U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20531

February 12, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE ACTING DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE ACTING ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL SFD 3/6/15

THROUGH: THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION 2/27

FROM: Karol V. Mason
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Science Advisory Board

PURPOSE: To request that you approve the renewal of the Charter for the OJP Science Advisory Board (Board).

DISCUSSION: On August 23, 2010, you approved the charter to establish the initial Board under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Board assists in bridging the divide between research and practice in criminal and juvenile justice by providing valuable input and guidance to ensure that OJP's social science activities adhere to the highest levels of scientific rigor. The current charter expires on April 23, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Attorney General approve the renewal of the attached Board Charter.

APPROVE: _____ AG APPROVE: _____

DISAPPROVE: _____ AG DISAPPROVE: _____

DATE: 4/13/15 DATE: April 15, 2015

CONTACT: Katherine Darke Schmitt, Policy Advisor, OAAG, OJP
Katherine.darke@usdoj.gov; 202-616-7373

Office of Justice Programs Science Advisory Board

1. Board's Official Designation

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Science Advisory Board (hereinafter, "the Board").

2. Authority

The Board is a discretionary advisory committee established under the authority of the Attorney General of the Department of Justice (Department). The Board is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

3. Objectives and Scope of Authority

The Board will provide the office of the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) with valuable advice in the areas of social science and statistics for the purpose of enhancing the overall impact and performance of its programs and activities in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice. The Board will help develop long-range plans, advise on program development, and recommend guidance to assist in OJP's adherence to the highest levels of scientific rigor as appropriate. The Board will provide an important base of contact with the criminal justice and juvenile justice academic and practitioner communities.

4. Description of Duties

Specifically, the Board will:

- Provide an extra-agency review of the programs and activities at OJP for scientific soundness and pertinence to criminal and juvenile justice policymakers and practitioners;

• Provide advice and recommendations concerning support for OJP's research, statistics, and grant programs;

• Serve as a base of contact with the academic and practitioner communities to inform OJP of the impact of its research, statistics, and grant programs on both the academic community and the criminal and juvenile justice fields;

• Offer broad input into long-range plans and partnership opportunities;

• Serve as a forum for consideration of proposed interdisciplinary projects across the sciences; and,

• Advise on policy development, program implementation and evaluation, and identify research needs and opportunities.

5. Official to Whom the Board Reports

The Board shall report to the Attorney General through the AAG for OJP.

6. Support Services

OJP will provide all necessary support.

7. Designated Federal Officer

The overall operation of the Board shall be managed by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), who shall be a full-time career employee of the Office of the AAG for OJP, appointed in accordance with agency procedures. The DFO (or alternate DFO) will perform all responsibilities and functions as required per 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.120.

8. Membership and Designation

The Board shall be composed of up to twenty-six members.

In consultation with the AAG for OJP and after considering recommendations from the Director of the National Institute of Justice, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, the Director of the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, and Tracking and the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Attorney General will appoint all members of the Board. Members will be selected to achieve a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints that will include the expertise of scientific, criminal justice and juvenile justice professionals. At least 60 percent of the Board members shall be research scholars who are experienced and have published in areas including criminology, criminal justice, juvenile justice, tribal justice, statistics, economics, sociology, political science, and other relevant sciences.

Members of the Board or any subcommittee will not receive compensation. Reimbursement for travel and per diem will be outlined in the Board Operating Procedures.

9. Subcommittees

The Department has established four subcommittees to address issues relating to each of the following OJP offices: the National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and Bureau of Justice Statistics. Additional subcommittees may be created as needed. The AAG for OJP may appoint individuals to the subcommittees, as appropriate. The subcommittees must regularly coordinate with and report back to the Board, which will be responsible for reviewing and considering all of the products of the subcommittees. Subcommittees will not provide advice or work products directly to the Department.

10. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

The operating costs associated with supporting the functions of the Board are estimated to be $100,000 per year. This estimate includes staff support of a 0.1 FTE.

11. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Board will meet approximately twice a year at the call of the AAG for OJP (or designee) to carry out the duties identified in this Charter. The subcommittees may meet more often, as determined by the DFO. Board and subcommittee meeting dates shall be set in consultation with the DFO.

12. Recordkeeping

The records of the Board shall be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, and applicable agency policies. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 522, and all other applicable laws and regulations.

13. Duration

Continuing.

14. Termination Date

This Charter shall expire 2 years from its filing date and is subject to renewal, in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

15. Filing Date

The filing date is the date the Charter is filed with Congress.

April 15, 2015

Date

Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General