



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

Minutes of Wednesday, April 1, 2009 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	P	Martha Norberg, Member:	A (E)
George Davenport, Member:	A	David Wilma, Member:	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P
Zuzka Lehocka-Howell, Staff:	P		

(Absent = A, Present = P, Excused = E)

Guest(s): Kate Pflaumer, OPA Auditor

The meeting was convened at 11:35 a.m.
The minutes of the 3/19/09 meeting were tabled till the next meeting.

Guest speaker

| Roberto Maestas, Founder/Executive Director, El Centro de la Raza

- Introductions of both the panel and Mr. Maestas
- El Centro
 - 35 years of existence
 - Community based organization
 - Work on multi racial unity
 - He thinks Seattle is way ahead of other cities in multiracial relations
- Mr. Maestas shared a couple of personal stories of police rudeness. He said 97% of his contacts with police had been negative, both harsh and adversarial. He felt the officers backed off and changed their tone when they recognized his name, and said he was not sure the same thing would happen to ordinary people.
- He thinks officers need to be friendlier, not so mean-spirited, and respect the citizen's dignity
- People from the community come to El Centro and share their stories of police aggressiveness.
 - El Centro doesn't have one particular staff person assigned to working on these issues
 - Usually anyone available takes down notes of an incident
 - Then, El Centro reaches out to 'friendly' lawyers or police officers in attempt to help the public to resolve the particular situation. Maestas uses his personal relationships with the Chief and senior management. He thinks relations are improved at that level, but not at the street level.
 - They don't bring their cases to OPA
- Biggest problems with the police
 - Authoritarian approach
 - Power of the police guild vs. public
- Positive Experiences
 - South precinct police
 - Community Policing



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Retreat Planning

- Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (about 6 hours of meeting)
- Norm Rice conference room – if possible
- Michael Pendleton advised the board to structure the retreat into two parts
 - first part – everyone – review of data, distill data to final work plan
 - second part – board by themselves – continue the work
 - The group should ask themselves "What is it we do?"

Outreach

- Second set of outreach letters should be sent out. We should clarify that any channel of response (telephone, e-mail, written, meeting) is acceptable. The deadline will be May 15. Pat Sainsbury will draft.
- Youth outreach organizations should be added to OPARB's outreach.
- Still working on LGBTQ community. Tina will handle this.

The group adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.

Notes taken by Zuzka Lehocka-Howell

The next meeting will be held on April 16, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.