

**Report of the Transparency Initiative Coordinating Committee (TICC)
June 15, 2012**

TICC activities during the past month have included the following:

- The first informal meeting of the TICC was held during the annual AAPOR Conference on May 18. Discussion centered around experiences to date, what has worked and what has not worked from everyone's perspective, and consideration of some potential new directions to consider as we begin moving forward with our charge. One important theme was recognition that we need to find ways to remove the image of the Transparency Initiative as a burden, and replace it with a process that our membership would find beneficial and attractive.
- Three members of the TICC participated in the Transparency Initiative session, also held on May 18 at the annual conference.
 - This was an excellent session, as numerous members stated opinions and concerns regarding progress to date.
 - One of the key criticisms made during the session was that "the transparency initiative was not transparent." This is addressed below.
- The TICC's first conference call was held on June 6. Some of the key points that were discussed during this call include the following:
 - It is important that the TI's requirements conform exactly to those of the AAPOR Code.
 - It is important that we attract a critical mass of participants.
 - Consider organizing the TI such that it is not asking potential members to do anything beyond the Code (i.e., nothing new). This might entail a public pledge to always release the information required in the Code when requested.
 - Consider dropping altogether, at least for now, the concept of a data archive that TI members would be required to contribute all methodological information to.
 - Consider some form of periodic audit to insure compliance.
 - Consider a formal complaint process for transparency violations by TI members.
- One decision that was made during this first formal meeting, designed to address an important criticism received during the TI Update session at the annual conference, is to issue periodic, possibly monthly, updates via AAPORNET to the membership regarding progress being made by the TICC. It was felt that this would invite questions and debate that could be helpful as we move forward, and also serve as a sounding board for the directions being considered.
- The next meeting of TICC is scheduled for June 27. In advance of that meeting, the Chair of the TICC is preparing a draft outline for the proposed direction that we envision the Transparency Initiative taking that addresses the concerns and ideas that have been expressed to date. Once the TICC has reviewed and debated this document, and a consensus version has been produced, we plan to share it with the Council. With Council's approval, we will share it with the membership for their input as we begin planning a second pilot test, which we hope will take place this autumn.