>
<i>Operating a Recovery House without subsidies</i>	<p><i>Bill McGahan, Founder, Georgia Works!</i></p> <p>With a philosophy periodically touted, rarely tried and almost never achieved, Georgia Works is a drug recovery home which accepts no government funds yet earns an operating profit from fees paid by working residents. The 130 residents must work 40 hours, pay for living expenses and services (including case management) from their own earnings and move out once they have permanent employment. Before being accepted, residents must be handout free - - e.g. no Food Stamps or disability. About 80% are employed and off drugs at the two year mark.</p>

## **JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>HHS Secretary Price and staff from Administration for Children and Families</i>	<p><i>Open discussion</i></p> <p>Secretary Price MD will join us for the first half hour of the two hour session. Secretary Price has identified three high priorities for his tenure. They are: the opioid epidemic; serious mental illness; and childhood obesity. In addition to the above we will discuss all matters HHS with ACF staff including our priorities on child welfare, TANF, child support enforcement and more.</p>
<i>Ohio Secretary Cynthia Dungey and the Secretaries</i>	<p><i>Opioids - - The Ohio Strike Plan</i></p> <p>Among SIG states, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana have experienced some of the worst of the opioid epidemic. Secretary Dungey will describe the Ohio plan of action, with comments and discussion from among all the secretaries.</p>



<p><i>Dr. Susan Weiss, Office of Science Policy at National Institute on Drug Abuse</i></p> <p><i>Jeff Zinmeister, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i></p>	<p><i>Marijuana and employee productivity</i></p> <p>The two most commonly heard comments in employer focus groups are “I can’t find reliable workers” and “I can’t find applicants who can pass the drug test”. Marijuana use, legal and illegal, has major negative effects on economic productivity, unemployment, and family functioning. Where recreational use is legal, employers <i>increase</i> testing because they are faced with lower employee dedication to their job, higher illness and injury, and twice the level of absenteeism, voluntary and otherwise. Our society appears poised to add a third legal mind altering drug to tobacco and alcohol. Is this a good idea? \This session takes a steely eyed look at the scientific evidence and the predictable consequences of large scale use of the drug in schools and the workplace. We will discuss what workforce directors can do in their states to mitigate these effects.</p>
<p><i>Angela Hawken, Associate Professor Public Policy, Pepperdine University</i></p> <p><i>Edward Banks, DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance</i></p>	<p><i>Criminal Justice - substance abuse and work.</i></p> <p>Workforce directors interact with the state and local criminal justice systems around probation and parole, which often include requirements to work and stay off drugs. This session will describe the randomized controlled trial of Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program which produced big positive impacts on recidivism and is now deployed in many places across the country. The program was initiated by Judge Steven Alm in 2004 and its distinctive feature is that it seeks to reduce crime and drug use through swift-and-certain-sanctions to manage high-risk probationers. Former US Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske identified HOPE as the most promising initiative that "not only prevents recidivism, but also actively assists individuals to transition to productive lives."</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Substance abuse, mental health and returning offenders</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Kenneth Robinson, President, Correctional Counseling</i></p> <p>Moral Reconciliation Therapy or MRT, is a premiere cognitive-behavioral program for substance abuse treatment, mental health, welfare and offender populations which has been tested for over 30 years. More than 120 published outcome studies show that, in comparison to appropriate controls, MRT treated offenders have re-arrest and re-incarceration rates between 25% to 75% lower than otherwise expected. Along with its lower recidivism rates the program, when applied to welfare and mental health, leads to increased participation rates, increased program completion rates, decreased disciplinary infractions, and desirable personality changes.</p>
--	--

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Marijuana</i></p>	<p><i>Kevin Sabet, Executive Director, Smart Approaches to Marijuana</i>  <i>Experts on the ground in Colorado give testimony</i>  <i>Sue Rusche, President National Families in Action</i></p> <p>The Drug Enforcement Agency announced April 6<sup>th</sup> it intends to decide whether to reduce the status of marijuana from a category one substance (highest) to lower. Meanwhile Colorado’s decision to legalize is wreaking havoc. America could be about to deliver a deadly wound to the next generation. What we can do about it.</p>
-------------------------	---

## NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Marijuana</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Jack Stein, Director, Office of Science Policy and Communications, National Institute on Drug Abuse</i>  <i>John Walters, former cabinet member and director of White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) second Bush Administration</i>  <i>Sue Thau, Public Policy Director of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America</i></p> <p>Research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse shows regular marijuana use among teens 17 and under retards the development of the hippocampus (the brain switchyard); reduces IQ as much as 8 points; and sets back development of the frontal cortex. In addition to these physiological changes, use while in school reduces concentration and motivation Reports from high school teachers in Colorado post-legalization are not promising. Why is the legalization movement sweeping the country and what can we do about it?</p>
<p><i>Substance Abuse</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. John Wernert, Indiana Secretary</i>  <i>Sheriff Brett Clark, Indiana Hendricks County</i>  <i>Mary Kay Hudson, Director of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center</i>  <i>Chris Johnson, Deputy Secretary Indiana</i></p> <p>Secretary Wernert chairs a governor's task force for a comprehensive attack on the State's recent heroin epidemic and its causes. He leads a panel which includes the sheriff; court director, and treatment expert.</p>

## JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO

<p><i>Marijuana</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse; Kevin Sabet, Director, Drug Policy Institute and former Senior Advisor, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; General Arthur Dean, Chairman and CEO, Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America, U.S. Army, Retired</i></p> <p>Research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse shows regular marijuana use among teens 17 and under retards the development of the hippocampus (the brain switchyard); reduces IQ as much as 8 points; and sets back development of the frontal cortex. In addition to these physiological changes, use while in school reduces concentration and motivation Reports from high school teachers in Colorado post-legalization are not promising. Why is the legalization movement sweeping the country and what can we do about it?</p>
<p><i>Criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse</i></p>	<p>Visit to Cook County criminal court and jail. Attend court during arraignment of overnight arrestees who have possible mental illness. Judge Paul Biebel makes decisions as to cognizance. This is followed by a visit to adjacent Cook County jail and afterward, a discussion with Judge Biebel, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart and criminal justice staff to discuss the topic of the intersection of crime, mental illness, substance abuse, and treatment.</p>
<p><i>Hawaii Project Hope Substance Abuse initiative as applied to other states.</i></p>	<p><i>Mark Kleiman, Professor of Public Policy, UCLA</i>  <i>Angela Hawken, Professor, Pepperdine University</i></p> <p>Swift, Certain and Fair sanctions for those testing positive for illicit substances has a greater impact on behavior than much more severe penalties applied inconsistently.</p>

<i>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</i>	<p><i>Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago</i></p> <p>Studies show that individuals who experience four or more severe shocks during their development ages (e.g. abuse, neglect, substance abusing parent, absence of father) exhibit a permanent reduced resiliency often combined with lack of empathy and other conditions. What do we know about this population, how big is it and how can we best work with them?</p>
---	---

**JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA**

<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<p>Sally Satel, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mark Kleiman, Professor, Public Policy, UCLA School of Public Affairs: Can We Reduce Drug Crime Without Treatment? (Video)</li> <li>● Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary, Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services – Drug testing takes effect 7/1</li> <li>● Suzy Sonnier, Secretary, Louisiana Dept. of Children &amp; Family Services – Increase in kids with drugs in system and reaching parents at hospital</li> <li>● Sidonie Squier, Secretary, New Mexico Human Services Dept. – I-CARE education initiative to counter recreational drug use</li> <li>● Robin Wosje, Senior Program Manager, The Justice Management Institute</li> <li>● Tom McLellan, Ph.D., CEO and co-founder of the Treatment Research Institute (TRI)</li> </ul>
------------------------	--



## SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP

### SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

## Child Welfare Presentations

### DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Leveraging Social Capital and Innovation to Increase Opportunity</i></p>	<p><i>Scott Winship, Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility, AEI, and Editor 2024 Doing Right By Kids</i></p> <p>Material hardship among American children has fallen dramatically over the past 60 years. Child poverty measured by consumption declined from 62% in 1963 to 13% in 2022. It has fallen by one-third <b>just since 2001</b> and in families headed by a single mother it has dropped by 75 percent since 1993.</p> <p>However the social component of opportunity has fared much worse. Social capital (the value inherent in our relationships) and associational life (the sum of what we do together) have deteriorated over the past 50 years.</p> <p>The ever-growing safety net, while reducing immediate hardship, has also encouraged behaviors that lower income in the longer term, reduce intergenerational mobility, and weaken family and associational life. Perverse incentives discourage work, marriage, saving, human capital investment and deferred gratification. Welfare policy has actually contributed to the deterioration of opportunity.</p> <p>A modern conservative post-populist agenda should focus on children and youth, and take steps to increase the seven domains of social capital. Some of these steps are the subject of this presentation.</p>
--	--

### JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>How Missouri side-tracked a certain ticking time bomb in child welfare.</i></p> <p><i>Kris Cox, former Utah Office of Management and Budget and current exec director of Epiphany Associates</i></p> <p><i>Jonathan Coneby, Epiphany Associates</i></p>	<p>When <i>Steve Corsi, former SIG member and past Secretary in WY and MO</i>, arrived at his new job in Jefferson City, he learned that there was a backlog of 7583 child welfare alerts and reports <b>for which no worker had been to visit</b>. Alarmed, he called in the staff and immediately introduced a certain process reform he had used in WY and that at least four other SIG states have adopted to good effect (and have reported their results back to SIG). The process reform is called the Theory of Constraints (TOC). After eight months of initiating TOC for the backlog, Corsi had reduced it to 400 and two months after that to zero.</p>
<p><i>Foster Care aging out</i></p>	<p>PROMISE (Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI) was a national random control demonstration ending in 2019 intended to improve the transition of SSI youth to adult employment and self-reliance. This demonstration offers lessons to</p>

<p><i>Ankita Patnaik, Ph.D., Mathematica</i></p> <p><i>Ellie Hartman, DWD, State of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>child welfare agencies managing the problem of foster care aging out. The services provided to parents and children enrolled in SSI included intensive case management and employment services to families who volunteered. All sites experienced good short-term impacts but only WI and NYC had large impacts sustained over five years. What did WI and NYC do differently? We will have the program evaluator and the state operations manager from WI explain.</p>
<p><i>The Supreme Court and its recent decisions</i></p> <p><i>Ilya Shapiro, Manhattan Institute</i></p>	<p>Several recent decisions have had profound influence on the larger policy and social environment in which we conduct our business. Examples include Indian child welfare, affirmative action, state redistricting, Texas abortion, Arizona border and more. Constitutional scholar Ilya Shapiro will discuss all matters swirling about currently and implications for the near future.</p>

## NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Secretaries' Roundtable Child Welfare</i></p>	<p><i>Secretaries' Roundtable with Dr. Cassie Bevan, University of Pennsylvania John Mattingly, former child welfare administrator, ACS NYC Sarah Font, Pennsylvania State University Laurie Currier, The Call (remote)</i></p> <p>Secretaries discuss all current issues in the child welfare system - -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Foster care and adoption</li> <li>● State policies related to child removal from home</li> <li>● How cultural trends are affecting the business of state child welfare operations</li> <li>● Placement options and Family First and CAPTA</li> </ul> <p>Joining our discussion is Dr. Cassie Bevan who worked in the U.S. House of Representatives for twenty years as a professional Republican staffer and later staff director on the Ways and Means Committee. During her tenure on Capitol Hill, Dr. Bevan was the principal staffer on many domestic and international bills including: the Adoption Tax Credit of 1996; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 and others.</p> <p>John Mattingly introduced many child welfare innovations during his tenure under Mayor Bloomberg including ChildStat. He introduced raining and cooperation in child welfare investigations with retired detectives from NYPD.</p> <p>Sarah Font is the author of many books and articles including the recent <i>It's not "Just poverty": Educational, social, and economic functioning among young adults exposed to childhood neglect, abuse, and poverty.</i></p> <p>Lauri Currier is the director of The Call, a Christian church-based foster care non profit in Arkansas that helps recruit foster parents from the parishes. They operate in 56 counties.</p>
---	---

## AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Child Welfare new developments and what do we know since early implementation of Family First?</i></p>	<p><i>Naomi Schaefer Riley, American Enterprise Institute and Sean Hughes</i></p> <p>Naomi Riley is AEI's child welfare expert and has been critical of aspects of Family First as enacted. Sean Hughes helped write and pass the Fostering</p>
--	---

	Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, and served as director of Congressional Affairs at the Child Welfare League of America.
--	--

