



CHARTER
of the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
of the
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Subcommittee on Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) was established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Science (CoS) in June 2004 and re-chartered in November 2011. This subcommittee was reconstituted as the Subcommittee on Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) in October 2015 and was extended until April 2018. This SBS Subcommittee is now being rechartered.

B. Purpose and Scope

The SBS is rechartered in response to the charges of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018; the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support of Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government; and the January 27, 2021 Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking, to prioritize and expand the scope of evidence-based methods in support of Federal policymaking—particularly to advance equity. The SBS provides executive departments and agencies a forum for discussing the use of social and behavioral science methods and evidence to promote these goals in light of these disciplines’ unique role in describing, understanding, and addressing societal challenges and assessing and evaluating initiatives, programs, and policies promulgated by the Federal government. The SBS will carry out short-term, high-priority tasks associated with elevating best practices regarding the creation and use of social and behavioral science evidence in Federal practices and policies, and then will lay the groundwork for longer-term coordination of agency efforts related to these topics. The first short-term task will be to deliver whole-of-government framework or “blueprint” for the use of social and behavioral science research to advance evidence-based policymaking. The deadline for this task is April 30, 2023.

C. Functions

The main functions of the SBS are to (no order of priority is implied):

- Improve coordination and collaboration of social and behavioral sciences R&D agendas across Federal agencies and departments in service of evidence-to-practice and evidence-to-policy translation;
- Identify where and how social and behavioral sciences can be used to advance cross-cutting national evidence-building priorities and recommend action on relevant R&D issues and policy implications to the CoS;
- Serve as a resource for Federal agencies and departments regarding the ways in which social and behavioral research might facilitate accomplishment of their program and policy goals and broader missions; and
- Provide guidance and expertise to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other NSTC subcommittees on matters related to social and behavioral science research and evidence use across the Federal government.

In conducting its work, the SBS may, as needed:

- Liaise between the OSTP Director, Heads of Departments and Agencies, the OMB Director, Evaluation Officer Council, Chief Data Officer Council, Chief Information Officers, Chief Performance Officers, and members of the Interagency Council for Statistical Policy to best optimize, streamline, and prevent duplicative work across the Federal government;
- Convene meetings with and gather input from relevant members of executive departments and agencies.
- Consult and collaborate with other NSTC groups; and
- Create Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Fast-Track Action Committees to execute specific tasks.

D. Membership

The following departments and agencies are represented on the SBS:

Department of Agriculture;
 Department of Commerce;
 Department of Defense;
 Department of Education;
 Department of Energy;
 Department of Health and Human Services (co-chair);
 Department of Homeland Security;
 Department of the Interior;
 Department of Justice;
 Department of Labor;
 Department of State;
 Department of the Treasury;

Department of Transportation;
Department of Veterans Affairs;
Environmental Protection Agency;
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
National Science Foundation (co-chair);
Smithsonian Institution; and
U.S. Agency for International Development.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are represented in SBS:

Council of Economic Advisers;
Domestic Policy Council;
National Economic Council;
Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy (co-chair).

The SBS shall designate representatives from other executive organizations, departments, agencies, offices, and commissions as needed.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The SBS may work with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to secure appropriate private-sector advice, and will recommend to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The SBS may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Executive Director of NSTC, the SBS shall terminate no later than February 28, 2025.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the re-establishment of the Subcommittee on Social and Behavioral Sciences is in the public interest in connection with the performance duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



Alondra Nelson
Performing the Duties of Director, OSTP
Co-chair, Committee on Science, NSTC

5/24/22

Date



Kei Koizumi
Principal Deputy Director for Policy, OSTP
Acting Executive Director, NSTC

4/4/22

Date



Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director, National Science Foundation
Co-chair, Committee on Science, NSTC

4/4/2022

Date

Lawrence A. Tabak -S

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Date: 2022.04.02 11:56:49 -04'00'

Lawrence A. Tabak
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health
Co-chair, Committee on Science, NSTC

Date