Getting a Job, Keeping a Job: Services and Supports that Promote Employment Among People with Disabilities

**Presenters**

**Noelle Denny-Brown, Mathematica Policy Research**

Noelle Denny-Brown is a senior researcher at Mathematica who works with disability policy, particularly interventions that support people with disabilities in finding or sustaining employment. She is currently co-directing implementation of the Benefit Offset National Demonstration, funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA), which is testing variants of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) rules governing work and other supports. She is also leading analysis of program implementation for the national evaluation of the Money Follows the Person Demonstration, funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She has a master’s in public administration from the University of Connecticut.

**Arif Mamun, Mathematica Policy Research**

An associate director of human services research at Mathematica, Arif Mamun specializes in the design and implementation of experimental and non-experimental evaluations. His work covers a range of areas, from disability policy and international development to education and family support. Recently, Dr. Mamun completed several studies on employment among Social Security disability beneficiaries, including a rigorous evaluation of the original rollout of SSA's Ticket to Work program. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Social Security Bulletin*, *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, and *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington.

**John O'Neill, Kessler Foundation**

John O'Neill, director of disability and employment research at the Kessler Foundation, is a nationally recognized expert in the employment of people with disabilities. He co-directs two Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs) funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), one focusing on disability statistics and demographics and the other on individual-level characteristics related to employment for people with disabilities. Dr. O'Neill is also a former principal investigator of the RRTC on the community integration of people with traumatic brain injury, and he worked for more than eight years on NIDRR-funded research to improve the quality of vocational rehabilitation for people with AIDS.
For six years, he sat on the New York Rehabilitation Council and was the council’s representative working with the state’s vocational rehabilitation agency to create a comprehensive system of personnel development. Dr. O’Neill also directed the graduate program in rehabilitation counseling at Hunter College, CUNY, for 25 years. He has a Ph.D. in rehabilitation counselor education from Syracuse University.

**DISCUSSANT**

**David Wittenburg, Mathematica Policy Research**

David Wittenburg, an associate director of health research at Mathematica, is an expert in interventions promoting employment for people with disabilities and in the analysis of disability statistics. He is principal investigator for a random assignment study of the Accelerated Benefits Demonstration for SSA, which focuses on whether short-term investments in medical benefits for certain SSDI beneficiaries will increase their likelihood of returning to work. He is also working on several other evaluations for SSA, including the Benefit Offset National Demonstration, the Youth Transition Demonstration, and the Consultative Examinations project. Dr. Wittenburg publishes widely and has authored chapters in *The Decline in Employment of People with Disabilities: A Policy Puzzle* and *Paying for Results in Vocational Rehabilitation: Will Provider Incentives Work for Ticket to Work?* He served as an expert reviewer for NIDRR and publishes in journals such as the *Social Services Review, Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, and *Journal of Labor Economics*. He has a Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University.