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2020 VIRTUAL**

<i>Child Welfare</i>	<p><i>Eloise Anderson, SIG chair and Naomi Riley, AEI</i></p> <p>With more than fifty years in child welfare, beginning as a caseworker in Milwaukee, rising over her career to become in turn both the California and Wisconsin state human services secretaries, SIG chair Eloise Anderson’s passion has been to reform child welfare in the interest of mothers, the men in their lives and family stability. She and Naomi Riley will discuss their views on the system and how it can be improved.</p>
<i>Recruiting foster care families</i>	<p><i>Bob Bruder-Mattson, President and CEO, FaithBridge</i></p> <p>About half of foster care families discontinue after one year. Recruiting and training foster families to improve placements is an ongoing challenge for agencies. FaithBridge is a Christian ministry from Georgia which helps local churches to recruit, train, and sustain parents who take on the challenging role of fostering. One of the largest private placement agencies in the state, FaithBridge has also implemented virtual training for foster parents, improving feasibility and resulting in stability.</p>

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Which way foster care?</i>	<p><i>Naomi Schaefer Riley, Fellow, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p><i>Families First</i> has upended the child welfare system, some for good and some creating challenges. Fast movement from foster care to permanent placement has always been a prime objective of the state systems. But some SIG secretaries have remarked at our meetings that there is increasing pressure from both poverty advocates and federal officials to reduce placements into foster care at the outset, at the risk of child safety. Naomi Schaefer Riley is the most prominent right of center research and policy advocate who believes the bias against foster care placement has gone too far. We will tackle this issue and four others which have been raised by SIG secretaries for Ms. Riley’s comment and members’ discussion.</p>
<i>Child welfare lawsuits</i>	<p><i>Maura Corrigan, lawyer, former Michigan Human Services Director and SIG member</i> <i>Greg McKay, Director Child Help</i></p> <p>One of our longstanding SIG members, now in the private sector, is Maura Corrigan, former MI supreme court justice and human services secretary from Michigan. She is working to oppose the certification of a class of children who have putatively been harmed by Arizona child welfare policy. If this certification goes forward, notwithstanding whether there was any proof of “harm” to each individual child certified, the state could come under ongoing court supervision for years and possibly decades to come.</p>

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Administration for Children and Families</i></p>	<p><i>Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families</i>  <i>Steve Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, ACF</i>  <i>Clarence Carter, Director, Office of Family Assistance</i></p> <p>Roundtable all matters ACF, including TANF, child welfare, child care, child support, and more. Clarence Carter has asked SIG for time to present his vision for a future welfare system wholly constructed around healthy family self-reliance. Time will also be devoted to new opportunities for state implementation of at-risk alternatives to disability with funding from SSA and demonstrations approved by ACF.</p>
<p><i>Families First and Utah Youth Villages</i></p>	<p><i>Eric Bjorklund, President, Utah Youth Village</i></p> <p>Last year Congress enacted sweeping changes in the Federal Government’s funding of state child-welfare matters with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). What are the opportunities and challenges that face states regarding converting group homes to QRTPs; creating Professional Foster Homes to fill the continuum gap; and implementing prevention programs that have the potential to actually keep teenagers out of state’s custody? Utah Youth Village will share its experience.</p>

**NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>ACF and TANF</i></p>	<p><i>Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary ACF</i>  <i>Steve Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary ACF</i>  <i>Clarence Carter, Director Office of Family Assistance</i>  <i>Anne DeCesaro, Ways and Means committee</i></p> <p>We will cover all other topics including TANF, child support and child welfare.</p>
<p><i>Ways and Means Committee</i></p>	<p><i>Ways and Means Committee private meeting</i></p> <p>Each November SIG participants meet in private with Republican Ways and Means members to discuss TANF, UI, WIOA, EITC and Child Welfare. Last year Ohio Rep. Jim Renacci reported that he had included SIG-recommended EITC anti-fraud measures in the Tax Bill. This year we will review SIG priorities with the Committee members post-election.</p>
<p><i>When and how to fight spurious studies from the poverty industry</i></p>	<p><i>Steve Greene, KS Policy Director, DCF</i>  <i>Professor Doug Besharov, University of Maryland</i></p> <p>We have all experienced written reports from academia or think tanks from the Left claiming that state efforts to improve parental responsibility and obligations for employment will harm both children and the parents themselves. Now the University of Kansas claims that work programs and time limits are throwing children into foster care (see excerpt below). The published report gained lots of publicity but the state did not take it lying down. Instead, they contracted for a more credible academic study of their own. Our own SIG member who commissioned the new study will describe the politics, the fervor, and the outcome of this high stakes academic conflict.</p> <p>From a KS NPR report - - A University of Kansas study supports the suspicions of lawmakers and advocates who believe there’s a link between additional</p>

	<p>restrictions on welfare benefits and an increase in foster care cases. The researchers say their initial findings show that while Kansas was reducing the amount of time families could receive cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and increasing the requirements they needed to meet for that assistance, the number of child abuse and neglect cases went up. Abuse and neglect are the leading reasons why Kansas kids enter foster care.</p>
<i>Child Welfare</i>	<p><i>Jim Payne, Public Consulting Group; and Angie Green ACF Region 5 and 7</i></p> <p>This is a follow on session to our July half day on the Family First Preservation Act. In addition to discussions about federal implementation, we will discuss how the regional offices are working with local jurisdictions, state and county to respond to questions and provide advice regarding Children's Bureau directions.</p>

**DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Child Support</i>	<p><i>Robert Doar, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p>Various priorities among states such as child welfare and opioids seem to be contributing to less agency emphasis on child support. Beyond that, there is a debate about the right balance between enforcement of collections and encouraging work among parents delinquent in their obligations. What are some of the options?</p>
----------------------	---

**JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Maura Corrigan, Former Michigan director, Supreme Court justice and AEI scholar</i>	<p><i>Update on Consent Decree reform efforts</i></p> <p>Former Michigan human services director and SIG member Maura Corrigan is the author with John Bursch of <i>Rethinking Consent Decrees</i>. She will update us on consent decree reform efforts and promising developments in several states regarding child safety and workforce retention.</p>
<i>Don Winstead, SIG Consultant</i>	<p><i>Developing a SIG child welfare proposal for state flexibility</i></p> <p>During his service as FL Deputy Secretary for Children and Families, Don Winstead led the negotiation for the statewide IV-E child welfare waiver. Between 2001 and 2005 he served as the HHS deputy assistant secretary for policy and evaluation in human services. In that capacity he helped develop the Bush Administration's legislative 2004 proposal which would have allowed states to move to an alternative system for foster care, receiving funds in the form of flexible grants so as to create innovative child welfare plans with an emphasis on prevention and family support.</p> <p>Don will describe the current state of affairs and lead a discussion of an alternative which would allow SIG states more flexibility and control.</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Child Welfare</i>	<p><i>Jim Payne, former Director Indiana Department of Child Services; Doug Besharov, University of Maryland School of Public Policy and first director of the U.S. National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect;</i></p>
----------------------	---



	<p><i>Marc Cherna, Director, Dept. Human Services, Allegheny County;</i> <i>John Bursch, Bursch Law PLLC</i></p> <p>Jim Payne will discuss the current state of affairs. Marc Cherna, the nationally recognized child welfare innovator from Allegheny County PA will discuss specific operational challenges and solutions. Supreme Court litigant John Bursch will discuss proposed legislation which would curtail consent decrees which remain active for years and decades.</p>
<i>Child Welfare continued</i>	<p><i>Greg Povolny, CEO Mindshare Technology</i> <i>Will Jones, SAS State and Local Government Practice</i></p> <p>Rapid Safety Feedback uses predictive analytics to prioritize calls of suspected child abuse. Predictive analytics in child protective services means assigning suspected abuse cases to different risk levels based on characteristics that have been found to be linked with child abuse. These risk levels can automatically revise as administrative data is updated. Administrative data may be as simple as school reports or could delve deeper into other information that the state holds: the parents' welfare checks, new criminal offenses or changing marital status.</p>

### **NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Lifting Consent decrees</i>	<p><i>Maura Corrigan, AEI and formerly Director, Michigan Human Services</i></p> <p>Former Director Corrigan challenged a longstanding child welfare consent decree containing more than 200 promises. It is being renegotiated. How did she and her counsel John Bursch do it? Maura currently helps represent South Carolina as they negotiate a child welfare class action lawsuit. She offers advice for states confronting adverse legal action as well as those subject to existing consent orders.</p>
--------------------------------	---

### **JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<i>Lifting Consent decrees</i>	<p><i>Maura Corrigan, AEI and former Director Michigan; and John Bursch, Partner and Co-Chair Appellate and Supreme Court Practice, Warner, Norcross &amp; Judd</i></p> <p>Former Director Corrigan successfully overturned a longstanding child welfare consent decree with over a hundred requirements to just a few. How did she do it? Her co-presenter, John Bursch, has argued nine U.S. Supreme Court cases since 2011, many involving issues of federalism, and currently represents Michigan and New Jersey as they renegotiate their child welfare consent decrees. They offer advice for states confronting adverse legal action as well as those subject to existing consent orders.</p>
<i>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</i>	<p><i>Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago</i></p> <p>Studies show that individuals who experience four or more severe shocks during their development ages (e.g. abuse, neglect, substance abusing parent, absence of father) exhibit a permanent reduced resiliency often combined with lack of empathy and other conditions. What do we know about this population, how big is it and how can we best work with them?</p>

## NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Brad Wilcox, Visiting scholar, AEI</i>	Child wellbeing and the impact of family structure on economic growth
<i>Susan Dreyfus, President and CEO, Alliance for Children and Families; Matt Weidinger, staff director Ways and Means; and Ron Haskins, Brookings Institution</i>	Should we block grant IVB and IVE with performance measures? Pros and cons with cost implications.
<i>David Wilkins, former SIG Secretary, FL Dept. Children and Families, current CEO DTW Strategies</i>	Child welfare investigative analytics and sex trafficking.

## JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA

<i>SIG support for colleagues</i>	<p>Clarence Carter, Director, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security</p> <p>Since the date of our last meeting two of our colleagues took a bullet. Two others are experiencing political stress. What can our organization do to support our members before and after occurrences out of our own control e.g. child welfare events?</p>
<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<p>Sally Satel, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Kleiman, Professor, Public Policy, UCLA School of Public Affairs: Can We Reduce Drug Crime Without Treatment? (Video)</li> <li>• Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary, Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services – Drug testing takes effect 7/1</li> <li>• Suzy Sonnier, Secretary, Louisiana Dept. of Children &amp; Family Services – Increase in kids with drugs in system and reaching parents at hospital</li> <li>• Sidonie Squier, Secretary, New Mexico Human Services Dept. – I-CARE education initiative to counter recreational drug use</li> <li>• Robin Wosje, Senior Program Manager, The Justice Management Institute</li> <li>• Tom McLellan, Ph.D., CEO and co-founder of the Treatment Research Institute (TRI)</li> </ul>

## DECEMBER 2013 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Child welfare</i>	<p><i>Peggy Little, Federalist Society and others to create SIG legal advisory board</i></p> <p>Challenging the advocates and court supervision. Follow up to August meeting.</p>
----------------------	---



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Unemployment Insurance Presentations**

**DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Unemployment Insurance</i></p>	<p><i>Katie Thurber, Deputy Commissioner, NE Dept. of Labor (remote)</i></p> <p>With labor so tight, almost anyone can find work somewhere in the economy. The question becomes how can the UI agency best service their employer community with scarce talent from the pool?</p> <p>One recurring problem in many states is ghosting the employer, or not showing for an interview. UI recipients continue to pull benefits even though they are not truly active in the labor market. MT recently completed a software modernization [via Fast Enterprises in 12 states] to update both tax and claims. The claimant portal, the e-tool the employer uses, indicates no-shows. This in turn is reflected back to the job seeker by the UI worker. Usually this so-called “first touch” resolves the behavior - - or if not more intensive RESEA is used. Employers love this UI feature.</p> <p>NE has found a productivity booster. They award bonuses for fast adjudications to incentivize staff without using overtime. MT is following suit and does not expect resistance from the employee union.</p> <p>At the behest of the governor, MT has conducted phase one of an in-depth comprehensive analysis intended to show where the non-workers reside – Out of 1.2 million population, 350 thousand are out of the labor force, 200 thousand are retired and <i>100 thousand aged 16-54 don't work at all</i>. Why and what are the underlying reasons for non-work?</p>
--------------------------------------	--

**JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Acting on opportunities to implement a WIOVA consolidated single state agency and adopting Empowerment Accounts to promote individual self sufficiency</i></p>	<p><i>Rachel Barkley, Alliance for Opportunity</i> <i>Aly Rau, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Support</i></p> <p>In 1997 Utah Governor Leavitt consolidated workforce and benefit programs into a single state agency, the Department of Workforce Services. The recently passed House WIOA bill HR 6655 would permit four low population demonstration states (up to eight in Senate under consideration) to consolidate their WIOA workforce system into a single state agency. Louisiana has begun to take certain steps in this direction.</p> <p>Our presenter will also describe empowerment accounts (EAs) which would provide benefit funding to certain eligible recipients on a debit card. To qualify, individuals would need to be working, training, or following an education program while meeting with a community case manager to help attain financial cogency and to act on savings opportunities.</p>
--	--

