



Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington DC 20006-4614

January 8, 2010 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 8, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:15 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General U.S. Department of Agriculture
Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General U.S. Department of Transportation
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Mary Mitchelson, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Proxy Attendee (Non-voting): Herbert Richardson, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
John Higgins, Director, Accountability
Don Salo, Assistant Director, Procurement and Grant Compliance
Kevin Thorn, Fraud Program Analyst
Tara Porter, Board Secretary

DISCUSSION

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of Board members present, the December 18, 2009 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair, briefed Board members on the status of the January 2010 recipient reporting. Mr. George indicated that FederalReporting.gov was operating well. Mr. Devaney provided statistical information on the recipient reports submitted to date and agreed to provide the Recovery.gov Committee members with daily statistical updates during the reporting period. Mr. Devaney explained that the recipient reporting deadline was extended from January 10 to January 15, 2010.

Mr. Devaney discussed the changes to the job estimates calculation and provided Board members with talking points that can be use to respond to questions on how the calculation changed.

Mr. Scovel, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Chair, provided an overview of the Inspector General community's data quality work. Mr. Scovel noted that the first data quality report was posted to Recovery.gov on December 22, 2009; seven OIGs are currently working on a second report that will be submitted to the Board in early February; and future efforts will focus on the effectiveness of the agencies' data quality review processes.

Mr. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce, provided an update on the Contract and Grant Staffing Qualifications report. Based on comments received on the draft report, Mr. Zinser noted that additional analysis was being performed to show the results of the survey based on the size of the agencies that responded. Mr. Zinser also indicated that there was disagreement as to whether the report should include recommendations. After some discussion as to whether to include the recommendations, the Board members agreed to resolve the issue at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice, reported on behalf of the Accountability Committee that the Recovery Operations Center was fully engaged, processing complaints from the Recovery Hotline, and forwarding leads to the appropriate OIGs. Mr. Fine also reported that the Recovery Operations Center was continuing to gather data to be used in the screening and analysis of Recovery Act recipients.

Mr. Devaney reported that he has reorganized the staff that supports the Board and provided the Board members with a revised organization chart that reflects the changes. Mr. Devaney explained that as part of the reorganization, the staff is reviewing possible changes to the processes for making referrals to OIGs. Mr. Devaney also indicated that Senator Pryor has inquired about which OIGs have received referrals and when they were received.

Mr. Devaney informed the Board that General Counsel Jennifer Dure will be splitting her time between DOI OIG and the Board. Mr. Devaney also noted that the IT staff that supports the Board will be moving to a different floor.

Tara A. Porter
Secretary