



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

Minutes of Wednesday, August 5, 2009 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	AE	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	AE	David Wilma, Member:	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P

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

Guest(s): Kathryn Olson, OPA Director; Capt. Leah Wicks, US Army

The meeting was convened at 11:38 a.m.

The minutes of the July 16 meeting were approved.

Capt. Wicks is on an internship in partnership with SPD to learn how to build an effective police force, to help with their work in building police departments in Afghanistan and Iraq. She and her partner, Capt. Becca Beard, are learning all aspects of policing – how a department is run and commanded, and how officers work. There are many challenges to implementing an effective police force in Iraq and Afghanistan. She anticipates that much of what they learn will only have limited applications in those countries in the near future. Cultural and educational barriers, among others, as well as distrust of police or adherence to old ways, do not allow citizens in those countries to see the value of a police force.

Capt. Wicks is a West Point graduate who has been deployed to Afghanistan and who has received the bronze star. Pat provided a brief background on the OPA/Auditor/Board oversight system. Capt. Wicks was also interested to learn how OPARB has reached out to diverse communities, and felt that the Board's approach of identifying community leaders, asking who else should be included, and inviting people to attend meetings or offering to attend their meetings was great advice.

NACOLE - Kathryn has had no word from NACOLE about Seattle's bid for hosting, but expected to hear something by next Wednesday, August 12. She will let everyone know.

Subcommittees/Strategic Plan/Mission Statement – Michael asked the question – What to do when absences prevent subcommittees from meeting (at regular meetings) – as was the case at this meeting. One option is that anyone without their committee partner can join another group for discussion purposes, since all issues will eventually be addressed by the whole. The committees should begin to prioritize areas of interest and begin to focus.

At this meeting, the decision was made to discuss goals at large rather than break into subcommittees. The group reviewed the Strategic Plan, focusing on Goal I, the ongoing OPA review process. The decision was made to replace all references to "OPARB" with "the Review Board" for clarity.



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Changes were made in the listing of the work items under Goal I, primarily in that the first priority was listed as item A and subsequent areas of interest were bulleted and listed under item B, rather than being ranked. The idea is that the group or subcommittee will focus on one item, item A, and when that task is completed will re-examine and choose a new first priority among the remaining items. This approach is likely to work also for the sub-committees.

The Mission Statement was adopted as drafted in the Strategic Plan, subject to reopening if George or Tina wants further discussion. The work assignments for the next meeting August 20 are (1) for each subcommittee to review and edit its part of the Strategic Plan, identify its top priority, and be prepared to present and discuss its recommendations, and (2) for the entire Board to be prepared to discuss and edit/add to the Community Outreach Report.

E-Mail System Clarification – City e-mail is to be used for City business. Forwarding OPARB emails to your personal account may open your entire hard drive up to scrutiny in the case of an investigation or public disclosure request. Members have not yet transferred emails to the shared folder, where Nancy will archive them. City emails autodelete after 45 days. Check your city email regularly. Nancy will distribute flash drives to members for storing and working on documents.

Miscellaneous – David would like to talk to Kathryn Olson about the idea of OPA's inviting the Seattle Youth Violence Project staff from the Urban League to receive an orientation and training on the OPA system. The Board unanimously endorsed David's idea.

Outreach Report – The report will be shared with the Public Safety Committee members, anyone named as presenters in the document, SPD command staff, SPD guilds, as well as others. Pat suggested that the suggestion from the Urban League workers 'to ensure the middle and high school officers assigned to schools should not act as arresting officers at the school' should be spelled out (under #3 on the report??).

It was decided to delete Appendix 3 from the report, but include the matrix. Members were asked to come to the next meeting (August 20) prepared to discuss this report – what should be included, what should the report say?

Pat will update the Strategic Plan according to today's suggestions and work with Michael and Nancy to get agreement on the update.

The group adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts.

The next meeting will be held on September 2, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.