<p><i>Increasing opportunity by reducing restrictions on eligibility for effective programs</i></p>	<p><i>Beth Townsend, IA Workforce and Deniece Thomas, TN Labor</i></p> <p>Iowa created the Reemployment Case Management Program in 2022 (based on RESEA model). The program includes one on one job coaching and claim review that begins the first week an individual files for unemployment benefits. Customers are closely monitored including job search efforts while being provided resume, interview, and job search support afterward. Since implementation, Iowa has reduced the average duration of unemployment from 13 weeks to 9 weeks as well as reducing benefit payments since 2022 by approximately \$150 million per year.</p> <p>Tennessee-based businesses can uncover a pipeline of motivated young talent through Tennessee’s Youth Employment Program. YEP is designed to create meaningful employment opportunities for young individuals by matching employers with talent who align perfectly with their business and industry requirements. This state-funded program provides a flexible eligibility designed to serve youth that may not qualify under WIOA.</p>
---	---

**DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Work, Welfare, UI and Food Stamps</i></p> <p><i>House and Senate congressional staff including:</i></p> <p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Brad Thomas and Marek Laco, House Education and Workforce</i></p> <p><i>Anne DeCesaro, Senate HELP committee;</i></p> <p><i>Matt Weidinger, former staff director and present AEI</i></p> <p><i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i></p>	<p>At our recent SIG meeting in August, participants uniformly requested more time with congressional staff. We asked for more detailed reports and time for discussion of the pros and cons of many pending and likely legislative movements.</p> <p>Therefore we have dedicated all morning to this topic with the top congressional committee staff.</p>
<p><i>Jon Baron, Coalition for Evidence Based Policy</i></p>	<p>In a high quality RCT, the study found Nevada’s RESEA program increases earned income by 13% over five years or \$2400 per year for each of four years. The best part? The intervention costs just \$290, which is the cost of a one-on-one hour and a half consultation to the unemployed by a UI staff member who combines the tasks of eligibility and work programs into one. This differs from most programs where the newly eligible UI recipient goes home and waits to be called back. A sizeable proportion never come back and are lost to the work program system.</p>
<p><i>John Courtney, American Institute for Full Employment</i></p>	<p>UI work search requirements can be requirements in name only without tracking and monitoring. For those who follow the standard suggestion of simply contacting employers and hoping for a connection, the outcome is often unsatisfactory. Utah and Wisconsin utilized a version of mandatory online up front engagement, using a program tapping online job search skill workshops that prepared claimants to make a smart job search while tracking the activity</p>

	<p>level of the job searchers. This approach can be effective especially in remote areas where frequent office visits are not practical. A random study in Utah showed the program led to shorter claims and stronger integrity.</p>
--	--

**JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Work, Welfare, UI and Food Stamps</i></p> <p><i>House and Senate congressional staff including:</i></p> <p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Brad Thomas, House Education and Labor</i></p> <p><i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i></p> <p><i>Anne DeCesaro Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee</i></p> <p><i>Rep. Warren Petryk, Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>Several good changes were made as a result of the debt negotiations although they do not go far enough. The House obtained improvements to TANF updating the caseload reduction benchmark, and the Food Stamp ABWOD age limits rose to 55 and closed excessive exemptions. Our presenters will discuss everything current and likely on the Hill among all programs.</p> <p>While overall, Democrats have reversed much of the 1996 reforms, some state legislators are fighting back. Joining this session will be <i>Rep. Warren Petryk of Wisconsin</i>. He has co-sponsored seven legislative initiatives aimed at advancing work among UI, Food Stamps and TANF recipients. Have you heard of UI recipients who “ghost” employers by arranging interviews to hit their job interview requirements and never show up?</p>
---	--

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>New opportunities for states to advance using federal funds</i></p>	<p><i>Michelle Beebe, Office of Unemployment Insurance, ETA</i></p> <p>DOL has issued guidance on UI changes including a new \$2 billion expansion as part of the CARES Act. The purpose is to detect and prevent fraud; to promote equitable access; and to ensure timely payment of benefits to eligible workers. Funds may be used for federal administrative costs including system-wide infrastructure investment and development.</p> <p>Separately, the use of the new RESEA grant funds must demonstrate the ability to reduce the average number of weeks participants receive UI by improving employment outcomes, and use evidence-based practices as defined by DOL. Michelle Beebe will discuss these new expansions and how states can best take advantage of these opportunities.</p>
<p><i>How realistic is it for the low skilled to progress out of “dead end jobs”?</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner, Former NYC Workforce and Welfare Commissioner</i></p> <p>In a presentation by Jacob Klerman of Abt at our last meeting we learned that the research shows the biggest impact on UI duration is the effect of agency requirements to engage in job search, not the acquisition of new skills or wrap-around services although these can be helpful. But the question then becomes, for those who start with low skills and get a job, how much wage appreciation can they realistically expect to experience in so called “dead end jobs”?</p> <p>In a study commissioned by DOL and HHS in the 1990s over 5000 individuals were tracked over six years using census and wage match data. The study</p>

	<p>measured progress from among those who were earning \$24,000 or less (in today's dollars, or \$12,000 then) and importantly consistently employed for at least three years prior to the start of the six year measurement period. This means this cohort was made up of low wage reliable workers (employed consistently). The results will surprise you. Wage growth and progress was sizeable with a large part of the wage improvement resulting from employed individuals switching jobs into higher paying occupations and companies. Engagement and consistency of labor force participation is the key.</p>
--	---

**JANUARY 15, 2021 VIRTUAL**

<p><b>EXPECTATIONS OUT OF THE NEW CONGRESS</b></p>	
<p>Matt Weidinger, AEI Fellow and former staff director Ways and Means subcommittee, on UI and welfare.</p>	
<p><b>COMBATTING UI FRAUD</b> under stress from high applications and remote determinations - -</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SIG state of Arkansas - - How AR uses their comprehensive UI fraud detection system. What is working best right now?</li> <li>● <i>On Point</i> Vendor - - Seven SIG states use one or more functions of the company's OPTIMUM Integrity tool for UI fraud detection and management including Arkansas. Is it cost effective?</li> </ul>	

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2020 VIRTUAL**

<p><i>Post election - - Democrat trends in national policy, UI, Food Stamps and tax credits</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, AEI; Anne DeCesaro USDA; Ryan Martin, Senate Finance; Robert Rector, Heritage; Doug Holmes, UWC; Jennifer Tiller, House Nutrition</i></p> <p>Roundtable discussion with senior administrators and thinkers on all topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where does work policy go in the absence of obligations?</li> <li>● Recreation of AFDC using refundable child tax credits with no concurrent work obligation.</li> <li>● Food Stamp ABWODs, UI work search. Will enforcement if any devolve to the states?</li> <li>● Blueprint for the next Administration on UI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nationalize UI</li> <li>○ Establish new increased federal UI tax to cover admin and benefits</li> <li>○ Increase coverage and benefits</li> <li>○ Increase workplace regulation</li> <li>○ Pandemic as rationalization for permanent change</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Food Stamp regs, BBCE, ABWOD, E&amp;T, fraud. Where to?</li> <li>● UI solvency and taxes</li> <li>● PUA extensive fraud under current certifications</li> <li>● Senate turnover? Who are the new players?</li> </ul>
---	---

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The Labor supply in a booming economy</i></p>	<p><i>Nicholas Eberstadt Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute Scott Winship, Executive Director, Joint Economic Committee</i></p>
---	--

	<p>From May 4 WSJ front page: <i>The labor market is as strong as it's been in a half century. The long jobs expansion is increasingly reaching Americans at the margins. Wage gains have strengthened in recent years, especially for workers earning the smallest paychecks and unemployment has fallen for those who have historically struggled, including those with lower levels of education. But a vexing challenge is that employers still struggle to pull workers off the sidelines. An economy's potential growth relies on the size of a nation's workforce and how much those workers are able to produce. Instead such participation was flat from a year ago, and the share of people in their prime who had a job or who were looking for one shrank in April, for the second month, cutting into recent gains.</i></p> <p>With unemployment at 3.6% is it possible for economic strength alone to pull very many more workers into the labor force, without tackling large scale voluntary non-work? For the past several years our governors have been pressing SIG secretaries to help solve state labor shortages.</p>
<i>Round Table with the DOL Secretary</i>	<p><i>Alexander Acosta, Secretary, US Department of Labor</i></p> <p>Discussion of all federal matters and opportunity for state input to developing policies.</p>

### NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC

<i>RESEA</i>	<p><i>Gay Gilbert, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, and Employment and Training Administration</i></p> <p>As members know, our SIG UI proposal would permit states to own and manage their own UI revenues. This would allow states to better allocate revenues between benefit payments and back to work expenditures with the intent of minimizing duration and keeping employer taxes low. Congress itself increased back to work funding through increases to RESEA, contingent upon states' implementing increasing proportions of evidence based programming. In this session we will discuss the expanded program with Administrator Gay Gilbert, along with ways to increase performance consistent with guidance from DOL.</p>
--------------	---

### DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

<i>SIG UI proposal</i>	<p><i>Doug Holmes, UWC; Jason Turner, SIG</i></p> <p>An overhaul of the UI system is long overdue. At our July meeting we discussed the SIG UI proposal in which states could own and manage their state trust fund under better policies favoring return to work, more efficient management and better fraud control. Several states are preparing to champion the SIG proposal, and they will lead the discussion here and when we meet with members of Congress.</p>
<i>State job performance measurement</i>	<p><i>Doug Besharov, University of Maryland; Randy Eberts, Upjohn Institute</i></p> <p>The presenters will argue that modest adjustments to TANF and WIOA metrics could better measure relative efficiency and effectiveness of programs state to state by taking into account differences in program components, client characteristics, and social and economic conditions. In that way, the best and</p>

	worst performers could better be identified, and their characteristics and operations analyzed for emulation or correction.
<i>House committees</i>	<i>Congressional members and staff</i>  We will have open discussion with members and staff of Ways and Means (TANF, UI, taxes); and Education and Workforce (WIOA, adult education, family leave).
Workforce Roundtable with DOL senior staff	<i>Larry Temple, Texas Workforce Director</i> <i>Ray Allen, Wisconsin Workforce Secretary</i>  Larry and Ray will lead a discussion of all matters Workforce, joined by senior DOL officials and others.

## **JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Jason Conley, Executive Director, Identification Technical Association (IdTA)</i>	<i>Fraud prevention using biometric techniques for positive identification</i>  Government offices everywhere are transitioning to on-line applications for benefits. However, the absence of in-person interactions comes at a cost of increased benefit fraud. Florida has experienced large scale organized fraud through false UI on-line applications. Elsewhere theft of income tax refunds and duplicate Food Stamp issuances are costing individuals, governments and the economy billions of dollars. Using biometric solutions such as low cost/no cost smartphones owned by applicants, positive identification can be established from applicant snapshots of their driver's license along with photo selfies matched against electronic DMV records on file. In another example, low cost finger imaging reduced Louisiana's child care expenditures by 23% the first year and 65% by the fifth year.
<i>The Secretaries</i>	<i>Implementing Universal engagement in work activities for benefit applicants and recipients</i>  In his plan <i>A Better Way</i> , Speaker Paul Ryan calls for job search and work requirements across a range of benefit programs, including Food Stamps, Housing, UI and TANF. Ryan intends to move his plan into legislation beginning this fall. But if enacted, how would such a concept function in practice by states charged with implementing it? Which state agencies would have the lead in providing work services, and how would such services be cross-funded? We will engage in an open ended discussion among our SIG state workforce and human services secretaries to propose practical solutions.
<i>Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Utah Office Management and Budget</i>	<i>Six Sigma or Lean may not be the best systems for government management improvement - - the Theory of Constraints (TOC) may be more adaptable.</i>  When FL SIG member Cissy Proctor called upon Utah to import its management effectiveness approach called Theory of Constraints (TOC), its implementation applied to Florida's UI program resulted in an increase in UI on-time payments of twenty percentage points, from the high 60s to the high 80s, in a period of just months. Utah OMB director Kristen Cox will show how this management efficiency and effectiveness system is being used across program areas in her state to decrease costs and improve outcomes.



	<p><i>Amy Goldstein, Washington Post staff writer and author of Janesville: An American Story</i></p> <p>From the New York Times book review:  <i>It is 2008, and Congressman Paul Ryan has just received a phone call from Rick Wagoner, then the chairman and chief executive of General Motors, to alert him that the company will shortly be stopping all production in Janesville WI. The news is too improbable to register. Janesville has a storied place in labor history, changing and repurposing itself as the times required. The place has been manufacturing Chevrolets for 85 years. The congressman is stunned..... "Moving and magnificently well researched"</i></p> <p>This is the riveting story of how Janesville lost its core economic engine, how the federal dislocated worker programs and Blackhawk Technical College responded, how families struggled to reorient their careers and families, and how Janesville ended up with an unemployment rate today of only 4 percent. The full impact of the change even in this resilient community came at a cost in lives and futures. The author will also reveal a surprise to this story that bears upon our dislocated worker programs. Each dinner guest will receive a copy of the book.</p>
<p><i>Doug Holmes, President UWC (Unemployment/Workers' Comp)</i></p> <p><i>Jason Turner SIG</i></p>	<p><i>Proposal for Legislative Action - - The SIG reform of Unemployment Compensation</i></p> <p>The basic structure of the UI system has seen little to no change in the nearly eighty years it has existed. We can learn lessons from other programs. Unlike UI, the workers' compensation system has adapted over time because it incorporates flexibility for states to respond to industry and regulatory change. TANF is another example - - after most states secured waivers of AFDC requirements, the most successful state experiments were later embodied in the 1996 federal reform.</p> <p>An overhaul of the UI system is long due. Federal law should allow states to take control of their trust fund under better policies favoring return to work. Even more modest changes will allow states to offer innovative methods to find jobs for the short-term and long-term unemployed while preserving benefits to support them in the meantime.</p>
<p><i>Larry Temple, Executive Director Texas Workforce Commission;</i></p> <p><i>And Ray Allen, Secretary WI Dept Workforce Development;</i></p> <p><i>And Lindsay Kurrle, VT Director Labor</i></p>	<p><i>All Matters Labor</i></p> <p>Larry Temple, Ray Allen and Lindsay Currle will lead a discussion of current anti-fraud initiatives underway in the states, and then an open ended discussion on every topic of interest and import to state workforce directors.</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Universal engagement in work</i></p>	<p><i>Michelle Beebe, Director, Unemployment Insurance Utah Department of Workforce Services</i></p> <p>Big impacts on work rates and dependency can be obtained where there is a mandatory requirement for job search and job readiness, before resorting to enrollment in more expensive or lengthier interventions such as skills training. Utah is able to reach all its unemployment applicants and recipients in a cost effective way through the use of online tools combined with profiling for those who are more likely to need more intensive services.</p>
--	--

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Theory of Constraints</i></p>	<p><i>Cissy Proctor, Executive Director, FL Department of Economic Opportunity</i></p> <p>It is not an exaggeration to say that Cissy has presided over a remarkable turnaround, measured not only by metrics but equally in terms of group staff morale, self-initiated problem solving and reported job satisfaction. On-time UI payments have increased from percentages in the sixties to the high eighties, combined with reductions in personnel through attrition - - all with no IT changes or adds to budget.</p>
<p><i>Biometric Positive Identification</i></p>	<p><i>Teresa Wu, Board Member, Secure Identity &amp; Biometrics Association Guy Sylvester, Executive Director Program Integrity and Improvement, Louisiana Department of Human Services</i></p> <p>Keying off of former SIG member Jesse Panuccio’s alarming presentation on the topic of UI fraud in Florida, and subsequent SIG webinar from FL on the same topic, presented here is a cost-effective solution for your consideration, particularly in programs where on line application processing has substituted for office visits.</p> <p>Biometrics (finger imaging and its alternatives) assures participant identity, eliminates duplicate payments, and flags multiple abusers. Uses of this solution include those for eligibility processing of UI, Food Stamps and TANF, plus time and attendance tracking for child care, work programs and residential treatment facilities. Other applications include Medicaid prescription integrity. When Louisiana implemented finger imaging for child care attendance tracking, expenditures immediately dropped by 23% and five years later are down 65%.</p>
<p><i>Improving Data Integrity</i></p>	<p><i>Randy Gillespie, Project Director, UI Integrity Project, National Association of State Workforce Agencies</i></p> <p>Using large scale data analytics to identify fraudulent claimants. Predictive modeling experiments using false email address identifiers, third party cross matches etc. Integrity pilots from CA, IA, ID. Development of a national data hub cross states for info on suspicious claimants; increasing the frequency of updating standard databases. Update from Cissy Proctor FL on their call-in initiative of suspected ineligible UI claimants who must report to the WIOA office and match drivers’ license with state photo. In addition, Alabama will present the results from its use of the Work Number for employment verification.</p>
<p><i>Monthly reporting</i></p>	<p><i>Jeff Mays, Director, IL Department of Employment Security</i></p> <p>Not for the faint hearted because of its burden on business, Illinois has nevertheless enacted a requirement that employers report income on a monthly basis. Originally for the purpose of reducing Medicaid expenditures, monthly reporting has identified for UI a new \$160 million potential capture from overpayments. How to realize this savings is an administrative question.</p>

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Food Stamps and other programs</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner and the Secretaries</i></p> <p>Most ABWOD waivers end December 31 unless renewed. State secretaries discuss plans for transition to regular program opportunities plus operational and political considerations. How states are teaming up with Workforce agencies to</p>
--	--

	<p>provide program capacity. Review and discuss recommendations from the workbook.</p> <p>Photos on EBT cards, investigating retailer fraud; making retail data available to states; everything fraud related. Director Jesse Panuccio FL and Jane Johnson FL discuss the likely transition of the UI fraud system to FS.</p> <p>Reports from recent state interactions with FNS.</p>
<i>Discussion prior to Hill meetings</i>	<p>Food Stamps TANF Reauthorization Unemployment Disability SSI and SSDI</p>
<i>Hill Meeting</i>	<p><i>Meeting with Chairman Kevin Brady, Ways and Means Committee, and Republican members of W&amp;M</i></p> <p><i>Mike Conaway (TX), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; with Nutrition Subcommittee Chairwoman Jackie Walorski (IN) and Republican members</i></p> <p>Candid two way discussion with Congressional members.</p>

## **JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<i>Workforce Panel</i>	<p><i>Larry Temple TX; Curt Eysink LA; Jesse Panuccio FL; Doug Holmes President UWC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WIOA federal regulations under development, what to expect and how to take advantage of opportunities. Statewide plan must include VR – what does this mean for human resources?</li> <li>• Revised SIG UI policy paper with additional options for states will have been reviewed by SIG workforce secretaries and presented at NASWA. How should we proceed with the Congress?</li> <li>• Panel members describe new innovations in work, training, fraud reduction and other matters.</li> </ul>
------------------------	--

## **JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA**

<i>WIA – New opportunities for performance</i>	<p>Doug Besharov, Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland and Director, Welfare Reform Academy</p>
<i>Social Impact Bonds</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Glickman, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Domestic Finance, U.S. Department of Treasury</li> <li>• Jason Turner, Executive Director, SIG &amp; Larry Temple, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Commission - on new WIOA</li> <li>• Rosemary Lahasky, Professional Staff Member, U.S. House Education &amp; The Workforce Committee</li> </ul>

## **NOVEMBER 13-14, 2012 MILWAUKEE**

### *Preparation for Congressional Members Meeting*

Lead Secretaries and their workgroup members present each of five issues to the Group for vetting.

### *Congressional Members Meeting*

Secretaries present Innovation Group recommendations to Members of Congress and staff:

Back from the Abyss – Why 18 SIG member secretaries are agreeing to accept significant political and fiscal risk in exchange for state authority and accountability over benefit programs.

- Food Stamps
- Disability
- Unemployment insurance
- TANF
- The Group's Vantage Point – wasted money, wasted lives - - the urgency for change.



## SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP

### SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

## Mental Health Presentations

### DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Improving public health by promoting healthy relationships and family formation.</i></p>	<p><i>Angela Turner, Principal, AMTC &amp; Associates</i></p> <p>The presentation will highlight the critical role of healthy relationships and family formation in improving public health outcomes. It emphasizes how supportive relationships contribute to mental, emotional, and physical well-being. The importance of stable families will be discussed, linking family structure to positive societal and economic impacts. Key interventions for youth and young adults, such as relationship education and addressing barriers to forming healthy relationships as well as evidence from these programs will be presented. Finally, the role of state policies and their impact on promoting these foundations is stressed, advocating for collaboration across sectors to achieve lasting societal benefits.</p>
--	---

### JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Helping individuals succeed in substance abuse and mental health treatment using mandatory Assisted Outpatient Treatment</i></p>	<p><i>Amy Lukes, Treatment Advocacy Center</i></p> <p>With substance abuse and mental illness such a large feature in non-functioning adults receiving benefits or preparing for work, how can agencies better help individuals caught in the cycle of repeat hospitalizations, homelessness, and incarcerations? Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) aims to motivate and assist individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) usually with the cooperation of the civil court system to enforce participation.</p> <p>The AOT participant is court-ordered to follow an individualized treatment plan in the community for a specific period, and the local mental health system monitors adherence to the treatment plan. When implemented effectively, AOT significantly increases treatment adherence.</p>
--	--

### DECEMBER 13-14, 2023 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Lisette Burton, Chief Policy and Practice, Association of Children's Residential and Community Services, ACRC</i></p>	<p>In 2021, a diverse coalition of over 600 national, state, and local organizations signed a joint letter urging Congress to exempt Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) from the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion. Members of Congress introduced The Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for Children in Foster Care Act of 2021, a bipartisan, bicameral legislation to ensure that children in foster care with assessed behavioral and mental health needs would not be at risk of losing their federal Medicaid coverage if placed in a QRTP over 16 beds. Unfortunately this bill was not passed into law. California,</p>
---	---

	<p>in an effort to comply with the IMD 16-bed limitation, has lost over 1000 QRTP beds in the last 18 months. At least 18 states are currently not implementing QRTPs. There is bipartisan, bicameral movement on the effort to address the QRTP-IMD issue this Congress (<a href="#">HR 4056/ S. 3196</a>).</p> <p>This issue has been routinely raised by SIG members, and inasmuch as our consensus is likely to carry weight when SIG meets with Ways and Means Republican members on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, we would like to form a consensus. Joining us for a discussion of this issue is Marie Cohen of the Child Welfare Monitor and Lisette Burton of the Association of Children’s Residential and Community Services ARPA.</p> <p><a href="#">2023 QRTP-IMD Overview and Support Letter</a></p>
--	---

**JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>How human services agencies can best help the mentally ill who are not hospitalized</i></p> <p><i>Stephen Eide, Manhattan Institute</i></p>	<p>From Stephen Eide - - <i>That severely troubled man we pass daily - - Imagine being his family member and having to argue with him day in and day out over taking his meds, about why his attendance at that reputable day program has been dwindling, and whether the CIA is spying on him. The mentally ill have trouble holding down jobs and performing basic tasks such as grocery shopping. Though the failings of American mental-health care are often attributed to stigma about mental illness, a more constructive approach is to focus on helping the families of the mentally ill.</i></p>
---	--

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The growing male drop out phenomenon</i></p>	<p><i>Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p>America is in the grip of a gradually building crisis of worklessness among men. It is not reflected in unemployment numbers, because the men involved are not even seeking work. Most experts argue this is a demand-side problem which requires significant improvements to American education to help men get the skills the economy requires. But what if that view is not accurate? Are skills really the issue? And is education in fact so central to addressing this particular crisis?</p> <p>Today’s male labor force dropouts in prime working years age 25- 49 basically don't do civil society. They don't do worship. They don't do charity. They don't do volunteering work. Although they've got almost nothing but time on their hands, they don't do much help around the house. They don't get out of the house that much either, rather they say what they do is watch screens, about 2,000 hours a year, equivalent to a full-time job. And about half of these guys report using some sort of pain medication every day.</p>
<p><i>How to best help the seriously mentally ill.</i></p>	<p><i>Michael Gray, Director of Advocacy, Treatment Advocacy Center</i></p> <p>Individuals with severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia) are under-treated as compared to the less severe where the money is flowing and who can be helped through voluntary community settings. Yet individuals with severe mental illness can be the most disruptive and potentially dangerous to society, especially if they are subject to anosognosia (unaware they are sick).</p>

	<p>Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) is the practice of providing community-based mental health treatment under civil court commitment, as a means of motivating and requiring the adult with mental illness who does not voluntarily adhere to his treatment plan to fully comply. In addition AOT focuses the attention of treatment providers themselves on the need to work diligently to keep their subjects engaged in effective treatment.</p> <p>SIG states using AOT include OH, TX. SIG states not using AOT at all include FL, IN, TN.</p>
<p><i>Is society giving up on the idea the underclass be uplifted into the mainstream?</i></p>	<p><i>Paul Webster, Hope St. Coalition</i></p> <p>Housing First policy sweeping the country is a disaster. To give away free taxpayer funded housing to those with behavior problems such as drug abuse and non-work, with no help and no obligations puts these individuals behind closed doors and isolated from society while they continue their destructive behavior alone. Regrettably during the last Administration no push-back was mounted from HUD.</p> <p>We need to put some rungs on the ladder - - sober living facilities and adult residential options for high acuity individuals. We need more types of places e.g. Medicaid 1115 facilities for increased time in detox. We need more public psychiatric beds for those who need to be hospitalized in locked facilities until they are stabilized.</p>

### NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Spend less on “mental health” and more on serious mental illness.</i></p>	<p><i>DJ Jaffe, author <u>Insane Consequences</u></i></p> <p>Mr. Jaffe takes a contrary view from that of advocacy groups and established industry stance. He writes:</p> <p><i>If you’re a mental-health advocate, you want to teach the public the mentally ill are no more violent than others. You don’t want to teach the public that the untreated, seriously mentally ill are more violent - - but instead that everyone can live in the community, not that some people do need institutional care. So the mental-health groups have kind of disengaged themselves from treating the seriously mentally ill in favor of re-defining mental illness as something everybody has.</i></p> <p>Mr. Jaffe argues in favor of an improved treatment regimen including Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), and its benefits to society and the mentally ill themselves. We will provide a book to members who request it, and he is available to lead discussions in SIG states.</p>
---	---

### DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC

	<p><i>Adam Perkins, Neurobiologist and author, Kings College, London</i></p> <p>The award winning personality researcher Adam Perkins argues in his book <i>The Welfare Trait</i> that welfare induced mis-development promotes an employment resistant personality characterized by aggressive, antisocial and rule breaking</p>
--	---

	tendencies. His provocative theory posits that these personality traits can be passed on to subsequent generations.
--	---

**JULY 18-21, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>John Snook and Frankie Berger, Treatment Advocacy Center</i>	<p><i>Implementing policies to assure that the mentally ill are on their medication</i></p> <p>The session will focus on the historical consequences of the release of hundreds of thousands of untreated mentally ill patients from hospitals and the subsequent criminalization of this population in jails and prisons throughout the nation. The presenters will discuss the lack of preparation that community based facilities have experienced to treat the severely mentally ill, what state agencies can do to help ameliorate this large scale societal change, and the opportunities posed by the current environment to coordinate responses between public health and criminal justice systems.</p>
<i>HHS Secretary Price and staff from Administration for Children and Families</i>	<p><i>Open discussion</i></p> <p>Secretary Price MD will join us for the first half hour of the two hour session. Secretary Price has identified three high priorities for his tenure. They are: the opioid epidemic; serious mental illness; and childhood obesity. In addition to the above we will discuss all matters HHS with ACF staff including our priorities on child welfare, TANF, child support enforcement and more.</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Substance abuse, mental health and returning offenders</i>	<p><i>Dr. Kenneth Robinson, President, Correctional Counseling</i></p> <p>Moral Reconciliation Therapy or MRT, is a premiere cognitive-behavioral program for substance abuse treatment, mental health, welfare and offender populations which has been tested for over 30 years. More than 120 published outcome studies show that, in comparison to appropriate controls, MRT treated offenders have re-arrest and re-incarceration rates between 25% to 75% lower than otherwise expected. Along with its lower recidivism rates the program, when applied to welfare and mental health, leads to increased participation rates, increased program completion rates, decreased disciplinary infractions, and desirable personality changes.</p>
<i>Innovation from Wyoming</i>	<p><i>Ray Fleming Dinneen, PsyD, Executive Director, CLIMB Wyoming</i></p> <p>This twelve week intensive training and placement program in operation since 1986 boasts a 90% program completion rate with 85% of graduates placed in full time jobs at the end of program, and a 75% employment rate two years after program completion. What makes it unusual is the structured therapeutic focus on mental health through the application of a calm and secure environment for groups of ten women who have experienced toxic stress in their personal lives.</p>



**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Using participant journaling to re-direct and improve personal outcomes</i></p>	<p><i>George Braucht, Enhanced Supervision Program Coordinator, Georgia Department of Community Supervision (retired)</i></p> <p>When participants write and reflect on their experiences using structured journaling, a self-awareness can often develop which influences their subsequent life decisions. Applications of this approach apply to neglectful parents, domestic violence perpetrators, returning offenders, juvenile offenders and more. Can it also help solve more prosaic dilemmas such as idleness? Results from the field.</p>
---	---

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Mental Illness</i></p>	<p><i>Frankie Berger, Director of Advocacy, Treatment Advocacy Center Dr. Douglas Smith, Medical Director, Summit County Ohio</i></p> <p>Ms. Berger will discuss the historical consequences of the release of hundreds of thousands of untreated mentally ill patients from hospitals in the 60s and 70s, and what state agencies can do under certain laws to require mentally ill patients to take their prescribed anti-psychotic medication they need to maintain their health. Dr. Smith will describe such a program he manages in Summit County Ohio, operational considerations and the results.</p>
------------------------------	---

**JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<p><i>Dr. Fuller Torrey</i></p>	<p><i>E. Fuller Torrey, Author "American Psychosis", Executive Director, Stanley Medical Research Institute; and Founder, Treatment Advocacy Group</i></p> <p>Dr. Torrey will discuss the historical consequences of the release of hundreds of thousands of untreated mentally ill patients from hospitals in the 60s and 70s continuing through the present. He will discuss the lack of preparation that community based facilities have experienced to treat the severely mentally ill, and what state agencies can do to help ameliorate this large scale societal change.</p>
<p><i>Criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse</i></p>	<p>Visit to Cook County criminal court and jail. Attend court during arraignment of overnight arrestees who have possible mental illness. Judge Paul Biebel makes decisions as to cognizance. This is followed by a visit to adjacent Cook County jail and afterward, a discussion with Judge Biebel, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart and criminal justice staff to discuss the topic of the intersection of crime, mental illness, substance abuse, and treatment.</p>

**FEBRUARY 12, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><b>David Weaver, Associate Commissioner, Office of Research Demonstration, and Employment Support, SSA</b></p> <p><i>Respondent: Mike Fishman, President, MEF Associates</i></p> <p>The proposal would test early-interventions for workers with mental illness under 50 targeted to two sub groups: - - those receiving services from a state vocational rehabilitation agency who are not DI or SSI disability beneficiaries; and those who have recently applied for disability benefits and were denied. Participants would receive an intensive set of behavioral health and related services to help them remain in or return to the labor market rather than seek SSA disability benefits.</p>
--



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Disability Presentations**

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>If you leave the workforce for six weeks because of an injury you will never come back</i></p>	<p><i>Jennifer Christian, Alliance for Bridging Work and Health, former consultant to DOL</i></p> <p>Research and the experience of private employer disability insurance contractors show that if an individual does not return to work within six weeks of an injury the likelihood of permanent worklessness is highly probable. What can we do to get our out of work population back into employment as soon as possible?</p> <p>Our presenter Jennifer Christian initiated a program with DOL which promotes closer coordination among individuals and organizations who influence workers' decisions about how or whether to stay at or return to work after a work disability (such as Workforce agencies). These programs succeed by returning injured or ill workers to productive work as soon as medically possible. They use services through an integrated network of partners that includes close collaboration between health care systems and/or providers; state workforce development boards and local employment service providers; and employers or industry organizations.</p>
--	--

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Activating marginal non workers</i></p>	<p><i>Grant Collins, VP Fedcap - NYC operator of independent medical assessments</i></p> <p>What are the two most common reasons that idle recipients are not actively looking for work or training?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The state has not called them in yet to enroll them in employment related activities.</li> <li>2. Recipients called in for employment activities claim a health reason for exemption.</li> </ol> <p>As it relates to #2, health exemptions - - for fourteen years NYC has conducted cost effective independent board certified medical assessments for all TANF recipients who claim health reasons for exemption from work. The results have been revealing - - only 17% are considered potentially eligible for disability. The rest are shown to be able to improve their health conditions or make Voc-Ed- like accommodations for work. Over 14 years over 84,000 assessments and follow ups have been made, with more than 24,000 job placements and a 73% average retention at 6 months.</p>
---	--

**DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Stay at Work and Return to Work</i></p>	<p><i>Jennifer Sheehy DOL deputy assistant secretary from the Office of Disability and Employment Policy</i></p> <p>Is work good for your health? With national rates of disability sharply increasing, enrollment in federal disability programs e.g. SSI and SSDI is often associated with decline in recipients’ well-being - - physical health, mental health, substance abuse and family conflict. It is essential that public policies favor staying at work upon the onset of a health problem, and that those who leave work temporarily return as soon as possible before their absence leads to permanent withdrawal from the labor force. DOL has funds available for state experimentation.</p>
<p><i>Dr. Jennifer Christian, member Stay at Work/Return to Work Policy Collaborative, DOL Office of Disability Employment Policy</i></p>	<p><i>The positive health effects of work. Preventing needless work disability by helping people stay employed despite medical conditions</i></p> <p>The likelihood that an individual will return to employment and close his or her disability case after enrolling in SSDI or SSI is under five percent over their lifetime. Research shows the loss of one’s livelihood is a devastating health outcome. This session will shed light on the process by which jobs and livelihoods are lost – and the harm it creates. Part of the solution is to “upstream” private sector programs and interventions before deterioration leads to permanent disability. The cost-benefit numbers reveal under current national policies there is a misalignment between the economic interests of workers, government, and private sector employers. A better solution will be proposed.</p>

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Disability state demonstrations</i></p>	<p><i>Ellie Hartman, Ph.D.; Wisconsin Promise Project Manager for SSI teens.</i></p> <p>Wisconsin has enrolled over a thousand high school students receiving SSI into a program of work readiness and work experience to help merge them into employment upon graduation. The pilot, in its third year, is being evaluated using experimental design. How is it going and what lessons can be learned so far? .</p>
<p><i>Expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare</i></p>	<p><i>Brian Blasé, Mercatus Center, George Mason University</i></p> <p>The first two years of the ACA’s Medicaid expansion demonstrate that government experts failed to account for how states would respond to the incentives resulting from the elevated federal reimbursement rate. Enrollment and spending are much higher than expected, and this is especially noteworthy since states are adopting the expansion more slowly than expected. Overall, the ACA expansion significantly adds to Medicaid’s unsustainable spending trajectory, likely fails to produce outcomes worth the corresponding cost, and creates a large federal government bias toward nondisabled, working-age adults at the expense of traditional Medicaid enrollees.</p>
<p><i>Managing exemptions of TANF participation requirements because of excessive health exemptions</i></p>	<p><i>Jason Turner, SIG</i></p> <p>As TANF caseloads have fallen, the remaining caseload is increasingly populated by those exempt from work participation requirements because of stated health reasons, both necessary and questionable. Milwaukee has adopted a system of health review using the assessment team from the state Voc Rehab division that looks at the capabilities of participants rather than just their health barriers. This adds participants to the pool of those who are subject to work requirements, activates them and boosts the federal TANF participation rate.</p>

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<i>Disability Beta Gov</i>	<p><i>Steve Corsi, Director, Wyoming Department of Family Services</i>  <i>Jason Turner</i></p> <p>Open discussion of Beta-like experiments states might try on their own to keep more prospects in the labor force.</p>
----------------------------	--

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Report from the Congress</i>	<p><i>Ways and Means human services staff director Matt Weidinger</i>  <i>Nutrition subcommittee staff director Anne DeCesaro</i></p> <p>What is next on TANF, Disability, and Chairman Ryan’s Economic Opportunity proposal.</p>
<i>Disability</i>	<p><i>Prof. Richard Burkhauser, Cornell University</i></p> <p>Rapid growth threatens to undermine large swaths of working adults. The welfare population is migrating to SSI and its more generous benefits and no work requirements. SIG calls for federal changes and state experimentation.</p>
<i>Discussion prior to Hill meetings</i>	<p>Food Stamps  TANF Reauthorization  Unemployment  Disability SSI and SSDI</p>
<i>Hill Meeting</i>	<p><i>Meeting with Chairman Kevin Brady, Ways and Means Committee, and Republican members of W&amp;M</i></p> <p><i>Mike Conaway (TX), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; with Nutrition Subcommittee Chairwoman Jackie Walorski (IN) and Republican members</i></p> <p>Candid two way discussion with Congressional members.</p>

**JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<i>Disability</i>	<p>Member discussion and approval of proposed SIG statement and recommendation to Congress to permit state authority for experimentation.</p>
-------------------	---

**FEBRUARY 12, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><b>Welcome: Doug Besharov, Professor University of Maryland School of Public Policy</b>  <b>Jason Turner, Executive Director, Secretaries’ Innovation Group</b></p> <p><i>Eight demonstration ideas:</i></p>	
<p><b>David Weaver, Associate Commissioner, Office of Research Demonstration, and Employment Support, SSA</b></p> <p><i>Respondent: Mike Fishman, President, MEF Associates</i></p> <p>The proposal would test early-interventions for workers with mental illness under 50 targeted to two sub</p>	

groups: - - those receiving services from a state vocational rehabilitation agency who are not DI or SSI disability beneficiaries; and those who have recently applied for disability benefits and were denied. Participants would receive an intensive set of behavioral health and related services to help them remain in or return to the labor market rather than seek SSA disability benefits.

**David Stapleton, Director, Center for Studying Disability Policy, Mathematica**

*Respondent: Steve Bell, Vice President, Social & Economic Policy, Abt Associates*

The Integrated Employment Support and Eligibility Determination proposal would integrate timely employment support systems after the onset or worsening of a medical condition, along with an improved disability determination process so as to improve economic outcomes for workers and reduce entry into SSDI.

**David Autor, Associate Department Head, MIT Department of Economics**

*Respondent: Terri Rhodes, Vice President Disability Management Employer Coalition*

The proposal would extend private disability insurance coverage so as to support workers for up to 2.25 years following onset of disability. It would provide partial income replacement and supports geared toward helping individuals maximize work readiness and self-sufficiency. After receiving private insurance benefits for twenty-four months, individuals who are unable to engage in substantial gainful employment would transition into the SSDI system.

