



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

November 4, 2011 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, November 4, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:05 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
Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Charles Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

Non Proxy Attendee:

William Blier, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
Lynne M. Halbrooks, Principal Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
John Hartman, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy
Joseph I. Hungate, Principal Deputy Inspector General for Tax Administration

Board Staff:

Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff
Alan Boehm, Assistant Director, Accountability
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Martin, Deputy Assistant Director, Recovery Operations Center
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
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 September 2, 2011 minutes were approved.

Mr. Bezark on behalf of Mr. George, who was absent, provided an update on the activities of the Recovery.gov Committee. He provided the members reporting statistics on the 9th ARRA Recipient Reporting Period and the Education Jobs Fund Awards. He informed the members that all reports had been published timely and successfully on the Recovery.gov and Educationjobsfund.gov websites. Mr. Bezark briefed the members on the most recent enhancements to the Recovery.gov website. These included the development of ARRA recipient profile summaries and the simplification of the website's home page. Chairman Devaney provided the members with the background information that influenced the decision to make these improvements and noted that the enhancements focus on the needs of average citizens and highlight the areas of most interest to the users.

Ms. Kendall, Chair of the Recovery Funds Working Group (RFG) Committee presented the findings from a recent assessment of the Inspectors General (IG) ARRA audit work, which determined the extent to which audits of jobs data exist or are planned. She reported that 12 IGs have started and/or completed a total of 61 audits on ARRA job data. She noted that the next step will be to review the universe of audits to document the scope, objectives, and findings. A determination of the need for additional jobs related audit work will be presented to the members once the review is completed. Ms. Kendall then briefed the members on a proposed RFG project to identify actions, mechanisms, and processes implemented by the departments or agencies, the respective Offices of Inspector General, and the RATB that were effective or not in the implementation and administration of Recovery Act programs. Most members agreed that the Committee should pursue the project. Chairman Devaney commented on the significance of the project. He also commented on a recent article authored by former Recovery Official Ed Deseve documenting seven of the lessons learned from the Recovery Act Program. Mr. Pound agreed to forward the article electronically to the members.

Ms. Tighe, Chair of the Accountability Committee, provided a summary of Committee activities. She informed the members of the recent decision to relocate the Recovery Operations Center (ROC) hotline from New Orleans to the Recovery Board Office. She noted that the move was based primarily on call volume and cost. Ms. Tighe discussed the analytical tools that have been added to the ROC's platform. These include sophisticated integration and data quality management tools such as IN-SPIRE, iConnex, Endeca, and HANA. Additional fraud risk estimation tools were also discussed such as the FASTAlert tool designed to provide federal agencies pre-award risk indications and continuous oversight during the award lifecycle. Mr. Martin provided an overview of proactive initiatives underway in the ROC. These include the newly designed Risk Scorecard, Geographic Information System, (GIS) capabilities, and joint pilots with the Veterans Administration and the Small Business Administration. He also provided the members with a list of the current datasets in use in the ROC.

Mr. Devaney provided the members with an update on the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board) activities. He outlined the tentative meeting schedule and briefly discussed the focus of the report being prepared by the GAT Board for the President.

The Chairman acknowledged this meeting as his last and thanked the members for their dedication and the opportunity to serve as their Chairman. He reminded the members that the hallmark of the Recovery Board mission is much broader than the Recovery Board and encouraged them to continue the important work of implementing government-wide transparency and accountability.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary