

Government Accountability and Transparency Board

December 8, 2011 Minutes

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 Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. and continued until 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Earl Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Board
W. Scott Gould, Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs
Allison C. Lerner, Inspector General, National Science Foundation¹
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services
Ellen Murray, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources and Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services
Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation
Kathleen Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Daniel I. Werfel, Controller, Office of Management and Budget
David C. Williams, Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service

Proxy Attendees

Richard Ginman, Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, U.S. Department of Defense
Dan Tangherlini, Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury

Agency Staff:

Brett Baker, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, National Science Foundation
Ross Bezark, Executive Director, GAT Board, and Chief of Staff, Recovery Board
Gary Cantrell, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Health and Human Services
Nani A. Coloretti, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury
Sheila Conley, Deputy CFO, Health and Human Services
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel, Recovery Board
Peter Levin, Chief Technology Officer, Veterans Affairs
Joel C. Spangenberg, Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, Veterans Affairs
James Warren, Chief Innovation Officer, Recovery Board
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary, Recovery Board
Michael Wood, Executive Director, Recovery Board

Discussion:

Chairman Devaney opened the meeting and reviewed the meeting material. He thanked the members for their input on the draft report to the President and informed them that the entire meeting would be devoted to the review of the updated draft report. By unanimous vote of the members present, the minutes of the November 17, 2011 meeting with Vice President Biden was approved.

¹ Attended via conference call

The members began the review of the draft report with a discussion of the inclusion of deadlines in the report. Most members agreed on the importance of setting deadlines but were concerned that some dates may not be practical as a result of legal or other compliance issues. A discussion of the need for legal authorities and additional resources ensued. Chairman Devaney asked Ms. Dure to initiate a discussion of various funding and legal issues with attorneys at the Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Werfel agreed to follow up on the issue as well.

The members discussed the recommendation for the consolidation of data display and collection systems and ultimately agreed that incorporating business intelligence and recipient reporting should be the long-term goal.

There was also a conversation on data standardization. Mr. Ginman proposed clarifying language on the recommendation and the members agreed to the revision. The members also discussed a proposal for a phased implementation process should the proper authorities be given, which would integrate one or more of the existing data collection and display systems into the Recovery Board model. A motion by Mr. Tangherlini was adopted to exclude the graphic depicting current legacy reporting systems from the report.

The members agreed to conduct a final fatal flaw review of the report and to submit any changes by Monday, December 12. Chairman Devaney stated he would compose the transmittal letter for the document, and the report would be delivered to the White House on December 14, 2011.

Chairman Devaney thanked the members for their participation on the GAT Board and noted his great appreciation for their efforts.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary