



Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006

December 18, 2009 Minutes

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C, on Friday, December 18, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. and continued until 2:30 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
Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense
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
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

Board Staff:

Glen Walker, Executive Director
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel
Ed Pound, Director, Communications
John Higgins, Assistant Director, Audits, Inspections and Evaluations
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations
Mike Wood, Director, Recovery.gov
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 4, 2009 minutes were approved.

Mr. George, Recovery.gov Committee Chair, briefed Board members on a series of enhancements that will be implemented in FederalReporting.gov in January 2010. Mr. Wood, Director, Recovery.gov, provided a description of some of the enhancements.

Mr. Devaney informed the Board members that OMB will be issuing revised guidance that clarifies and simplifies the jobs calculation. Board members discussed the benefits of providing logic checks that would assist recipients in reporting job estimates. Mr. Devaney confirmed that such logic checks are being incorporated into FederalReporting.gov.

Mr. Scovel, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Chair, informed the Board that the Committee is exploring additional coordinated reviews by the Recovery Act OIGs. Mr. Scovel also indicated that the Committee was asked to oversee the Board's annual and quarterly report process. Board members agreed to the Committee overseeing the report process.

Mr. Scovel indicated that the consolidated Data Quality report drafted by HHS OIG was ready to be posted and would include a cover memo from the Chairman that outlined the Board's efforts on data quality. Board members agreed to the text in the cover memo and placing the cover memo and report on the HHS OIG website and on Recovery.gov. Mr. Scovel also provided a brief overview of the next steps in the Data Quality review process. Board members agreed to extend the time line for the next steps in the data quality review process by two weeks. Mr. Devaney notified the Board members that he intends to send a message to the agency Recovery Act Senior Accountable Officials that outlined the importance of the data quality reviews being conducted by the OIGs.

Mr. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce, provided the Board members with a status update on the Grant and Contract Staffing Qualifications report and indicated that he anticipates providing the report to the Board in January 2010.

Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations, notified the Board members that the Recovery Hotline Poster was now available for agencies to order. Mr. Hassebrock also updated the Board members on changes to the Accountability Risk Model and plans to post results from the Accountability Risk Model on Law Enforcement Online (LEO) to allow the Recovery Act OIGs easy access to the data.

Mr. Hassebrock provided examples of heat maps that can be used by OIGs to allocate resources for Recovery Act oversight. Mr. Hassebrock also indicated that the Board staff were reviewing the OIG comments on the template that will be used to collect detailed Recovery Act complaint data. Further discussion on the complaint template will be held at the January 2010 Recovery Working Group meeting.

Mr. Devaney notified Board members that OMB provided a list of award recipients that did not report in October 2009 and that list has been posted on Recovery.gov. Mr. Devaney indicated that members of Congress have contacted him regarding his position regarding enforcement for non-reporters and he has indicated that he believes more enforcement would be appropriate.

Mr. Devaney reported that he is looking for additional space at 1717 Pennsylvania to accommodate Recovery.gov positions that used to be housed at separate locations.

The Board members discussed the importance of the Board educating the public on the roles and responsibilities associated with data quality. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the one year anniversary of the Recovery Act.

Tara A. Porter
Secretary