

Quality Assurance Working Group (QAWG) Overview

Presenters:

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CIGIE Federal Audit Executive Council Annual Conference
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Agenda

- Background: Requirements for QA Programs
- History and Overview of the QAWG
- QAWG's Goals 4 & 5
- Participant Discussion
- Q&A

CIGIE Requirements for Quality Assurance (QA) Program

- CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General*, August 2012, (the Silver Book), Section V, Maintaining Quality Assurance, requires that each OIG:
 - Establish and maintain a QA program
 - Participate in external QA review programs (peer reviews) implemented through CIGIE guidelines

CIGIE QA Requirements (cont.)

- QA program must provide an independent, objective, timely and comprehensive appraisal that the OIG's work:
 - Complies with applicable professional standards
 - Is performed in accordance with established OIG policies and procedures
 - Is carried out economically, efficiently, and effectively

CIGIE QA Requirements (cont.)

- QA work must be performed with the same professional care for:
 - Planning the review
 - Documenting findings
 - Developing recommendations
 - Obtaining comments from responsible managers of the activity or unit reviewed

CIGIE QA Requirements (cont.)

- QA program can vary in its nature and extent depending on the OIG's:
 - Size
 - Organizational structure
 - Nature of its work
 - Cost vs. benefit considerations

2018 Yellow Book QA Requirements for Audit Organizations*

- Monitoring of Quality (GAS, 5.42-5.46)
 - **Establish policies and procedures** for monitoring the system of quality control
 - **Perform procedures to assess compliance** with standards and quality controls for GAGAS engagements
 - **Communicate to appropriate officials** deficiencies noted and recommend remedial actions

* 2011 Yellow Book, para. 3.93-3.95 contain similar requirements

Yellow Book Requirements (cont.)

- Monitoring of Quality (cont.)
 - **At least annually, analyze and summarize monitoring results, including:**
 - Description of the procedures performed
 - Conclusions reached from those procedures
 - Identifications of systemic, repetitive, or other deficiencies needing improvement
 - Recommendations for corrective action
 - **GAS, 5.47-5.59 provides application guidance***

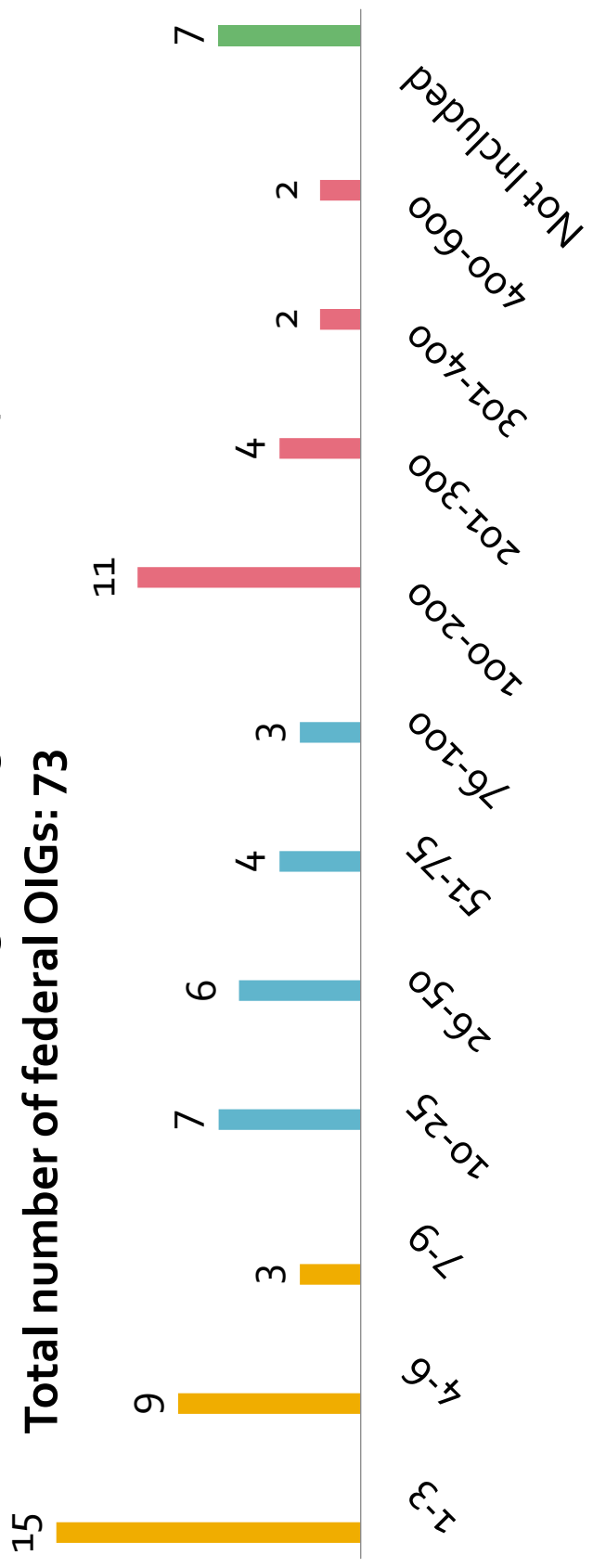
* 2011 Yellow Book, para. A3.10c contains similar guidance

