

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

February 2008



INSPECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DANIEL LEVINSON
IG HHS, Chair

TODD ZINSER
IG Commerce

CARL CLINEFELTER
IG FCA

GLENN FINE
IG Justice

GEOFFREY JOHNSON
Acting IG Peace Corps

VACANT
IG State

KENT NILSSON
IG FCC

GEORGE OPFER
IG VA

JON RYMER
IG FDIC



FOR MORE INFORMATION...

For more information about any item in this newsletter, or to contribute suggestions for future newsletters, please contact Cynthia Thomas at cynthia.thomas@oig.hhs.gov.

NEW I&E COMMITTEE MEMBER BRINGS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE TO THE IG COMMUNITY



On December 26, 2007, Todd J. Zinser was sworn in as the fifth Inspector General of the

U.S. Department of Commerce. Mr. Zinser brings a wealth of experience to his position, spending the majority of his 24-year career in public service as a member of the Inspector General community. Mr. Zinser began his Government career in 1983 as an investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor. He joined the Department of Transportation in 1991, serving as special-agent-in-charge of OIG's New York regional Office of Investigations, and worked his way up the ladder to become Deputy Inspector General in 2001. Mr. Zinser has received numerous awards for superior performance and leadership throughout his career, including the Secretary of Transportation's 9-11 Medal and two Gold Medals—the first for

his work with the Department's Hurricane Katrina Task Force and the second for his involvement in Transportation's response to the collapse of the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis in 2007. He was recently awarded the Transportation IG's Bronze Medal for superior achievement as Deputy Inspector General. Mr. Zinser holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northern Kentucky University and a master's degree in Political Science from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He has also completed the Senior Managers in Government program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. We welcome Mr. Zinser to the Department of Commerce and look forward to benefiting from his extensive experience through his membership on the I & E Committee.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next I&E Committee meeting will be held in March at a date to be determined.

For more information, please contact Sheri Denkensohn at sheri.denkensohn@oig.hhs.gov.

EASTERN EVALUATION RESEARCH SOCIETY WILL HOLD 31st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 31st Eastern Evaluation Research Society (EERS) annual conference will take place from April 13-15, 2008. EERS will continue its long tradition of providing the most informative and friendly regional conference in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. The conference will feature evaluators from the public, private, and non-profit sectors discussing evaluation methods, skills, and uses within multiple environments. Conference presentations, workshops, interactive sessions, and skill-building sessions will focus on the use of evaluation in many fields, including evaluations related to community-based programs, education, health and social services, and criminal justice. The conference theme, Evidence-Based Evaluation: Balancing Rigor, Relevance, and Reality, will help to focus all of the presentations of the conference on practical issues relevant to all those that conduct and use evaluations.

2007 I&E SURVEY

The 2007 I&E Survey is now available on the IGET at www.ignet.gov/pande/ie/2007IEsurveyfinal.pdf.



The annual conference provides a wonderful opportunity to network with fellow evaluation practitioners and to learn from some of the premiere evaluators in the field. Past conferences have featured Peter Rossi, Melvin Mark, Karen Kirkhart, Nick Smith, George Grob, Henry Levin, Laura Leviton, David Fetterman, William Morrill, Gary Henry, and Michael Scriven.

TRAINING WORK GROUP HOLDS 1st MEETING

Representatives from the I&E community met on Monday, February 4, 2008, at the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this initial meeting was to assess the overall goals for the coming year regarding training needs in the I&E community. Both the long-term and short-term training needs were discussed. The workgroup decided to pursue holding a 2-day training conference during this fiscal year and to use the conference as an opportunity to assess ongoing training needs. The feedback from the conference will be used as a foundation to facilitate the planning of future training for the I & E community. The workgroup will be sending out a data call to the I&E Roundtable to assess interest in attending the training conference.

Presently, the FDIC Training Center in Arlington, Virginia is being explored as a potential location. If you are interested in participating in the planning of the training conference, please send an e-mail to sheri.denkensohn@oig.hhs.gov. Please indicate whether you are interested in working on logistics or planning the conference program.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

If your I&E unit is conducting a training course in-house and there are extra slots, please consider opening the training to others in the community. In addition, if you have a positive experience with an outside speaker, training vendor, or training course, please share that information with your colleagues in the community. Send information to cynthia.thomas@oig.hhs.gov and we will disseminate it to the I&E Roundtable. Thank you!



HAPPENINGS

If you are interested in participating on the External Review Workgroup, please contact Cynthia Thomas at cynthia.thomas@oig.hhs.gov or 410-786-7896.