



Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Meeting

October 29, 2019

Meeting Attendee Biographies

K. Jane Williams

Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration,
Department of Transportation

Ms. Williams is currently the Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and has served at FTA since August 2017. Ms. Williams brings over 20 years of executive experience to her role, having served previously at the Department of Energy and Department of Labor under President Reagan and the Department of Interior under President George H.W. Bush. Ms. Williams leads an agency of more than 500 people located in Washington D.C. and 10 regional offices across the country. Ms. Williams has focused on implementing Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao's three priorities of safety, infrastructure investment and innovation in all of FTA's programs and initiatives.



Bruce Robinson

Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Program Management,
Federal Transit Administration, *Department of Transportation*

Mr. Robinson has served as the Acting Associate Administrator for FTA's Office of Program Management since April 2018, and previously served as the Deputy Associate Administrator since 2012. Before joining the Office of Program Management, he served as the Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation. Mr. Robinson joined the Department of Transportation in 1997 within the Office of Acquisition Management of the Federal Highway Administration. He holds a Master of Arts from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





Anne DeCesaro

Director of Policy and Regulations, Office of the Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, *Department of Agriculture*

Ms. DeCesaro has served as the Director of Policy and Regulation since October 2019. Prior to USDA, Ms. DeCesaro served as the staff director for the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means, having also served as professional staff from 2011 to 2014, covering a range of programs to support children and families. In 2015, she was the lead staffer on the House Agriculture Committee Subcommittee on Nutrition guiding their review of SNAP. Prior to her time spent on Capitol Hill, Ms. DeCesaro was a program examiner in the Income Maintenance branch of the Office of Management and Budget and a published researcher of households of low income at the Social Security Administration.



Erin McHugh

Senior Advisor to the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, *Department of Education*

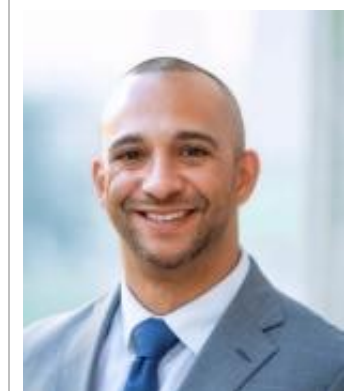
Ms. McHugh serves as a Senior Advisor, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD) at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, Ms. McHugh provides advice, guidance, and support to OPEPD's Assistant Secretary on mission-critical issues, initiatives, and cross-agency functions. In addition to management and supervision of offices within OPEPD, Ms. McHugh is responsible for policy planning and development, including discretionary grants policy and the implementation of related process improvements and of evidence-based practices across the Department.



Leith States

Acting Chief Medical Officer, *Department of Health and Human Services*

Dr. States has served as the Acting Chief Medical Officer for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services since July 2019. He has published previously on pediatric oncology molecular biology and has been actively involved with development and implementation of clinical programs aimed at improving preventive care services delivery to veterans living with HIV/AIDS. He has also served as a fellow with the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, HHS, engaging in research on patient-centered health information technology. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and multiple unit and campaign awards.



**Mary Lazare**

Principal Deputy Administrator for the Administration for Community Living, *Department of Health and Human Services*

Ms. Lazare has served as the Principal Deputy Administrator for the Administration for Community Living since June 2017. Prior to this role, Ms. Lazare served as Vice President of Senior Care Facilities and Community Health Ministries at Ascension Health, the nation's largest health system. As Vice President, Ms. Lazare provided community health center oversight; and advanced advocacy work with government relations officials. Ms. Lazare also previously served as Vice President of Senior Services and Home Care Services at BJC Health Care, as well as Executive Director for the Jewish Center for the Aged, for a 280 bed Medicare/Medicaid Skilled Nursing Facility.

**Seth D. Appleton**

Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, *Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Mr. Appleton has served as the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research since June 2019. He is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on policy matters, research and demonstrations, economic information, innovation, international programs, and philanthropic initiatives. From 2009 to 2017, Mr. Appleton worked as the Chief of Staff for Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), and more recently served as both Associate Deputy Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary within the Department.

**Tara Katuk Mac Lean Sweeney***

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, *Department of the Interior*

Ms. Sweeney has served as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs since June 2018 and assists and supports the Secretary of the Interior in fulfilling the United States' trust responsibility to the federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and villages and individual Indian trust beneficiaries. She has spent her professional career working to empower Native organizations and communities through advocacy at all levels of government, with a strong focus on the Federal process.



* The invitees for the Department of the Interior and the Social Security Administration did not attend the CCAM Meeting.



Ed Puccerella

Senior Advisor to the Office of the Assistant Attorney General,
Department of Justice

Mr. Puccerella is a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General at the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Puccerella has more than two decades of experience in key positions in Government and the private sector, working with complex, multifaceted legislative, technical and policy issues. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, he served as a professional staffer on Capitol Hill. His background includes stints on the Committee staff of the House Budget Committee, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the House Administration Committee, as well as serving as the Director of Congressional Affairs for the Office of the Inspector General at Amtrak during the passage and implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).



Mark Zelden

Director, Centers for Faith and Opportunity Initiative, *Department of Labor*

Mr. Zelden is the Director of the Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Labor. Previously, he was the Director of Budget and Finance for President Trump's initial team at the Labor Department. He was also a member of the Trump Transition Team for the budget. Before joining the Administration, Mr. Zelden was an executive with CRC Global Solutions in New Orleans, LA, an international transport, shipping and logistics company. He was a Legislative Assistant to former Congressman Robert Livingston (R-LA) from 1994 to 1997 and Legislative Director for Congressman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) from 1997 to 1999.



Garth Miller

Executive Director of Member Services, Veterans Health Administration, *Department of Veterans Affairs*

Mr. Miller has served as Executive Director of Member Services for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) since August 2017. He leads more than 1,900 Team Members and executes an annual budget of more than \$150 million. Under his leadership, VHA Member Services facilitates access to VA healthcare and support services for Veterans and their families through three distinct business lines: the Health Eligibility Center, the Health Resource Center, and the Veterans Transportation Program.



**Michael Akinyele**

Acting VA Chief Innovation Officer and Executive Director of the VA Innovation Center, *Department of Veterans Affairs*

Mr. Akinyele is responsible for leading, transforming and scaling enterprise innovation as the Acting VA Chief Innovation Officer and Executive Director of the VA Innovation Center in the Office of Enterprise Integration. He joined the VA in 2017 to serve as a Senior Advisor to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, the senior executive responsible for providing management oversight for the VA's 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks and ~1,300 sites of care. Mr. Akinyele started his career managing physician practices in the Washington, D.C. metro area. He earned his Master's in Business Administration from Stanford Graduate School of Business and graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Economics from Howard University.

**Neil Romano**

Chairperson of the National Council on Disability, *National Council on Disability*

Mr. Romano has served as the Chairperson of the National Council on Disability since February 2018, and as a member since 2015. He is the principal advisor to all branches and levels of government on disability advocacy, awareness, and inclusion. Mr. Romano fulfills his advisory role by publishing reports and promoting disability policies, programs, procedures, and practices that enhance equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities. Mr. Romano served as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy within the George W. Bush administration.

**Leola Brooks***

Senior Advisor, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, *Social Security Administration*

Ms. Brooks serves as the Senior Advisor within the Office of Retirement and Disability Policy and as liaison to other offices located within the Social Security Administration to support disability research efforts. She has served on numerous interagency groups, including the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID), the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, the Interagency Disability Policy Group (DPG) and the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility's Federal work group on interagency collaboration. Prior to Federal service, Ms. Brooks managed and developed disability-related programs for the District of Columbia.



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