Number of OIGs by Audit Staff Size

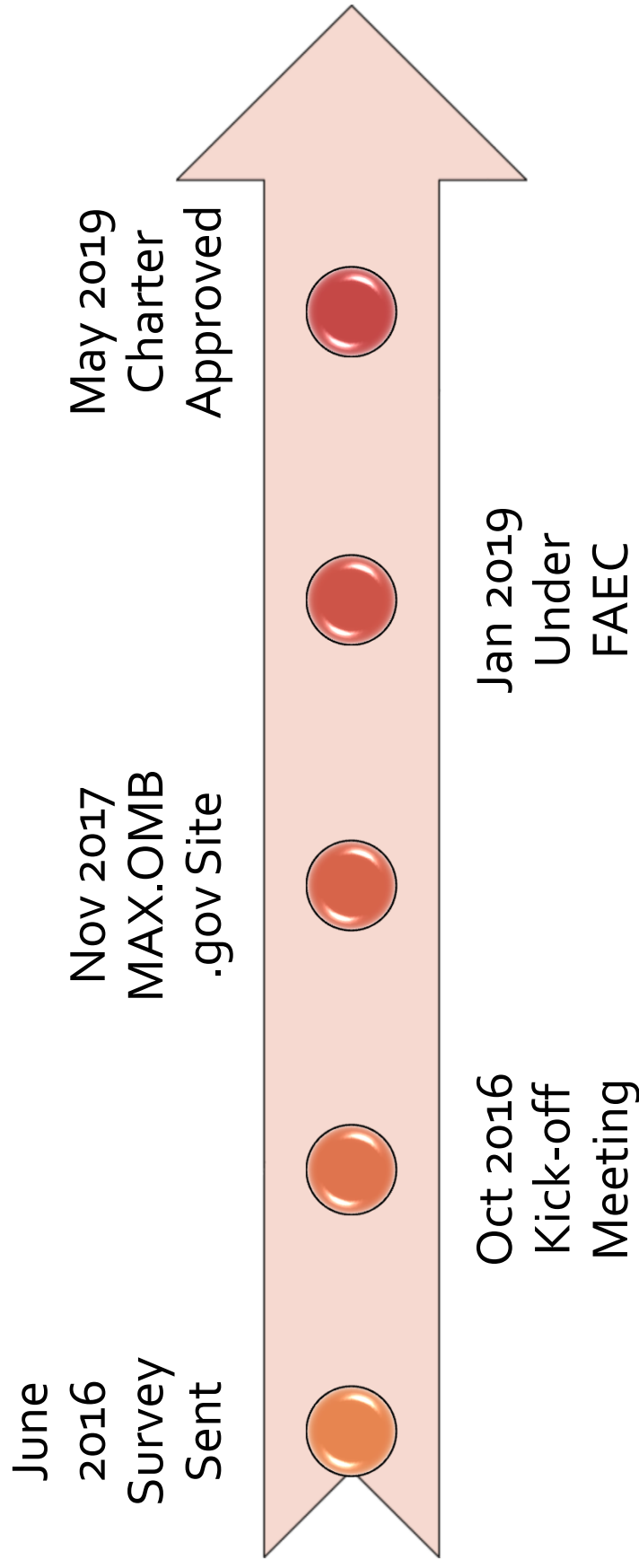
(Per CIGIE's Audit Peer Review Schedule, Updated 3/1/18)

