



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

**Minutes of Wednesday, June 3, 2009 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

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

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

Guest(s): Kate Pflaumer, Outgoing OPA Auditor; Kathryn Olson, OPA Director

The meeting was convened at 11:32 a.m.

The minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved. The Board agreed to add a public comment item to the standard Board agenda.

Brochure - Kathryn passed out samples of the draft brochure. Two changes were agreed upon - putting the "joint responsibilities" section after the three modes of civilian oversight are explained (at the end), and adding a line about the availability of online translations of information about the program. Then Kathryn will have only 500 copies made because it lists the interim chief. It was agreed that costs will be split between the three entities.

Hosting NACOLE Conference – This idea has been tossed around for years. There were many questions about cost, labor required, division of responsibilities. Kathryn will talk to another host to get an idea of time/money commitment, and will question NACOLE officials. A subcommittee that includes Kate, Kathryn and Tina will meet Monday June 8 to discuss the various issues involved, and get a feel for community interest in being involved. The deadline for submitting bid proposals to NACOLE is July 1.

Public Attendance at OPARB Meetings - Lubna Mahadeen of the Human Rights Commission wrote to ask if Michael Fitch can attend OPARB meetings. Pat will respond to her directly. The members also decided to send courtesy emails or letters to those individuals who have given their input into the Board's research, either directly or in writing. That note will include an open invitation to attend OPARB meetings.

Outreach Update – SE Seattle Crime Prevention Council: David & Pat attended recently. Several speakers were upset with SPD in different ways, including getting no response from the Precinct Commander and no longer getting precinct crime statistics. They filed a PDR and it was a big concern. They feel they have greater crime issues than SPD acknowledges, and they need more officers. They love the officers they have, but need more. They want more openness and engagement from the Precinct Commander. Lt. Jamie Koutsky, a favorite in that community, attended the meeting.

Pat called the chair of the King County Coalition on Homelessness meeting he recently attended to follow up. He has not heard back from them yet.



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Several members attended last night's Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative event in City Hall. There appears to be a large gulf between affected citizens and the experts who are trying to address the problem. This event was taped for viewing on the Seattle Channel.

Kathryn informed the group that SPD is presenting training on mental health issues during roll calls. The lack of mental health training for officers was a concern voiced by more than one group recently. She stated that SPD does have a Crisis Intervention team, but it's small.

Michael presented his outreach data matrix and explained his methodology. His overall impression is that there is not a lot of intensity behind the views expressed, other than an occasional pocket. He also noted that many of the respondents are long-time, established leaders who have formed relationships with SPD officers and officials, communication which increases the opportunities for positive outcomes for all. We're generally hearing that SPD makes an effort to listen and respond, which cannot be said for all police departments. Overall, even those individuals who might be expected to be critical of SPD considered them to be good overall, with occasional problems. Citizens have few problems with OPA, and many groups have reviewed the OPA system carefully. Action has already been taken to address many of their findings. In light of these consistent observations, Kate Pflaumer wondered if OPARB should focus more on the entire SPD system and less narrowly on the OPA system.

Michael noted additionally that it is not surprising that people have 'issues with police' – policing is about exercising coercion. People seem to want the police to do it more nicely. More than 80% of Seattle police officers have never had an OPA complaint filed.

OPA Retreat – Michael reviewed a draft agenda. The adopted OPARB work plan will be presented to the Public Safety Committee. Pat suggested that everyone check out the old board's work plan to see if they had anything this board would like to follow up on. Michael urged everyone to be thinking of what they would like to work on – the better prepared you are, the better use you can make of your limited time at the retreat.

Pat is leaving town for the next couple of weeks, so Tina will chair the June 18 meeting. The decision was made to suspend meetings for the month of July, unless urgent business needs dictate otherwise, at which time the chair would contact all the members. Nancy will ensure that a notice is put on the web.

The group adjourned at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts.

The next meeting will be held on June 18, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.