

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

October 2008



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**FOR MORE
INFORMATION...**

For more information about any item in this newsletter, or to contribute suggestions for future newsletters, please contact Anne Bracken at anne.bracken@oig.hhs.gov.

INTERIOR HOSTS I&E ROUNDTABLE MEETING

The I&E Roundtable held a meeting at the Department of Interior (DOI) on September 16, 2008. Roundtable Chair Stuart Wright thanked IG Earl Devaney for hosting the meeting. IG Devaney provided the Roundtable with a brief overview of DOI OIG. IG Devaney stressed the importance of inspections and evaluations within the IG community. Stuart Wright presented the results of the recent External Review Workgroup Survey. The External Review Survey respondents reflected a wide range of diversity in terms of size, staff composition, and locations within their respective OIG offices. The survey found that almost all respondents supported developing an approach for conducting external quality control reviews for I&E units. Respondents indicated that such reviews could ensure compliance with established standards, provide opportunities to adjust and update existing standards and procedures, allow for information sharing among evaluation offices, and increase credibility. The survey showed that most respondents



believed any approach to external reviews should be voluntary and initially conducted as a pilot. The survey also found that almost all respondents indicated that they already use an approach for conducting quality control reviews, with most offices using staff within their own organizations to conduct these reviews. These reviews are primarily intended to ensure compliance with standards and procedures and to ensure that findings and recommendations are adequately supported in work papers. Additionally, about half of respondents did express concerns with external quality control processes. These concerns focused on the time and resources necessary to both conduct and receive such a review. A few respondents also commented on the diversity of inspection and evaluation units and the challenges associated with creating a standardized review protocol given this diversity. The External Review Workgroup will hold another meeting to discuss the next steps for the voluntary external review process. Information will be forthcoming. The complete meeting minutes will be sent to members in the near future.

UPCOMING MEETING

A host is needed for the Spring 2009 I&E Roundtable meeting. If your office would like to host the next I&E Roundtable, please contact Anne Bracken at anne.bracken@oig.hhs.gov.

SAVE THE DATE

The I&E Training Conference is scheduled for June 16–17, 2009. Details coming soon!