- Staff < 10, Total 27
- Staff 10-100, Total 20
- Staff >100, Total 19
- Not Included (Intelligence Agencies & AbilityOne), Total 7

Total number of federal OIGs: 73



QAWG Summary Timeline



QAWG Origins

- June 2016 – Brief survey via CIGIE’s list serve
 - Initiated by FRB-CFPB OIG’s QA Manager, Vera Garrant & Senior QA Reviewer, Twyla Tatum
 - 22 OIGs responded, all but 1 said want in a QAWG
- October 2016 – Kick-off meeting
 - Hosted by FRB-CFPB OIG
 - 15 participants from 12 OIGs
 - Discussed group’s purpose, OIGs’ QA structures, frequency of meetings, QA topics for future meetings

QAWG Purpose and Scope

- **Purpose:** To enhance and improve the quality assurance (QA) review processes within the Federal Inspector General community.
- **Scope of Responsibilities:** QA activities related to Federal OIGs' audits.

QAWG Goals/Objectives

1. **Enhance understanding of** how offices across the OIG community select, perform, and report on the results of **QA reviews.**
2. **Develop a pool of QA subject matter experts** to whom working group members may contact for assistance.
3. **Provide insight into current events** in the OIG and QA communities.
4. **Identify and document best practices** to assist the OIG community with improving their QA functions (includes internal and external training).
5. **Issue or establish practice advisories** to disseminate best practices within the OIG community.

FAEC QA Workgroup OMB MAX.gov Website – Implemented Nov 2017

- Info available to all with OMB MAX access:
 - Meeting announcements, meeting and website points of contact, links to GAO and CIGIE resources
- Member only site pages document and share:
 - QAWG members' names and contact information
 - Meeting agendas and minutes
 - Results of surveys and requests for information
 - Resources, e.g., some OIGs' policies, procedures, templates, and forms

Site's disclaimer: The thoughts, opinions, and comments expressed during meetings and described herein are those of the individual participants and not representative of (and should not be attributed as) the thoughts, opinions, and positions of the participant's Inspector General (IG) or other personnel of the Office of Inspector General.

OMB Max FAEC QA Workgroup site

Dashboard / Home  

FAEC QA WORKGROUP (QAWG)

Created by Vera Garrant (FRB), last modified by Juana Morales (USAID) yesterday at 04:21 PM



Mission Statement / Charter

Purpose - *To enhance and improve the quality assurance review processes within the Federal IG community.*

Member Only Site Pages	
1	Resources
2	Listing of Members
3	Meeting Agenda & Minutes
4	QA Workgroup Message Board
5	Survey Results
6	QA Workgroup Charter

QAWG Membership

- Voluntary, QA experience recommended
- 86 members from 46 OIGs listed (as of 5/28/19)
 - 20 from 13 of the 27 OIGs with staff < 10
 - 26 from 15 of the 20 OIGs with staff 10-100
 - 36 from 16 of the 19 OIGs staff > 100
 - 4 from 2 of 7 OIGs not on peer review schedule

