



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

**Minutes of Wednesday, September 2, 2009 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

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

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

Guest(s): Kathryn Olson, OPA Director; Michael Spearman, OPA Auditor; Mariko Lockhart, Jamila Taylor, and Robert Gant, Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (SYVPI)

The meeting was convened at 11:36 a.m.

The minutes of the August 20 meeting were approved.

SYVPI: Mariko Lockhart, Director of SYVPI, gave an overview of the program. The initiative started because although crime overall has been decreasing, youth violence has not been. The initiative seeks to learn what other cities are doing and see if their successful programs can be used in Seattle. They have learned, and incorporate, the principle of not developing their program from the top down. They've learned that it is best to be community-based and community-led. They target youth who are most at risk and try to redirect them and give them support to succeed.

Their focus is on 12 – 17-year-olds who live in the targeted neighborhoods – the Central District, Southeast, and Southwest, who are either convicted of violent offenses and released, or arrested but not detained. They also focus on middle school youth who have been truant, expelled, or suspended, or youth who have been victims of violence (who may be at risk of retaliation).

Existing programs have joined forces to consolidate their resources in this effort. In the Central District, the Urban League coordinates the SYVPI program. In the SW, services are coordinated through SW Youth and Family Services. The Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club coordinates the program in the SE neighborhood. The Urban League also has a strong Street Outreach Team that is well connected with Seattle Police Department and provides critical incident response as well as ongoing engagement and mentorship of youth. The SW neighborhood coordinates provision of ART (Aggression Replacement Training), which is a program that meets 3 times/week for ten weeks in an effort to teach youth more appropriate responses to conflict.

SYVI clients report problematic interactions with police to these neighborhood representatives, who help the youth process their frustration and anger in more productive ways.

Pat explained Seattle's three-prong oversight system, and handed out supplies of the new brochure. He discussed SPD's mediation program and the successes reported by other agencies who have built relationships with SPD leaders at the precinct level.



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Alternative ways of registering complaints were outlined, since many citizens are intimidated or uncomfortable calling or visiting the police station to make complaints, and may be reluctant to have their name associated with complaints to SPD. Alternatives are to contact Seattle's Office for Civil Rights or Customer Service Bureau, via email, phone call, or in-person visit.

SYVPI is in the process of establishing quarterly meetings for their neighborhood representatives, caseworkers and other staff. They will advise OPARB of their schedule when it is developed, and invite members to a meeting to further inform others of the oversight system. The SYVPI requested and received 100 of the new OPA system brochures for use in their work.

Strategic Plan: The Strategic Plan was adopted. A tentative plan for distributing the plan is to make a presentation to the Public Safety Committee, followed by a pre-publication distribution to those who have been interviewed. That group would also include the guild, the management association, and SPD executive staff. It was discussed that this plan should not simply be sent out, but presented in a way that its context is not lost or misinterpreted.

Brochures: Nancy will email a PDF of the brochure to all stakeholders for whom we have email addresses. The brochure will also need to be posted to the OPARB website. Nancy will also forward the PDF version of the brochure to SOCR and Customer Service Bureau and suggest that they post it to their websites as well.

NACOLE: A NACOLE representative is coming in late November, most likely just to view the venue.

Outreach Report: The content of the report has been approved by the majority as the final. Nancy will work on the formatting problems and send the final out to members as soon as possible. There was one minor change which will be incorporated.

The group adjourned at approximately 1:31 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts.

The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.