
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Director, Sophia M. Alvarez

Board Members

Stephanie Garcia, Chair
Brandon Fields, Vice-Chair
Patrick Thiessen
Jeffrey Bird
Chandra Matthews
Aisha Young



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PUBLIC MEETING **November 29, 2023** **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

CONVENE

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Board was convened by video conference via Zoom at 10:00 AM by Board Chair Garcia.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Board Members Present

Chair Stephanie Garcia
Vice-Chair Brandon Fields
Patrick Thiessen
Chandra Matthews
Aisha Young

OPG Director

Sophia M. Alvarez

Others Present

Janelle Cantu, Deputy Director, Office of Public Guardianship
Angelina Gonzales, Office of Public Guardianship
Angela Bullard, Office of Public Guardianship
Teresa Esquibel, Office of Public Guardianship
Mary Olguin, Office of Public Guardianship
Veronica Goujon, Office of Public Guardianship
America Paz Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship
Robert Finke, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Kirsten Grooms, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Carl Glatstein, Member of the Colorado Bar Association
Michael Apgar, Guardianship Program, Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Hanni Raley, Executive Director, The ARC of Aurora
Marcella Schieffelin

Participation was by video conference.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. The meeting was recorded.

II. Approval of the October 25, 2023 Meeting minutes

Chair Garcia asked for a motion to amend the Notice and Agenda to include the approval of the November 2, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Matthews **moved** to amend the Notice and Agenda to include the approval of the November 2, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Board Member Young **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Chair Garcia asked for comments or amendments to the October 25, 2023 Board meeting minutes.

Board Member Young **moved** to approve the October 25, 2023 Board meeting minutes as presented. Board member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Chair Garcia asked for comments or amendments to the November 2, 2023 Board Special meeting minutes.

Board Member Young **moved** to approve the November 2, 2023 Board Special meeting minutes as presented. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Chair Stephanie Garcia)

There was no Chair Report for discussion.

IV. Presentation by Meridian Public Affairs, Legislative Liaisons

Amanda Gall, Legislative Liaison, provided a brief presentation on how things are unfolding with the Legislative Session pertaining to OPG's current needs and how they are monitoring other bills all session and weight-in where the office's interests are implicated.

Chair Garcia informed that the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition is hosting a legislative preview on December 13, 2023, 10:00 am at the Capital with virtual access.

V. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

- a. **FY24-25 Budget Request Update**
- b. **January 1, 2024 Report Update**

Director Alvarez's Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

Director Alvarez provided the following updates:

- Director Alvarez is meeting with Legislative Liaisons to prepare for the JBC hearing; however, she has not been notified of the hearing date as of this date.
 - Director Alvarez informed that Alfredo Kemm, legislative staff, will have a JBC briefing for the independent agencies on 12.05.2023. Director Alvarez informed that she will be attending the briefing.
 - Director Alvarez informed that the Legislative Liaisons will be meeting with legislators in the coming weeks.
 - Director Alvarez informed that Alfredo Kemm is very supportive of the OPG's budget requests, and he does not expect any objection.
- A. Chair Garcia inquired about the hiring of a Staff Attorney.
- Director Alvarez provided the following human resources updates.
 - i. For the 2nd JD guardian positions an interview was completed recently and there are three more scheduled for the next two weeks.
 - ii. For the Staff Attorney position four interviews have been completed and there is one more scheduled for next week. Director Alvarez expects to make an offer in December and have the Staff Attorney start in January 2024.

- A. Director Alvarez asked the Attorney General's Office if they had an update from the Judicial Department regarding the MOU. Attorney General Finke informed that there are no updates, but he will reach out to the SCAO for updates and will schedule a meeting.
- B. Chair Garcia inquired about Director Alvarez attendance to the meetings to the UGCOPAA. Director Alvarez informed that she attended the November 3rd meeting and will attend the December 1st meeting.
- C. Chair Garcia advised that the ARC of Colorado representative Elizabeth Mirand and Bar Association is meeting and looking at the UGCOPAA law through a legal lens. Chair Garcia has requested public access and has not received a response yet.

VI. Discussion of Appointment of COPG Director by December 31, 2023

Chair Garcia advised that the Board must vote to approve the appointment of the Executive Director by December 31, 2023. Chair Garcia informed that the Board probably needs to start discussing the performance evaluation again for this year. Chair Garcia stated that she will meet with Director Alvarez and get the evaluations forms out for Board Members to provide their feedback.

Attorney General Finke recommended to use same format this year and use the Attorney General's Office to assist with the process. Attorney General Finke informed that this may become a function of ASIA's responsibilities after established.

Chair Garcia asked for a motion to approve the appointment of the Executive Director.

Board member Thiessen **moved** to approve the appointment of the Executive Director. Board member Matthews **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Marcella Schieffelin, member of the public inquired about the following:
 - i. Number of Adults under public guardianship.
 - ii. Where the protected individuals live and who provides services.
 - iii. If there is an initiative with the ARC pertaining to supported decision making and actual need of guardianship.
 - iv. Finding a successor guardian when a parent passes away.
 - v. What happens when parents are divorcing and there is no agreement on legal guardianship of a child who is under 18?

B. There was a brief discussion as to the above inquiries and Ms. Schieffelin was asked to contact Director Alvarez directly for further discussion.

VIII. Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting

a. Specifically, the matters referred to Executive Session and Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting.

Chair Garcia asked for motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Critical Incidents.

Board Member Thiessen **moved** to initiate Executive Session. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously with at least two-thirds of the membership present.

The Board exited open session and entered executive session on a separate line at 10:41 a.m.


At 11:05 a.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

IX. Adjourn

Board Member Thiessen **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

ATTESTATION

As the Board Chair attest that these minutes of the open public meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Board substantially reflect the substance of the discussion and action taken related to the matters under the authority of the Board.



Stephanie Garcia, Chair

12.20.2023
Date



Brandon Fields, Vice-Chair

12.20.2023
Date