QAWG's Recent Meeting - May 2019

- Informed members that in January 2019 the QAWG was recognized by CIGIE and will be under its FAEC
- Charter discussed and approved by participating members
- Chair and Vice Chair positions discussed
- Subgroup established for Goal 4

QAWG Structure – May 2019

- Cardell Johnson, Chair
 - cardjohnson@usaid.gov
- Beverly Lyons, Vice-Chair
 - Beverly.Lyons@oig.dot.gov
- Juana Morales, QAWG Website Administrator
 - jmorales@usaid.gov
- Jonna Mueller, QAWG Website Administrator
 - JMueLLer@hudoig.gov

EXAMPLES OF QAWG DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **QA staff's:**
 - Documentation of QA review work performed
 - Distribution of QA review reports
 - Assessment of OIG internal IT systems
- **Auditor's Documentation of:**
 - Assessment of the reliability of computer-processed data
 - Assessment of the reliability of testimonial evidence
 - Overall assessment of collective evidence to support findings
 - Workpaper elements and required procedures
 - Independence certifications of IG and legal counsel
- **Other:**
 - Implementation of Enterprise Risk Management within OIGs
 - OIG's reporting of monetary benefits

QAWG's - Project

- **(Goal 4)** Identify and document best practices to assist the OIG community with improving or enhancing their QA function.
- **Phase 1: Survey**
 - Established an inter-agency committee to conduct survey
 - Survey launched in July 2019
 - Focus on topics that require more consistent interpretation on *General Audit Standards, Fieldwork Standards*, and *Reporting Standards* for Performance Audits
- **Response from 39 agencies/48 participants**

Goal 4- Survey Results

- **Planning and Conducting the Engagement**
 - Data Reliability, Assessing and Documenting Audit Risk, Internal/External Specialist
- **Evidence and Audit Documentation**
 - Supervisory Review, Sampling Methodology, Assessment of Audit Evidence
- **Quality Control and Peer Review**
 - Establishing Systems of Quality Control, Monitoring Quality, Complying with Standards
- **Internal Control**

Goal 4- Next Steps

Milestones	Dates
Present survey results to QAWG practitioners to finalize topics	September 2019
Establish subcommittee for each topic	September 2019
Present to FAEC selected topics	Fall 2019

Goal 4- Next Steps

Milestones	Dates
Subcommittees to document best practices Review Survey Comments Conduct Interviews Solicit Best Practices Review Documents	September 2019 – May 2020
Subcommittees present and finalize results at QWAG meeting	May 2020

Next Steps – Disseminate Results

- **(Goal 5) Issue or establish** practice advisories to disseminate best practices within the OIG community
- Share results with CIGIE Community
- Post results on QAWG website

Goal 4- Discussion on QA issues

- Group discussion on Quality Improvement and Consistent Practices
- Virtual participants may email responses to questions to rhorrled@usaid.gov

QA- Discussion Questions

Planning and Conducting the Engagement

- What about the following items lead to inconsistent application of quality control and fieldwork standards for performance auditing :
 - Assessing reliability of computer-processed data
 - Sampling methodology
 - Documenting audit risks

QA- Discussion Questions

Evidence and Audit Documentation

- What about the following items lead to inconsistent application of quality assurance standards for during fieldwork:
 - Documenting supervisory review
 - Quality of supervisory review
 - Documenting assessment of evidence

QA- Discussion Questions

Quality Control and Peer Review

- What are potential causes for inconsistent interpretation of quality control standards?
- What role do you think the difference between “must” and “should” plays in inconsistent interpretation of standards?
- How should internal and external reviewers effectively approach their work to help OIGs develop better quality control systems?

QAWG Meetings

- **September 17th at USAID-OIG**
 - **Future Meetings will be:**
 - December 3, 2019
 - February 11, 2020
 - May 19, 2020
- **Questions, email: cardjohnson@usaid.gov**

Questions

