
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



3900 East Mexico Avenue
Suite 300
Denver, CO 80210
(720) 552-5215
Info@Colorado-OPG.org

PUBLIC MEETING **February 28, 2024** **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

CONVENE

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Board was convened by video conference via Zoom at 10:04 AM by Board Vice-Chair Fields.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Board Members Present

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

OPG Director

Sophia M. Alvarez

Others Present

Janelle Cantu, Deputy Director, Office of Public Guardianship
Josh Murphy, Staff Attorney, Office of Public Guardianship
Mary Olguin, Office of Public Guardianship
America Paz Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship
Rober Finke, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Kirsten Grooms, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Hanni Raley, Executive Director, The ARC of Aurora
Elizabeth Moran, Executive Director, ARC of Colorado
Wilfred Romero, Executive Director, ARC Pikes Peak Region
Marianne Goodland, Colorado Politics
Maureen Welch

Jackie Beal
Erin McGavin

Participation was by video conference.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. The meeting was recorded.

II. Approval of the January 24, 2024 Meeting minutes

Vice-Chair Fields asked for comments or amendments to the January 24, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

Board Member Young **moved** to approve the January 24, 2024 Board meeting minutes as presented. Board member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Chair Stephanie Garcia)

There was no written Chair Report for discussion.

Chair Garcia informed that the Executive Director Evaluation form is ready and will possibly be distributed by late April.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

a. Introduction of Josh Murphy, Staff Attorney

Director Alvarez introduced new hire Staff Attorney Josh Murphy. Mr. Murphy provided a brief background about himself.

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 informed that Jeffrey Bird, Board Member resigned, and that the Governor's office started recruitment.
- Director Alvarez informed that a client passed away this past weekend at a nursing home facility.

V. Public Comment

Vice-Chair Fields asked for public comment.

- Maureen Welch introduced herself and discussed the following:
 - i. A letter submitted to the Governor by former OPG employees.
 - ii. She also alleged the possible neglect of clients due to staff shortages.
 - iii. The number of deaths of OPG clients.
- Jackie Beal, former guardian, discussed the following:
 - i. How are guardianships being handled with the lack of guardians in the Denver office.
 - ii. She also alleged how Director Alvarez and Deputy Director Cantu are not able to handle the OPG office.
- Erin McGavin, former guardian, alleged the following:
 - i. Funding for guardians commuting from other counties to help with the Denver caseload.
 - ii. Questioned whether the current guardians are NGA certified.
 - iii. Funding for NGA training.

Vice-Chair Fields informed that a response to a recent article posted in the Colorado Politics newspaper will be issued soon.

VI. Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting

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

Vice-Chair Fields informed that there was no quorum, therefore, the Board will not enter Executive Session.

VII. Adjourn

Chair Garcia **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Young **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

ATTESTATION

As the Board Chair attests, 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

Date

Brandon Fields, Vice-Chair

Date

DRAFT