



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

May 7, 2010 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, May 7, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

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

Proxy Attendee (Non-Voting):

Mary Mitchelson, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Ben Mehlman, Audit Program Director, U.S. Department of Defense

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
John Higgins, Director, Accountability
Douglas Hasebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations
Michael Wood, Director, Recovery.gov
James Warren, Assistant Director, Information Technology
Eric Lippold, Assistant Director, Finance and Budget
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 April 9, 2010 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Recovery.gov, Committee Chair, noted that the Committee had not met since the last Board meeting. Mr. Wood, Director, Recovery.gov, updated the Board members on the results of the April 2010 quarterly reporting. Mr. Wood also noted that Recovery.gov moved to a "cloud computing" environment as of April 26, 2010. The cloud environment being used is U.S.-based and will provide the Board with additional flexibility and long-term cost savings. Chairman Devaney noted that the typical security issues associated with the cloud environment were mitigated since the Recovery.gov data is public.

Mr. Devaney notified the Board members that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has agreed to change Recovery Act guidance to obtain job numbers from sub-contractors. Mr. Devaney also informed the Board members that OMB has been discussing the possibility of using the Board's technology solutions to improve USASpending.gov. In addition, OMB has approached the Board to assist with a pilot project with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This will enable the Board to examine Recovery Act funds that are being used for entitlement funding.

Mr. Calvin Scovel, Chair, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee, notified the Board members that the Working Group meetings attended by all 29 OIGs involved in Recovery Act oversight would be changed from monthly to quarterly. Mr. Scovel also provided an overview of the Working Group's three on-going initiatives:

- Effectiveness of Agencies' Data Quality Reviews – 6 OIGs have completed field work and will submit a consolidated report to the Board for review and approval in June 2010.
- Accuracy of Recipient Reported Data – 5 OIGs have begun work and plan to submit a report to the Board for review and approval in September 2010.
- Data Collection Work Group – 5 OIGs are reviewing the data that the Board is/wants to collect from the oversight community and will make a recommendation to the Board on collecting additional data elements.

Mr. Richard Skinner, Chair, Accountability Committee, noted that the Board had signed an MOU with FINCEN and is working with NCIC to obtain data. Mr. Skinner also noted that 23 OIGs have provided the Board with information on over 500 Recovery Act-related complaints. Mr. Skinner indicated that the Board's Recovery Fraud Hotline has received over 1700 complaints to date and the Board has sent 138 leads to OIGs. Mr. Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations, reported that the Committee was exploring how to share the Recovery Operation Centers (ROC) analytical platform with OIGs, which will enable the ROC to share leads via the platform rather than sending pdf packages to the OIGs.

Mr. Eric Lippold, Assistant Director, Finance and Budget, provided the Board members with an overview of the Board's financial status. Mr. Lippold noted that to date the Board has expended about 50% of what it expects to spend for the entire fiscal year, which is in line with the spending plan.

Mr. James Warren, Assistant Director, Information Technology, provided the Board members with an overview of the Board's information technology governance framework which is used to monitor the Board's information technology contracts used for Recovery.gov and FederalReporting.gov.

Mr. Devaney closed the meeting with a discussion of the Board's Advisory Panel. Mr. Devaney noted that the panel met in April and will meet again in late June. Both of these meetings are considered preparatory meetings and are not open to the public. The first public meeting of the panel will be held in early August in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Devaney invited the Board members to attend the August meeting, which is being designed as a public fact finding meeting.

Tara A. Porter
Secretary