



Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)

Minutes of Wednesday, December 02, 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:	E	David Wilma, Member:	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P

*(Absent = A, Present = P, Excused = E, * = by phone)*

Guest(s): Kathryn Olson, OPA Director; Michael Spearman, OPA Auditor; Jeff Slayton, Law Department

Minutes: The minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting were approved as circulated.

Open Items: Tina Bueche will obtain a contact and contact information for Pioneer Human Services and give the information to Nancy Roberts to add to our outreach list.

Jeff Slayton explained the implications of having Board e-mails or documents on your personal or business computer. The Board members who want thumb drives said they want to use them to keep OPARB items separate from personal and/or business computers. No one wants a secure thumb drive. Anyone who needs a thumb drive can get one from Nancy Roberts.

Kathryn Olson reported that the 2010 NACOLE conference will be September 20-23, 2010. The NACOLE Board will meet in Seattle January 22 – 24, 2010, including conference planning. Kathryn asked for volunteers for a conference planning committee. She assured us that all Board members will have large roles and much work in the planning and execution of the conference.

Denise Williams approved our request for an exemption for Dr. Michael Pendleton's contract and has signed the contract, so Michael is under a new contract through November 30, 2010.

The draft cover letter for the strategic plan and 12/1/09 report was approved as circulated.

Revise Report and Strategic Plan: Jeff Slayton reminded us that using "Reply All" to reply to e-mails containing drafts could be considered to be a Board meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act if the reply e-mail discusses the content of the draft. Jeff also discussed the issue of Board committees being subject to the Act if they are creations of the Board and are empowered to act for the Board. This led to a discussion of the division of work in the Strategic Plan, where the Board members who will do the work and present it to the Board for discussion and approval are called sub-committees. The Board agreed to change the Strategic Plan and 12/1/09 Report to clarify that Board members working on these projects are not empowered to act for the Board and will be bringing their work to the full Board at regular public meetings for discussion and approval.

OPARB Website: The Board agreed to have David Wilma review the current website, propose changes and review the website quarterly.

Date for Meeting with SPD Command Staff: The Board agreed on December 16, 2009 as the tentative date. Kathryn Olson will work with the Chief's office to set that date and will let us know the date and time.

Report on City Council PSHSE Committee Meeting: Those who attended thought the meeting went well and were energized by the level of interest on the part of the Council members. There was discussion of



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Council members' questions and comments. Council members appreciated the detailed information in the Outreach Report and the form and content of the Strategic Plan and Report. Council members were interested in the labor negotiation hearing to be held in January, and were very interested in the report of subjects and information from the NACOLE conference. Pat Sainsbury also reported the information obtained by Steve Freng at the IACP conference on education-based discipline. Council members Burgess and Licata seemed very interested in education-based discipline and mediation. Kathryn Olson told the Council that mediation is at the same numerical levels as the past few years, where most of the cases mediated involve language or discourtesy, but SPD is considering mediating more serious allegations. She also mentioned that the supervisory intervention disposition in effect is disposition for education and that OPA often specifies or suggests the education. Kathryn said that several people commented to her after the hearing that they were especially pleased to hear the three branches of OPA talking and working together so well.

Pat Sainsbury has written up his notes from NACOLE. He will circulate them to Steve Freng, David Wilma, Kathryn Olson and Michael Spearman to add their notes, with the idea that the three branches of the OPA system will publish the notes as a report and resource.

Reports on Strategic Plan: There was a discussion about the Criminal Oversight report in light of the Open Meetings Act and the cancellation of the December 17 Board meeting. The Board agreed that David Wilma and Pat Sainsbury should circulate their draft for comment, but that any Board members with comments should send them only to David and Pat, who will then propose a final draft for adoption at the Board meeting January 6, 2010. There also was a discussion of Kathryn Olson and Michael Spearman possibly joining the report to make it a joint report of the three branches. Kathryn also mentioned the possibilities of a separate letter of endorsement or what she and Kate Pflaumer had done on occasion where the person issuing the report noted and responded to subjects where Kate and Kathryn disagreed.

Tina Bueche reported that she and George Davenport will work with Kathryn to reach out to Seattle Police Officers Guild to get officer feedback on the OPA system.

OPA Complaint Classification System: Kathryn Olson handed out a one-page summary that lists and defines the five complaint classifications and seven findings after investigation. Kathryn conducted the remainder of the meeting, covering the Contact Log, Preliminary Investigation Report, and Supervisory Referral classifications. The Board had numerous questions and received valuable information and understanding of the system.

The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Pat Sainsbury and David Wilma.

The next meeting will be held on January 6, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room, City Hall.