

Government Accountability and Transparency Board

A meeting of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board) was held at the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (Recovery Board) Office in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. and continued until 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Board Members:

Richard Ginman, Chairman and Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, U.S. Department of Defense

David C. Williams, Vice Chair and Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service

Gregory Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy

Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

David Mader, Controller, Office of Management and Budget

Calvin Scovel, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation

Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education

Agency Staff:

Ross Bezark, Executive Director, GAT Board and Recovery Board

Kay Daly, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Amy Haseltine, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Carrie Hug, Director of Accountability, Recovery Board

Keith Maddox, Special Assistant, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General

Rehana Mohammed, Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Karen Pica, Management Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Cynthia Williams, GAT Board Secretary, Recovery Board

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Ginman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and by unanimous vote, the members present approved the minutes of the September 24, 2014, meeting.

The members were provided a list of proposed 2015 meeting dates. Mr. Ginman asked the members to review the dates and identify any potential conflicts. The members agreed to finalize the calendar dates at the next meeting.

The members then discussed the 2015 strategic plan. Mr. Ginman provided a summary document that described the theme and contents of past GAT Board written reports. The members discussed best approaches moving forward. Mr. Mader recommended that representatives from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Department of the Treasury (Treasury) brief the members on the 2015-2016 direction of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) implementation efforts. He recommended the briefing be given in January 2015 to assist alignment efforts between the GAT Board, OMB, and Treasury.

The members next went over the frequency of working group briefings in 2015. Mr. Ginman suggested the working groups report on a quarterly rather than monthly basis. He added that the remaining meetings could be used for discussions with other relevant groups and stakeholders as well as on specific subject matter issues. Several members concurred with the proposed. The members engaged in a brief discussion of the changes to USASpending.gov and the DATA Act's requirement for full disclosure of all federal funds. Mr. Ginman reminded the members of the public's request for the return of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report. Mr. Mader commented that the current effort to enhance USASpending.gov is an initial step to providing transparency of federal funds. He added that the requirement for transparency of all obligations will be implemented utilizing a phased-approach and follow the dates outlined in the DATA Act. Ms. Haseltine added and Mr. Mader concurred, that the initial enhancements to USASpending.gov focus on the look and feel of the site along with customer usability. Mr. Ginman questioned if the current effort involves participation from across the federal government. Ms. Haseltine and Ms. Pica briefly discussed Treasury's efforts to work with other federal groups to solicit input and share information on USASpending.gov enhancements. Mr. Mader suggested scheduling an update on the redesign of the USASpending.gov website.

Topics for the November meeting agenda were then considered. The members agreed that the November meeting agenda would include a discussion of the 2015 strategic plan and briefings from the Data Analytics and the Financial Management Integration and Data Display working groups. Mr. Ginman informed the members that a draft of the 2015 strategic document would be disseminated for review in advance of the next meeting.

There was a brief dialogue regarding the GAT Board's membership composition. Mr. Ginman stated he planned to meet with OMB Deputy Director for Management, Beth Cobert, to discuss the need to appoint new/replacement members to the Board.

The next GAT Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary