



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

**September 2, 2011 Minutes**

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, September 2, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:10 p.m.

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:**

Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board  
Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense  
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury  
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration  
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cynthia A. Schnedar, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice

**Non Proxy Attendee:**

Mary Mitchelson, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education  
Brian Dettlebach, Assistant Inspector General for Legal, Legislative and External Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation

**Board Staff:**

Michael Wood, Executive Director  
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff  
Cheryl Arvidson, Assistant Director, Communications  
Alan Boehm, Assistant Director, Accountability  
A.J. Benavidez, Deputy Assistant Director, Operations  
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board members present, the July 1, 2011 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Chair of the Recovery.gov Committee, outlined three key committee issues: the Quarter 3, CY 2011 Recipient Reporting timeline, new features on Recovery.gov, and changes to the Administration's cost estimates for the Recovery Act program. Mr. Wood informed the members that the new cost estimate for the Recovery program is \$840 billion and that changes in monetary amounts have occurred for all three categories of awards. He added, that the new amounts and the updated descriptions are now published on Recovery.gov. Mr. Devaney remarked that the Board proceeded with the changes once official communication from the Administration was received.

Mr. Wood provided the members with information on several new Recovery.gov features. These include prominent displays of the work of the Inspectors General and the development of profile summaries for all ARRA recipients. He commented that the recipient profile summaries

provide detailed award information from a central website location and provide key relationship information between prime and sub-recipients.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group (RFG) Committee presented the findings from the recently completed Working Group projects on ARRA suspension and debarment (S&D) practices at ARRA agencies, and the pilot review of recipient reported jobs data. Ms. Kendall recommended that the report summarizing the ARRA S&D Survey results be forwarded to the ARRA agencies under cover memo from the Chairman in advance of the upcoming Suspension and Debarment Conference. Mr. Devaney concurred with this recommendation. Ms. Kendall informed the members that the specific timeline for publishing the report is being determined.

Ms. Kendall provided the members with a synopsis of the pilot review of recipient reported jobs, noting that the review had not uncovered any clear patterns of misreporting and that all nine recipients had complied with federal ARRA job reporting requirements. Ms. Kendall informed the members that due to the vast amount of resources needed to conduct a full statistically valid review, the Committee recommends an assessment of the Inspectors General (IG) ARRA audit work to determine the extent to which audits of jobs data exist or are planned. The members concurred with this recommendation. The RFG Committee agreed to disseminate a brief survey to the IG community and report the findings at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Benavidez, on behalf of Ms. Tighe who was absent, provided an update on projects and initiatives from the Accountability Committee. He reported that Single Audit and Dunn and Bradstreet data have been incorporated into the Recovery Operation Center's (ROC) platform. Mr. Benavidez discussed the status of the newly developed fraud risk scorecard. He also briefed the members on the Board's latest initiative, FastAlert, which is designed to assist agencies with pre-award screening. Mr. Devaney noted that the technology for the FastAlert initiative has been developed and that the business rules should be finalized shortly.

Mr. Zinser engaged the members in a discussion of the Dodd-Frank Act and its impact on his agency's operations. He canvassed the group for suggested approaches to initiate a discussion with the appropriate parties. Ms. Fong reported that the Legislative Committee within the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) conducted a survey several months ago to identify the IG agencies impacted by the legislation. The members suggested that the CIGIE Legislation Committee conduct follow-up discussions with the IGs identified in the earlier survey. A follow-up meeting with the Office of Management and Budget was also discussed.

Mr. Devaney provided the members with an update on the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB). There was a brief discussion of the GATB's composition and mission. Mr. Devaney informed the members that the President's Executive Order requires the GATB to identify implementation guidelines for a government-wide transparency and accountability solution by December 2011. He commented that the GATB also hopes to provide input to Congress on the pending DATA Act legislation.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011.