

Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)
Minutes of Wednesday, January 7, 2009 Meeting
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	P	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	P	David Wilma, Member (by phone):	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	A (E)	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P
Nancy Roberts, Staff:	P		

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

Guest(s): Todd Williams, UW Law School Student

Old Business/Administrative:

The meeting was convened at approximately 11:33 am.

The 12/10/08 minutes were approved.

Pat has talked to Kate Pflaumer regarding the Board's decision to not conduct outreach for her upcoming special report on SPD relations with minority communities. She thinks the new legislation intends that the Board conduct the outreach she would like to include in the report and thus she has concerns about the board not intending to be a team player. There is room for interpretation in the way the new legislation is written. Is this report solely the Auditor's responsibility, or is any outreach component a joint responsibility or solely the responsibility of OPARB? Are the three entities to develop separate reports and release them together, or work collaboratively on issuing joint reports? Shall we have quarterly joint meetings (as we have in the past) or ad hoc meetings? The Board agreed we should provide OPA & the Auditor with our agendas so they have the opportunity to attend our meetings. The Board will make an effort to craft a good working relationship with the other two entities.

We plan to present the next regular report, due in April, jointly with OPA and the Auditor. Perhaps OPARB's contribution to the April report can springboard from Kate's October report and the problems identified therein. The Board agreed that there should be three separate reports presented jointly, not a single joint report. On a practical basis, Pat envisions a subcommittee drafting a report that the entire Board would review. Tina noted that she wants to ensure broad input. For example, everyone would read the auditor's report. A few people would draft responses, for review and input by the entire board.

Michael cautioned that you should be prepared for the microphone-in-the-face moments in advance of releasing a report. He suggested that any input into OPA's report be filtered through the subcommittee, agreed upon by all, and provided to OPA in advance of release. Check with Kate Pflaumer to see if that works for her. Another option is for the board to publicly comment on OPA's report.

If the board chooses to collaborate on a special report, Michael recommended that they get a draft from the Auditor, have the Board's subcommittee review it, and communicate with Kate promptly so the process is not impeded.

Michael encourages the sharing of drafts, via a formal system. Be mindful of serial e-mails that might be considered to be a board meeting without proper notice and without being open to the public. He cautioned about maintaining well-defined boundaries between the three entities. He also suggested that reports should either be collaborative all the way through the process or alternatively, separate reports can be issued at the same time.

Sharing drafts via email can be confusing. A draft should be sent to all, all responses then funneled through the chair. Review and discussion can occur at regular meetings.

City Hall, Floor 2, 600 Fourth Avenue, P.O. Box 34025 Seattle, WA 98124-4025
(206) 684-8888 Fax: (206) 684-8587

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Meet and Greets – Jennifer Shaw of the ACLU will attend the 1/15 meeting.

George and Pat attended a meeting of the Muslim, Sikh and Arab group. There were about 12 – 15 people in attendance. The group was interested in the OPA system and there was a good discussion. The group was against the use of the Tools for Tolerance program, which is sponsored by a Simon Wiesenthal group, whose excavation for a new center in Jerusalem disturbed a Muslim burial ground.

Pat, George and Martha attended a SPOG Board meeting. Most of the information was what Rich O'Neill had presented to OPARB at a previous meeting. Some SPOG Board members expressed concern about the OPA system, stating that some police officers tend to avoid taking proactive enforcement actions that a good officer should take.

Most of the Board members attended a recent Seattle Human Rights Commission meeting that featured a panel of Jorge Baron of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, James Bible of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People- (NAACP) and Jeff Siddiqui of the American Muslims of Puget Sound and Muslim Communities of Puget Sound speaking of their human rights concerns.

From the meeting with Rich O'Neill, it appears that the 180-day rule will remain an issue of concern.

Forming –

Michael is hoping to schedule a work planning retreat in April, or May at the latest. It is important to try to identify and address problems sooner rather than later. A retreat is a way to spend dedicated time to develop a work plan.

In preparation for a retreat, each member should bring their expectations and concerns, and together you will formulate a work plan. Which community groups do you wish to interact with? In what manner? From a large list, identify your core group. How best to approach them? (See attached handout *OPARB Forming Strategy*. You could choose to form work groups, ask community organizations targeted questions, collect and compile the data. You could systematically invite groups to your meetings to talk about targeted questions (a more efficient method). You could send out a written survey with targeted questions, and compile the resulting data. Give-and-take dialogue is lost with this method. Or you could send out a survey, then follow up by going to meet them to discuss their thoughts. The big advantage of this is that it's a great opportunity to build rapport.

Michael will draft a letter and possible targeted questions. Pat, Martha and George will review his letter for final board approval.

There was some discussion about how inclusive the contact list appears to be. There are no listings for or youth organizations. Perhaps they can be identified through the Mayor's Office of Film & Music?

The group adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.