

Government Accountability and Transparency Board

June 11, 2012, Minutes

A meeting of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board) was held at the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (Recovery Board) Office in Washington, D.C. on Monday, June 11, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. and continued until 10:35 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

David C. Williams, Vice Chair and Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service
Allison C. Lerner, Inspector General, National Science Foundation
Daniel Levinson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education
Daniel I. Werfel, Controller, Office of Management and Budget

Proxy Attendees

Nani A. Coloretti, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Richard Ginman, Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, U.S. Department of Defense
W. Todd Grams, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Agency Staff:

Ross Bezark, Executive Director, GAT Board, and Chief of Staff, Recovery Board
Brian A. Dettelbach, Assistant Inspector General for Legal, Legislative, and External Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation
Richard Gregg, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Edward Pound, Director of Communications, Recovery Board
Atticus Reaser, General Counsel, Recovery Board
Cynthia Williams, Board Secretary, Recovery Board
Michael Wood, Executive Director, Recovery Board

Discussion:

Mr. Williams welcomed the members and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Proxy members and agency guests introduced themselves to the members. By a unanimous vote of the members present, the minutes of the April 19, 2012, meeting were approved.

Ms. Tighe and Mr. Wood discussed the current Recovery Board initiatives relating to the GAT Board's mandate. Ms. Tighe provided a status update on the FederalAccountability.gov pilot program. Ms. Tighe discussed results of a recently conducted usage study on the pilot program and informed members that participant feedback is being analyzed. There also was a discussion on synergies between the Recovery Board and the U.S. Department of Treasury solutions for prepayment eligibility reviews. The members discussed the feasibility of reconvening the GAT Board's Interagency Technical Advisory Panel to analyze the two systems.

Mr. Wood briefed the members on the remaining Recovery Board initiated projects. He reported that the Recovery Board is working with the MITRE Corporation to complete a feasibility study on the design and development of a potential government-wide Universal Award ID (UAID) for all federal awards. The study is underway and is expected to be completed in late September. Mr. Wood then discussed the concept behind a gap analysis of USASpending.gov. He explained

the project is a low-cost effort to compare the USASpending.gov and Recovery.gov websites to determine best practices and the most efficient and effective way to display federal spending data. Mr. Wood also discussed the overall timeline for development of the technology and implementation of the Grant Reporting Information Pilot (GRIP). He informed the members that GRIP would provide a centralized system of data collection and warehousing for a controlled group of grant award recipients. He explained that the two primary goals of the project are to achieve burden relief for grant recipients and identify possible savings from improved efficiency through data standardization.

Mr. Bezark then led the review of the draft progress report to the President. The members debated the need to include information on transparency and accountability efforts underway at different agencies. The members also engaged in a discussion on the Data Act and the best manner in which to discuss the pending legislation in the progress report. Mr. Bezark stated he would facilitate the incorporation of remaining changes to the progress report and circulate the file electronically to the members for a fatal flaw review. Mr. Werfel agreed to coordinate the delivery of the progress report to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of the Vice President.

The next meeting of the GAT Board is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 7, 2012.

Cynthia Williams
Secretary