



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

**Minutes of Wednesday, October 7, 2009 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	E	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

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

The minutes of the September 17 meeting were approved.

Reports:

Oversight of Criminal Investigations on SPD Employees – Wilma & Sainsbury. No updates, but have a couple meetings planned.

Impact of SPD Policies on Diverse Populations – Norberg & Freng. Have not yet met face to face to discuss, but have developed their question format & methodology. They will meet and be ready to present something by the October 15 meeting.

Public Outreach – Davenport & Bueche. They've met, but don't plan to talk to Mayor and Council until after the election. How best to reach out on behalf of OPA. Thus far, no one has solicited officers' opinions on the system, except on an institutional basis. They've drafted questions to find out how much contact they have with OPA, how they feel about the appeals process. Even if they've had no contact, what is their impression – what is the climate out there about OPA? Considering developing a bi-annual report that will recap information gathered. They will continue to encourage the use of the system, while reaching out to the public and officers.

Michael reminded the group that it is important to coordinate and touch base with the rest of the group before getting too far into any project – this communication is very important. At the October 15 meeting, the committees could present all their projects to see if there are overlaps, and to see if coordination would gain any efficiencies.

OPA Complaint Classification and Findings System: No movement is being made at this time at SPD to review this system. They are less concerned with the classification/triage system than with the findings system. Information on this issue is available through NACOLE, where this is a current topic of interest. The board decided to schedule this topic for for the November 4 meeting agenda, after the NACOLE conference, where attendees hope to gain additional information on practices and trends in other jurisdictions.

Strategic Plan: David reported that the Burgess office was concerned about the Board's plan to release the outreach report before the strategic plan. Presentation would not be made at the Public Safety Committee meeting until December at the earliest. David is discussing this with the Burgess office and should have more information at the October 15 meeting.



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Michael reminded the group that it is easier to establish processes, such as protocols around release of reports, when issues are noncontroversial. If release timing is manipulated, the process is politicized. Stakeholders deserve feedback in a timely manner. The issue of report release process will be discussed further at the October 15 meeting.

Youth Violence Initiative: What is the status of following up with Mariko Lockhart and her group? Is the board planning to attend one of their meetings? The board wanted to continue to work with them to inform their outreach workers and other. Nancy will check past minutes and contact Mariko Lockhart to determine next steps. Update from the 9/2/9 meeting minutes: *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.*

NACOLE Update: Kathryn and Tina met with the NACOLE representative, and so far the Fairmont Olympic Hotel is looking like a frontrunner for hosting the conference. The NACOLE Board will make its final decision by next week. In early November their Board will decide when to come to Seattle for an on-site meeting and clarifying additional plans. When they're here, it is a great opportunity to bring them together with the OPARB board for a meet and greet. Reminder that any receptions held during the conference will not be paid for out of NACOLE funds, so OPA and OPARB will need to raise funds and find sponsors for such events.

PERC Decision: Kathryn received notice during the meeting that PERC reversed the state hearing examiner's decision on OPARB's access to redacted files. The bottom line is that they felt it was NOT an issue that had to be bargained, and OPARB can now receive unredacted files.

Email Change: Board members' email accounts will be changed to Outlook shortly. Nancy will notify everyone in advance and give detailed instructions on how to access your new City email. Note: Nancy to bring flash/jump drives for each member on which to store city files.

The group adjourned at approximately 12:54 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts.

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.