

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



Date: April 22, 2025

Time: 5:15 PM – 7:15 PM

Attendees:

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| Advisory Board Members Present: | |
| Fred Thomas, Co-Chair | Eric Drever, Co-Chair |
| Monica Alexander | Philip Harju |
| Monisha Harrell | Faapouaita Leapai |
| James Schrimpsheer | Norma Gallegos |
| Tony Golik | |
| Advisory Board Members Absent: | |
| Susie Kroll | |
| OII Staff Present: | |
| Roger Rogoff, Director | Annette Taylor, Legislative Director |
| Vicki Kamin, Director of Administrative Services | Hector Castro, Director of Communications and Community Relations |
| Tracy Lapps, Director of Investigations | Jessica Berliner, Senior Legal and Policy Advisor |
| Joanna Carns, Legislative, Rules, and Advisory Board Coordinator | Dana Boales, Senior Organizational Development Advisor |

Minutes

Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 5:16 pm. Eric Drever welcomed participants.

Candidate for Advisory Board Approval

- Tracy Lapps presented an employment candidate requiring Advisory Board approval, per RCW 43.102.060. All present voted to approve.

OII Investigations Update

- Tracy Lapps provided an update on the progress of the final case report for the Vancouver incident, which is close to finalization.
- Regarding the Centralia incident, Tracy relayed that the investigation is close to complete, pending a few lab reports. The final case report is under way.
- Roger Rogoff relayed that staff hope to complete investigations within 120 days, but that it is a tight timeframe to receive and process all relevant lab reports.

Advisory Board Business

- Phil Harju moved and Fred Thomas seconded approval of the prior meeting's minutes. All voted to approve, with no opposition.
- Advisory Board members reviewed bylaw 4.4 Public Representation and Media.
- Joanna Carns provided an update on the current defense attorney representative vacancy. OII has met with the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions several times. We hope that the new Advisory Board member will be appointed by late May or June, but it is at the discretion/decision of Boards and Commissions.
- Advisory Board members reviewed the final RCW 43.102.800 report and voted to approve the addition of their names and signatures on the document. The report will be finalized and submitted through appropriate channels for review before submission to the Legislature.
- Advisory Board co-chairs welcomed any further discussion on items discussed during a meeting held between Advisory Board members, Roger Rogoff, and Jane Nesbitt. No issues were raised.
- Additional discussion was held regarding OII staff attendance at Advisory Board meetings. Roger Rogoff stated that staff, particularly leadership, would like to be present at the meetings to hear the board members' viewpoints directly to better carry out the wishes of the board. Both Monica Alexander and Tony Golik expressed appreciation for OII staff attendance. At the conclusion, the majority opinion of the Advisory Board was that OII presenters and subject matter experts (e.g., leadership) could be present at Advisory Board meetings.

Five Year Training Proposal (RCW 43.102.050)

- Jessica Berliner provided an update on the agency's progress on the five-year training proposal report. OII has conducted a community survey and is looking forward to sharing the results. OII staff also met with Ontario SIU and the British Columbia Independent Investigations Office to learn how they've evolved in recruiting and hiring people without prior law enforcement experience. OII is still working on additional regional community meetings and looks forward to further discussions at the May work session.

Legislative/Budget Update

- Annette Taylor provided an update on the agency's legislative work in the 2025 session, including all bills tracked, amendment work, legislative activities, and an update on current legislative proposals for OII's budget in FY 2026-27.

- As of the date of the meeting, legislative proposals for OII's budget included a \$6 million dollar cut in FY 2026, which would significantly impact OII's operations, staffing, and ability to move forward in opening additional regions for investigations of new cases.

Athena Group

- Tevin Medley and Stacy Hirsch from the Athena Group attended the meeting to solicit Advisory Board member input on the upcoming antiracist lens training (required by RCW 43.102.050 and RCW 43.102.130) that they will facilitate at the May work session. Requested topics from board members included:
 - The true history of things.
 - Collective visioning around OII – what is the future state of the organization?
 - Understanding the history of EMTs and how that provides insight into OII's creation.
 - Looking at the state of America today, would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. be happy at the division that America is facing, or would he be upset?
 - What does Advisory Board/OII work mean in light of the current national environment?

Open Discussion

- Monica Alexander thanked board members for the above comments and also thanked Annette, Jessica, and Vicki for their work on the budget. She recognized their legislative efforts and encouraged them not to see the current legislative proposals as rendering their work in vain. She relayed appreciation for everyone's efforts to keep this work moving forward.

Closing

- Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

OII Mission: To conduct fair, thorough, transparent, and competent investigations.

OII Vision: All investigations of police use of force will be free from bias and trusted by everyone.