**Philip de Jong, Partner, APE Inc. and Professor of Economics of Social Security, University of Amsterdam (known as the “father of disability reform in Holland”)**

*Respondent: Dave Wittenberg, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research*

The proposal is based on a comprehensive 2004 Netherlands reform requiring employers to cover wages during a two year waiting period before DI entitlement; the inclusion of effective gatekeeper protocol; required employer and employee active measures for health and continued work as a condition of enrollment after two years; and adoption of a competitive market for employer provided sickness and disability insurance as between government and private carriers for the first two years. Post- reform disability inflow in Holland is 20 – 40% of pre-reform 2001 base year.

**Grant Collins, Senior Vice President, FedCap, and NYC We Care Director; and Jason Turner, Executive Director, Secretaries’ Innovation Group**

*Respondents: Ted McCann, Staff Director, Ways and Means Social Security Committee; and Jon Baron, President, Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy*

The proposal would adapt to DI and SSI, a 13 year old NYC large-scale program for TANF recipients who claim health as reasons for inability to seek or obtain jobs. The intervention uses an independent vendor under a performance contract to maximize employment rather than push recipients to SSI. Vendor comprehensive medical health assessment is followed by vocational and job search efforts where practical. Fewer than 20% are referred to SSI, the balance to health and vocational activities followed by work.

**Mark Swindells, District Operations Manager, UK Department for Work and Pensions, Work Services Directorate; and Zach Morris, University of California Berkeley School of Social Welfare**

*Respondent: Mike Wiseman, Research Professor of Public Policy, Public Administration, and Economics, George Washington University*

The proposal is based on UK reforms which include an independent medical and functional assessment from a government contracted service provider; a fixed term disability period followed by reassessment; a “Fit for Work Service” provided by a vendor which includes a telephone and internet service to offer advice to businesses for their workers who have experienced a health shock; engagement of MD general practitioners to understand the health benefits of work over disability; and a triage of disability applicants into three categories - - permanently disabled, work capable with accommodations, and ready to work. Post-reform new disability intakes in the UK are no longer rising.

**Eloise Anderson, Secretary, WI Department Children and Families**

*Respondent: Matt Weidinger, Staff Director, Ways and Means Human Services Committee*

The proposal would change SSI children benefits from cash payments going to adult family heads with its undesirable dependency effects, and substitute the same fund contributions for services to covered child using a flexible spending account. The service objective is to help overcome a child's disability, do better in school and transition to adult employment.

**Tom Wickizer, Stephen F. Loeb's Distinguished Professor of Health Services & Chair, Division of Health Services Management and Policy, College of Public Health, Ohio State University**

*Respondent: Yoni Ben-Shalom, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research*

The proposal would adapt to DI a quality improvement intervention currently implemented within Washington State's workers' compensation system. The program provides WC financial incentives to health providers for using best practices, coupled with support and care management. Patients treated by providers who more often adopted occupational health best practices have on average 57% fewer WC disability days. The program is now being adopted statewide.

**Post-Meeting Agenda**

**"Structuring and Administering Disability Demonstrations: Lessons from the Past 25 years"**

Past evaluations have exposed special challenges to implementing and assessing disability demonstrations. A panel of experts involved with past demonstrations will offer commentary and discussion on the lessons learned.

Dave Stapleton, *Director, Center for Studying Disability Policy, Mathematica*

Howard Rolston, *Principal Associate, Abt Associates*

Peter Baird, *Senior Associate, MDRC*

David Weaver, *Associate Commissioner, Office of Research Demonstration, & Employment Support, SSA*

Moderator: Douglas Besharov, *Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Policy*

**NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC**

<i>Maura Corrigan, Director, Michigan Dept. of Human Services</i>	Disability and Michigan's Better Off Working proposals to Ways and Means
<i>Grant Collins, Director, NYC WeCare program Brooklyn and Queens</i>	Independent medical evaluation combined with vocational intervention to keep TANF adults in the labor force, rather than to SSI.
<i>Meet with Budget Chairman Paul Ryan and Republican members of Ways and Means and other committees</i>	SIG Members Discuss · Ryan Economic Opportunity plan · Disability · Food Stamps

**JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA**

<i>Disability</i>	Jason Turner, Executive Director, SIG; disability update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maura Corrigan, Director, Michigan Dept. of Human Services -- Disability recommendations <i>Better Off Working</i></li><li>• Kathleen O'Hearn, Director of Coalitions, State Policy Network -- state think tank partnerships on disability</li></ul>
-------------------	--

## DECEMBER 2013 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Disability</i>	<i>UK Deputy Director for Working Age Adults; the chief assistant to the Work and Pensions Minister; the intellectual father of the Holland disability system; and the chief administrator of Netherlands disability programs.</i>  Reversing the increase in disability caseloads through policy changes and incentives to work.
<i>Vocational Rehab</i>	<i>KS Vocational Rehabilitation Director and NYC WeCare vendor director.</i>  Diverting to employment those likely to fall into SSI.
<i>Preparation for and meeting with Ways and Means members</i>	SIG members and expert presenters go through the disability presentation agenda

## AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE

<b>Disability</b>	<p>Major session based on the SIG/AEI/Brookings April two day conference and its aftermath with Ways and Means members. SIG legislative proposal to be developed for presentation before Ways and Means members when SIG reconvenes in Washington in November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why the current system is experiencing explosion in enrollment</li> <li>● How the current disability determination process short-changes the life circumstances of those who could work.</li> <li>● Possible changes to eligibility and options for work interventions.</li> <li>● The evidence that work is good for your health.</li> </ul> <p>Participating will be speakers from our SIG conference, the administrator of the Wisconsin disability determination bureau (invited), and the former administrator of NYC's work intervention directed to prospective SSI applicants.</p>
-------------------	--

## APRIL 12&19, 2013 WASHINGTON DC

<b>Disability: Inherent Problems, Practical Solutions and Action for Reform</b>	
<i>Topic A</i>	
<b><i>Hypothesis: The current federal disability growth trajectory cannot be sustained and fundamental restructuring of the eligibility and disability service system is required to avoid fund exhaustion, increased tax burdens and unacceptable reductions in the active labor force.</i></b>	
<i>Moderator:</i> Henry Olsen, Vice President and Director, National Research Initiative, American Enterprise Institute	
<i>Presenters:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mark Duggan, Chair, Business Economics and Public Policy, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; and member, Social Security Advisory Board Technical Panel on Assumptions and Methods</li> <li>● Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration</li> </ul>	
<i>Questioner:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nicholas Eberstadt, Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute</li> </ul>	
<i>Commenters:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kathy Ruffing, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities</li> <li>● Roger Mahan, Policy Advisor, Office of the Majority Leader, House of Representatives</li> </ul>	

*Topic B*

**Hypothesis: Disability approvals have expanded to enroll many individuals who are capable of working full time or part time in the private economy.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution

*Opening in Support of Hypothesis:*

Richard V. Burkhauser, Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Policy Analysis, Professor of Economics, Cornell University; and Adjunct Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute

*Presenters:*

- Michael Donnelly, Director, Kansas Rehabilitation Service
- Bob Steggert, Former Vice President Casualty Claims, Marriott International
- Bryon Macdonald, Program, Policy and Development Manager, World Institute on Disability
- Dorcas Hardy, Former Commissioner, Social Security Administration

*Topic C*

**Hypothesis: Increasing work participation has a positive effect on the health and well-being of disability applicants and beneficiaries, and the absence of work activity has an independent negative effect on individuals' health and well-being.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution

*Opening in support of hypothesis:*

Kim Burton, Ph.D., Center for Health and Social Care Research UK; Co-Author, *Is Work Good for Your Health and Well-Being?*, publication of the Department of Work and Pensions, UK

*Presenters:*

- Jennifer Christian, MD, President and Chief Medical Officer, Webility Corporation
- Robert E. Drake Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and the Dartmouth Institute, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

*Topic D*

**Hypothesis: The disability determination process does not function well for its intended purpose of selecting and supporting those who cannot work in the national economy.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution

*Opening in Support of Hypothesis:*

Richard J. Pierce, Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law, George Washington University School of Law and Adjunct Scholar, CATO Institute

*Presenters:*

- Harold Krent, Dean and Professor of Law, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law; and Consultant on Social Security Disability Adjudication, Administrative Conference of the United States
- Jo Anne Barnhart, Former Commissioner, Social Security Administration

*Topic E*

**Hypothesis: The business sector must become engaged in finding ways to support employment rather than transferring marginal employees onto public benefits. Incentives must be aligned to engage business in behavior that is both socially constructive and profitable.**

*Moderator:* Ron Haskins, Senior Fellow, Economic Studies and Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution



*Opening in Support of Hypothesis:*

Kim Jinnett, Ph.D., Research Director, Integrated Benefits Institute

*Presenters:*

- Allyn C. Tatum, Vice President, Tyson Foods; and former Chairman, Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission
- Richard Victor, Workers Compensation Research Institute (invited)

*Topic F*

**Hypothesis: Only fundamental reforms, pursued rapidly, can avoid a path in which an increasing proportion of people who could work are sidelined and the economy is burdened with a declining taxpaying workforce.**

*Opening in Support of Hypothesis:*

Henry Olsen, Vice President and Director, National Research Initiative, American Enterprise Institute

*Specific Proposals:*

- Richard Burkhauser, Professor of Economics, Cornell University; and Adjunct Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute
- David Stapleton, Director, Center for Studying Disability Policies, Mathematica
- Jack Smalligan, Branch Chief, Income Maintenance Branch, Office of Management and Budget
- Jason Turner, Executive Director, Secretary's Innovation Group

*Respondent:*

- Doug Besharov, Professor, School of Public Policy University of Maryland; and Director, Welfare Reform Academy

## **NOVEMBER 13-14, 2012 MILWAUKEE**

*Preparation for Congressional Members Meeting*

Lead Secretaries and their workgroup members present each of five issues to the Group for vetting.

*Congressional Members Meeting*

Secretaries present Innovation Group recommendations to Members of Congress and staff:

Back from the Abyss – Why 18 SIG member secretaries are agreeing to accept significant political and fiscal risk in exchange for state authority and accountability over benefit programs.

- Food Stamps
- Disability
- Unemployment insurance
- TANF
- The Group's Vantage Point – wasted money, wasted lives - - the urgency for change.



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP  
SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Preventing Unplanned Pregnancies Presentations**

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Overview of the situation after the election on the Hill and on the ground</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute</i>  <i>Robert Rector, Heritage Foundation</i>  <i>Jennifer Tiller, House Committee on Agriculture</i>  <i>Scott Winship, American Enterprise Institute</i>  <i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i>  <i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means Human Resources subcommittee</i>  <i>Caitlin Burke, House Education and Labor subcommittee</i></p> <p>We have the top right-of-center thinkers, researchers and congressional subcommittee directors to join us for a comprehensive look at where we are now and what we should focus on post-election. Polls look good - - Republicans to sweep all before us!</p>
--	--

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Reduction in abortions</i></p>	<p><i>Mark Edwards, CEO, Upstream USA</i></p> <p>Less than a decade ago Delaware had the highest rate of unplanned pregnancies in the country. Unplanned pregnancies have dropped so fast that it has produced a separate related benefit - - reduced abortions. Between 2014 and 2017 Delaware's abortion rate fell by 37 percent - - by far the greatest drop in the country. There is now only about one abortion for every 100 women of childbearing age each year in the state. Mark Edwards of Upstream is responsible for implementing former governor Jack Markell's introduction of easy access to long acting reversible contraceptives such as IUDs throughout the state.</p>
--------------------------------------	--

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Update on LARCs</i></p>	<p><i>Mark Edwards, Upstream USA</i></p> <p>In November several secretaries expressed interest in long-acting reversible contraceptives (e.g. IUDs), but asked for more information about prospective</p>
-------------------------------	---

	<p>costs and implementation particulars with their public health partners. Mark will provide a short update on recent implementation results and provide an action plan with costs for those wishing to explore the next step.</p>
--	--

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs)</i></p>	<p><i>Ron Haskins, Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, Brookings</i>  <i>Mark Edwards, CEO, Upstream.org</i></p> <p>Mr. Haskins will discuss the proven reductions in unwanted pregnancies resulting from proper counseling and availability of LARCs (e.g. IUDs). Mr. Edwards runs a national organization which trains for and implements state LARC initiatives in conjunction with human service and Medicaid agencies.</p>
---	---

**JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<p><i>Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs)</i></p>	<p><i>Ron Haskins, Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institution; and Mark Edwards, CEO Upstream.org</i></p> <p>Mr. Haskins will discuss the proven reductions in unwanted pregnancies resulting from proper counseling and availability of LARCs (e.g. IUDs). Mr. Edwards runs a national organization which trains for and implements state LARC initiatives in conjunction with human service and Medicaid agencies.</p>
---	---

**NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Isabel V. Sawhill, Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institution</i></p>	<p>Author of <u>Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage</u></p>
--	---



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP  
SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Supporting Relationships Presentations**

**DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The Success Sequence and the Middle Class</i></p>	<p><i>Brad Wilcox, University of VA and director of National Marriage Project Jason Turner, Secretaries' Innovation Group</i></p> <p>The "Success Sequence," a formula which if followed guarantees young adults will become part of America's middle class. The formula incorporates three stages <b><i>which are within every young persons' ability to control regardless of his initial personal family and economic circumstances.</i></b> The statistically proven formula is this - - get at least a high school education (anywhere), work full time after leaving school, and marry before having children.</p> <p>Among millennials who have followed this sequence, 97% are above poverty and safely into the middle class when they have reached adulthood. This fact has remained strong after this cohort of young Americans has reached their mid-30s, according to a new analysis of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). Even those who follow the first two steps but not the third are 90% out of poverty. But what exactly are the specific markers that indicate a family's membership in America's middle class?</p> <p>Our SIG secretaries and directors directly or indirectly touch our young people at each of these three success stages. We are going to spend the morning discussing steps our agencies and partners can take at each of the three success life points - - helping young people to graduate, get a job and remain employed, and get married before having children.</p>
<p><i>Improving public health by promoting healthy relationships and family formation.</i></p>	<p><i>Angela Turner, Principal, AMTC &amp; Associates</i></p> <p>The presentation will highlight the critical role of healthy relationships and family formation in improving public health outcomes. It emphasizes how supportive relationships contribute to mental, emotional, and physical well-being. The importance of stable families will be discussed, linking family structure to positive societal and economic impacts. Key interventions for youth and young adults, such as relationship education and addressing barriers to forming healthy relationships as well as evidence from these programs will be presented. Finally, the role of state policies and their impact on promoting these foundations is stressed, advocating for collaboration across sectors to achieve lasting societal benefits.</p>
<p><i>Leveraging Social Capital and Innovation to Increase Opportunity</i></p>	<p><i>Scott Winship, Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility, AEI, and Editor 2024 Doing Right By Kids</i></p>

	<p>Material hardship among American children has fallen dramatically over the past 60 years. Child poverty measured by consumption declined from 62% in 1963 to 13% in 2022. It has fallen by one-third <b>just since 2001</b> and in families headed by a single mother it has dropped by 75 percent since 1993.</p> <p>However the social component of opportunity has fared much worse. Social capital (the value inherent in our relationships) and associational life (the sum of what we do together) have deteriorated over the past 50 years.</p> <p>The ever-growing safety net, while reducing immediate hardship, has also encouraged behaviors that lower income in the longer term, reduce intergenerational mobility, and weaken family and associational life. Perverse incentives discourage work, marriage, saving, human capital investment and deferred gratification. Welfare policy has actually contributed to the deterioration of opportunity.</p> <p>A modern conservative post-populist agenda should focus on children and youth, and take steps to increase the seven domains of social capital. Some of these steps are the subject of this presentation.</p>
--	--

### **JULY 10-11, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p>Howard Husock, Author: <i>Who Killed Civil Society? The Rise of Big Government and the Decline of Bourgeois Norms</i></p>
--	--

### **JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The non-monetary benefits of work</i></p> <p><i>Angela Rachidi and Leslie Ford, AEI</i></p>	<p>With our obsession over poverty (which is merely an income measure) as an indicator of family and social well-being, we overlook the more important aspects of work - - and we don't just mean work as role modeling for children. Work is society's organized method of gift-giving to other members of our human social organism. By providing useful goods and services to others, work is as central to personal thriving as it is to society itself. We will look at what the research and experience shows about the non monetary benefits to individuals of this essential human activity.</p>
<p><i>How human services agencies can best help the mentally ill who are not hospitalized</i></p> <p><i>Stephen Eide, Manhattan Institute</i></p>	<p>From Stephen Eide - - <i>That severely troubled man we pass daily - - Imagine being his family member and having to argue with him day in and day out over taking his meds, about why his attendance at that reputable day program has been dwindling, and whether the CIA is spying on him. The mentally ill have trouble holding down jobs and performing basic tasks such as grocery shopping. Though the failings of American mental-health care are often attributed to stigma about mental illness, a more constructive approach is to focus on helping the families of the mentally ill.</i></p>

### **NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Overview of the situation after the election on the Hill and on the ground</i></p>	<p><i>Matt Weidinger, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p><i>Robert Rector, Heritage Foundation</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Tiller, House Committee on Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Scott Winship, American Enterprise Institute</i></p> <p><i>Amy Simon, Simon Advisory</i></p>
--	---

	<p><i>Cheryl Vincent, Ways and Means Human Resources subcommittee</i></p> <p><i>Caitlin Burke, House Education and Labor subcommittee</i></p> <p>We have the top right-of-center thinkers, researchers and congressional subcommittee directors to join us for a comprehensive look at where we are now and what we should focus on post-election. Polls look good - - Republicans to sweep all before us!</p>
--	--

## **AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>What to do about the national conversation on race in America</i></p>	<p><i>Bob Woodson, founder of The Woodson Center, is a longtime civil rights activist, community development leader and author. His organization has supported neighborhood-based initiatives to revitalize low-income communities since the 1970s and in 2020 Woodson launched the Center's 1776 Unites campaign to counter the 1619 project.</i></p>
---	--

## **JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Administration for Children and Families</i></p>	<p><i>Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families</i>  <i>Steve Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, ACF</i>  <i>Clarence Carter, Director, Office of Family Assistance</i></p> <p>Roundtable all matters ACF, including TANF, child welfare, child care, child support, and more. Clarence Carter has asked SIG for time to present his vision for a future welfare system wholly constructed around healthy family self-reliance. Time will also be devoted to new opportunities for state implementation of at-risk alternatives to disability with funding from SSA and demonstrations approved by ACF.</p>
--	--

## **DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Life sequencing for success</i></p>	<p><i>Bradford Wilcox, Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia</i></p> <p>Millennials are much more likely to flourish financially if they follow the “success sequence”—getting at least a high school degree, working full-time, and marrying before having any children, in that order. The vast majority of millennials who married before having any children appear to be headed toward realizing the American dream but more than half do not marry first.</p>
---	--

## **NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Marriage and child support</i></p>	<p><i>David Blankenhorn, President, Institute for American Values; and author of Fatherless America and The Future of Marriage</i></p> <p>From troubled family structures to the emerging age of the unformed family - - Ten trends that are influencing how public policy and human services programs must respond.</p>
--	--

## JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA

<p><i>How to influence the culture we live in</i></p>	<p><i>Christopher Brown, President, National Fatherhood Initiative</i>  <i>Maggie Spain, The Bawmann Group Advertising and Marketing</i>  <i>Ian Dallimore, Director of Digital Innovation + Sales Strategy, Lamar Advertising</i></p> <p>It's this simple to reduce your chances of living in poverty to under five percent - just finish high school, get a job, any job, and delay pregnancy. Easy to say, but how to communicate this in a way that is absorbed by those who would most benefit by it? The National Fatherhood Initiative has twenty years' experience communicating the importance of fathers to low income men and mothers. Aided by a combination of thoughtful public service announcements, social media and outdoor advertising (e.g. bus and billboard) they have been able to break through the clutter and have the evidence to show for it. Did you know advertising is an eligible TANF expenditure?</p>
---	---

## NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Communications</i></p>	<p><i>Hilary Gowins, Illinois Policy Institute and Jason Turner</i></p> <p>Creating human interest stories for media and legislative hearings. How human services agencies can institutionalize the collection and use of personal stories.</p>
------------------------------	---

## JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO

<p><i>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</i></p>	<p><i>Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago</i></p> <p>Studies show that individuals who experience four or more severe shocks during their development ages (e.g. abuse, neglect, substance abusing parent, absence of father) exhibit a permanent reduced resiliency often combined with lack of empathy and other conditions. What do we know about this population, how big is it and how can we best work with them?</p>
--	---

## NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<p><i>Brad Wilcox, Visiting scholar, AEI</i></p>	<p>Child wellbeing and the impact of family structure on economic growth</p>
<p><i>Isabel V. Sawhill, Co-Director, Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institution</i></p>	<p>Author of <u>Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage</u></p>



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP**

**SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Immigration Presentations**

**DECEMBER 11-12, 2024 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Larry Mead, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, NYU, and conservative author of thirteen books on welfare, politics, and culture since 1986</i></p> <p>Entrenched poverty and dependency is America's most serious domestic problem. And yet traditional anti-poverty policy has exhausted itself. Mead's upcoming book <i>Poverty and Culture</i> takes a distinctive approach to the challenge of poverty. Mead focuses on culture, meaning the beliefs and lives of the poor themselves, rather than on their material condition.</p>
<p><i>Post Election Border Disaster - - What Next?</i></p>	<p><i>Steven Camarota, Research Director, Center for Immigration Studies</i></p> <p>The current surge has not been caused by fundamental changes in sending regions, but rather by the enormous number of immigrants (legal and illegal) who learn how to get across from social media in real time. The border control processes children and families first, which makes it easy for singles to cross especially after the Biden Administration ended the remain in Mexico policy for asylum applicants. In addition there has been a dramatic reduction in interior US enforcement (now only for terrorists, gang members, felons). Our presenter will discuss the political, administrative and legal issues relating to the border crisis.</p>

**AUGUST 4-5, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>Will surging illegal immigration ultimately overwhelm our culture or just add to US economic strength?</i></p>	<p><i>Professor Larry Mead NYU author of <i>Burdens of Freedom</i>; and Steve Camarota, Center for Immigration Studies</i></p> <p>Larry Mead, author of many influential books on welfare programs and politics since 1986 has recently published <i>Burdens of Freedom</i>, where he argues that a key element contributing to for Western world dominance is its cultural emphasis on independent thought and action. This characteristic, unique to the West, sets the stage for innovation, strong government and the rule of law. He argues migrants from outside the West in today's numbers, will weaken the individualist culture that is essential to America's strength.</p> <p>Steve Camarota is research director at the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank with a pro-immigrant, low-immigration vision which seeks fewer immigrants but a warmer welcome for those admitted.</p>
--	--



**DECEMBER 4-5, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Jason DeParle, New York Times reporter and author of <b><u>A Good Provider is One Who Leaves</u></b></i></p> <p>In book award winner <u>American Dream</u>, journalist Jason DeParle chronicled the 1990's politics of national welfare reform; Wisconsin's response in implementing a work-for benefits only plan; and how these tectonic forces wrenched and changed the lives of three women on welfare in Milwaukee.</p> <p>In his new book of epic storytelling about modern overseas migration, DeParle reports on one Filipino family of eleven siblings and their offspring which he has followed for the past thirty years. It is a story of family, economic deprivation and search for work in the middle east and the United States. It is the immigration issue we are struggling with here in the US played out against eleven lives from one family. A copy of his book will be provided to each diner.</p> <p>"Intimate narratives entwine with sweeping, global accounts to produce one of the best books on immigration in a generation" - Matthew Desmond, author of <u>Evicted</u></p>
--	--

**JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>The Immigration Crisis at the border and worksite enforcement</i></p>	<p><i>Theo Wold, Special Assistant to the President, Domestic Policy Steven Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies Jerry Kammer, author <u>What Happened to Worksite Enforcement?</u>, Center for Immigration Studies</i></p> <p>By Presidential Memorandum issued May 23 on enforcing the legal responsibility for sponsors of aliens - - <i>A key priority of my Administration is restoring the rule of law by ensuring that existing immigration laws are enforced. The immigration laws currently require that, when an alien receives certain forms of means-tested public benefits, the government or non-government entity providing the public benefit must request reimbursement from the alien's financial sponsor. These laws also require that, when an alien applies for certain means-tested public benefits, the financial resources of the alien's sponsor must be counted as part of the alien's financial resources in determining both eligibility for the benefits and the amount of benefits that may be awarded. Financial sponsors who pledge to financially support the sponsored alien in the event the alien applies for or receives public benefits will be expected to fulfill their commitment under law.</i></p> <p><i>Several major means-tested public benefits programs — including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — require updated procedures and guidance to ensure that the requirements of existing law are enforced. The purpose of this memorandum is to direct relevant agencies to update or issue procedures, guidance, and regulations, as needed, to ensure that ineligible non-citizens do not receive means-tested public benefits, in better compliance with the law.</i></p> <p>E-Verify - - Border crossings can be stopped by highly policed walls such as the Berlin wall. But the two thousand mile border with Mexico presents more challenges. E-Verify, run by the US Citizenship and Immigration Service allows</p>
---	---

	<p>employers to check whether documents presented by prospective employees correspond to an existing social security number. States that require it (Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah) have changed worker behavior according to studies. Curiously, candidate Trump promoted E-Verify which is popular, but has not referenced it as much since then. We will discuss E-Verify, how to make it more effective, and its current status in the debate over immigration.</p>
--	---

**NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Dr. Lawrence Mead, Professor of Politics, New York University</i></p> <p>Dr. Mead wrote the first conservative oriented treatment of the politics of welfare in his 1986 volume <i>Beyond Entitlement</i>, published just two years after <i>Losing Ground</i> by Charles Murray. Since then he has been the most prolific writer on conservative welfare policy, founding his own school of academic thought, <i>The New Paternalism</i>. He will discuss the concepts behind his most recent book, <u><i>Burdens of Freedom: Cultural Difference and American Power</i></u>.</p>
--	--



**SECRETARIES' INNOVATION GROUP  
SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS BY TOPIC: 2012-2024**

Please visit website for presentation materials: <http://www.secretariesinnovationgroup.org/>

**Housing, Medicaid, Culture, and Other Presentations  
JULY 12-13, 2023 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Howard Husock, author</i> <u>The Poor Side of Town: And Why We Need It</u></p>
--	--

**JUNE 22-23, 2022 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Stephen Eide, Manhattan Institute</i> Author: <u>Homelessness in America</u></p>
--	--

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2021 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Kay Hymowitz, The Manhattan Institute</i></p> <p>Kay S. Hymowitz is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor of City Journal. She writes extensively on childhood, family issues, poverty, and cultural change in America. Hymowitz is the author of <u>The New Brooklyn: What It Takes to Bring a City Back</u> (2017), <u>Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys</u> (2011), <u>Marriage and Caste in America: Separate and Unequal Families in a Post-Marital Age</u> (2006), and <u>Liberation's Children: Parents and Kids in a Postmodern Age</u> (2004). She has written for the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The New Republic, New York Newsday, Public Interest, The Wilson Quarterly, and Commentary. She holds a B.A. in English literature from Brandeis University and an M.A. in English literature from Columbia University.</p>
--	---

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2020 VIRTUAL**

<p><i>The Election - - What Happened and Where do Republicans go from here?</i></p>	<p><i>Michael Barone, author of the Almanac of American Politics and conservative commentator</i></p> <p>Since 1972 Barone has published the definitive detailed reference work on Congress and state politics. The author of seven books on US history and politics, he is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a regular contributor on the subject of elections and political trends at Fox News, US News and World Report, and the Washington Post op ed page.</p>
---	---

## HERITAGE - SIG JOINT ANTI-POVERTY SESSION WED. NOV 18

<b>Plenary</b>	<p><i>Jennifer Marshall, Heritage Foundation Moderator</i></p> <p>Panel: <i>Coming Together to Overcome Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jon Ponder, Chief Executive Officer, Hope for Prisoners</li> <li>● Evan Feinberg, Executive Director, Stand Together Foundation</li> </ul> <p>Panel: <i>Recovering the Person in the Midst of the Homelessness Debate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christopher Rufo, Visiting Fellow for Domestic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation, and Director, Center on Wealth and Poverty, Discovery Institute</li> <li>● Rev. Andy Bales, Chief Executive Officer, Union Rescue Mission</li> </ul> <p>Conversations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>On the principles and practices that can unite us</i> -- Robert L. Woodson, Sr., President, Woodson Center, and Founder, 1776 Unites</li> <li>● <i>On who's changing America for the better and how: Lessons from 15 Years of the WORLD Hope Award for Effective Compassion</i> -- Marvin Olasky, Editor in Chief, WORLD</li> <li>● <i>On the antipoverty policy outlook for 2021</i> -- Leslie Ford, Visiting Fellow in Domestic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation</li> </ul>
----------------	--

## JULY 10-11, 2019 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Politics of National Health Policy</i>	<p><i>Grace-Marie Turner, President, Galen Institute</i></p> <p>Government direct subsidies and indirect mandates now cover over half of all consumer medical spending. We are at risk of losing a robust independent private health care system. Medicare for All, while not in danger of being enacted right now, is part of a resolute liberal long term strategy.</p>
<i>Medicaid Policy and State Options</i>	<p><i>Seema Verma, Administrator, CMS</i></p> <p>Fifteen states, most with Republican governors, have requested or received Medicaid work waivers. These include AL, AZ, AR, IN, KY, MI, MA, NH, OH, OK, SD, TN, UT, VA, WI. Medicaid waivers are in a flux, with states, CMS, the courts and state legislatures all playing a role in this extension of new work policy. Administrator Verma and we will discuss together the current state of play, how SIG states are progressing with this central issue, as well as growing interest in Medicaid block grants.</p> <p>There are many other CMS options for states being offered by Administrator Verma and we will discuss these too.</p>
<i>Housing First</i>	<p><i>Kevin Corinth, Chief Economist for Domestic Policy, Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), Executive Office of the President</i>  <i>Ben Hobbs, Domestic Policy Council, Housing Programs</i>  <i>Paul Webster, Vice President, Solutions Enterprises, a San Diego housing non-profit</i></p> <p>For those who receive it, subsidized housing is more valuable than Food Stamps, Disability or TANF in the pantheon of welfare benefits. We don't pay as much attention to it because it is not in our program chain. And yet we should be aware of a change in the housing policy zeitgeist having to do with the distribution of these benefits. Most public housing benefits including entry into homeless</p>

	<p>shelters have been contingent upon certain behavioral conditions related to crime and substance abuse, for reasons affecting individual recipients themselves and the people around the housing stock they reside in.</p> <p>However, the public housing industry has now become enamored of “Housing First”, which posits that behavior pre-conditions such as engagement in substance abuse treatment should not affect the distribution of benefits. Yet the conditioning of benefits is essential.</p>
--	---

**NOVEMBER 14-15, 2018 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Dr. Lawrence Mead, Professor of Politics, New York University</i></p> <p>Dr. Mead wrote the first conservative oriented treatment of the politics of welfare in his 1986 volume <i>Beyond Entitlement</i>, published just two years after <i>Losing Ground</i> by Charles Murray. Since then he has been the most prolific writer on conservative welfare policy, founding his own school of academic thought, <i>The New Paternalism</i>. He will discuss the concepts behind his most recent book, <u><i>Burdens of Freedom: Cultural Difference and American Power</i></u>.</p>
--	--

**DECEMBER 5-7, 2017 WASHINGTON DC**

<p><i>HUD roundtable</i></p>	<p><i>Senior officials, Department of Housing and Urban Development</i></p> <p>How will public and subsidized housing residents fit in with Speaker Ryan’s universal work engagement legislative initiative? For years, public housing residents have been left out of national programs intended to encourage work and self- sufficiency. Beyond the benefits of work to residents themselves, HUD stands to gain a lot from increased rent paid by employed families. We will discuss mechanisms and plans to integrate housing programs with workforce and universal welfare-to-work.</p>
------------------------------	--

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2016 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>Myron Magnet, Editor Emeritus, City Journal Magazine</i></p> <p>Myron Magnet’s <i>The Dream and the Nightmare: The Sixties’ Legacy to the Underclass (1993)</i> argues that the radical transformation of elite and mainstream American culture that took place in the 1960s produced catastrophic changes in behavior at the bottom of society that gave rise to America’s urban underclass. President George W. Bush told the Wall Street Journal that the book was, after the Bible, the most important he had ever read.</p> <p>Magnet is the editor of <i>What Makes Charity Work? A Century of Public and Private Philanthropy (2000)</i>; <i>The Millennial City: A New Urban Paradigm for 21st-Century America(2001)</i>; <i>Modern Sex: Liberation and Its Discontents (2001)</i>; and <i>The Immigration Solution: A Better Plan than Today’s (2007)</i>.</p>
--	---

**JUNE 13-15, 2016 ATLANTA**

<p><i>Using participant journaling to re-direct and improve personal outcomes</i></p>	<p><i>George Braucht, Enhanced Supervision Program Coordinator, Georgia Department of Community Supervision (retired)</i></p> <p>When participants write and reflect on their experiences using structured journaling, a self-awareness can often develop which influences their subsequent life decisions. Applications of this approach apply to neglectful parents, domestic violence perpetrators, returning offenders, juvenile offenders and more. Can it also help solve more prosaic dilemmas such as idleness? Results from the field.</p>
<p><i>Reaching independents with conservative solutions</i></p>	<p><i>Heather Higgins, CEO, Independent Women's Voice</i></p> <p>Heather has effectively used compassion and fairness to reach women and independents with a conservative message. They are 19 and 3 in elections that were considered toss-up or worse.</p> <p>Example: In the wake of the 2011 legislature walkout in Wisconsin, Heather's organization, the Independent Women's Voice, was the only group making calls to 700,000 independents and non-pro-life women with an ad which redefined compassion. The ad together with phone calls helped win the closely contested Wisconsin supreme court election, preventing the reversal of Gov. Walker's bold move with government unions. Then in the Governor's subsequent recall, Heather's group set out to change people's minds about what was fair, proving the dramatic efficacy of that approach as compared to a real world control group.</p>
	<p><i>Heather MacDonald, City Journal Magazine</i></p> <p>Using a combination of beat reporting, trenchant analysis and feminine intuition, prize winning essayist and author Heather MacDonald is unsurpassed.</p>
<p><i>Managing Sovereign Relationships</i></p>	<p><i>Steve Corsi, Director, Wyoming</i></p> <p>Western and rural states in particular struggle with lack of authority over tribal programs. Wyoming has certain legislative accomplishments and Steve will explain the resulting improvements.</p>

**NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 WASHINGTON DC**

	<p><i>John Fund, columnist for National Review Online, the American Spectator and formerly Wall Street Journal editorial page</i></p>
<p><i>Communications</i></p>	<p><i>Hilary Gowins, Illinois Policy Institute and Jason Turner</i></p> <p>Creating human interest stories for media and legislative hearings. How human services agencies can institutionalize the collection and use of personal stories.</p>

**JUNE 21-24, 2015 CHICAGO**

<p><i>Family income and the welfare effect. The EITC and fraud.</i></p>	<p><i>Robert Rector, Senior Research Fellow, DeVos Center for Religion and Domestic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation; and Erik Randolph, Senior Fellow, Illinois Policy Institute</i></p>
---	--

	Stacked welfare benefits with phase outs make it very difficult to increase family income as a result of wage increases. EITC is rife with fraud.
<i>State health policy post-Supreme Court decision</i>	<p><i>Nathan Nascimento and Michael Ramlat, Health-care Policy Directors, Freedom Partners</i></p> <p>In late June, about the time of the SIG conference, the Supreme Court will issue its decision on Obamacare. If it rules adversely to Obamacare all bets are off - - How should states respond to this upending decision so as to press for affirmative alternatives to this misguided law?</p>

## NOVEMBER 19-21, 2014 WASHINGTON DC

<i>Joseph Antos, Wilson H. Taylor Scholar in Health Care and Retirement Policy, AEI</i>	The unfolding labor and economic consequences of implementing Obamacare
<i>Amitai Etzioni, University Professor and Professor of International Affairs, Director, Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies, The George Washington University</i>	Author of <u>The New Normal: Finding a Balance between Individual Rights and the Common Good</u> . He discusses the future of the middle class and why we should look for more profound pleasures than further acquisition of goods.
<i>Susan Dreyfus, President and CEO, Alliance for Children and Families; Matt Weidinger, staff director Ways and Means; and Ron Haskins, Brookings Institution</i>	Should we block grant IVB and IVE with performance measures? Pros and cons with cost implications.

## JUNE 26-27, 2014 ATLANTA

<i>Around the table - -</i>	Governor Election Update:
Secretaries give two minute status report	Who is up, who is down? Latest from polls; treacherous waters; opportunities for gains.
<i>Legislative updates</i>	House committee staff members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Matt Weidinger, Republican Staff Director, Human Resources Subcommittee, U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means</li> <li>● Ted McCann, Budget Analyst, U.S. House Committee on the Budget</li> <li>● Drew Wayne, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Tom Reed (NY-23)</li> </ul>
	Renee Glover, former President and CEO, Atlanta Housing Authority  Commenter - - Larry Woods, <i>Executive Director and CEO, Housing Authority of the City of Winston-Salem</i>
<i>Communications</i>	SIG Chair Eloise Anderson, Secretary, Wisconsin Dept. of Children and Families
How conservatives should talk about our beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jo Kwong, Philanthropy Roundtable Director of Economic Opportunity Programs</li> </ul>

## **AUGUST 2-3, 2013 MILWAUKEE**

<b>Arizona et al</b>	Member Clarence Carter will describe his initiative for a complete review of the state safety net system Clarence is looking for input from SIG members to help inform his far reaching changes. SIG-wide discussion of both ambitious and shorter term system changes, e g. emanating from our Federalism Issue Brief.
<b>Paul Ryan (invited)</b>	Our hotel is a block from the Milwaukee Convention Center where NGA (and RGA) are holding forth. We will be working with RGA in preparations for our sessions to invite and interact with governors and chiefs of staff throughout our day and evening events. More as it develops closer to the event.
<b>Obamacare</b>	How it affects your human services business. What can be done to minimize its impact. Are you finding employers hiring entry level part- time only to avoid the health care burdens? Grace Marie Turner, Galen Institute