
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 **April 24, 2024** **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
Josh Murphy, Staff Attorney, Office of Public Guardianship
Angela Bullard, Office of Public Guardianship
Teresa Esquibel, Office of Public Guardianship
Kirsten Grooms, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Michael Apgar, Guardianship Program, Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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 March 24, 2024 Meeting minutes and April 11, 2024 Special Meeting minutes

Chair Garcia asked for comments or amendments to the March 24, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Fields **moved** to approve the March 24, 2024 Board meeting minutes as presented. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Chair Garcia asked for comments or amendments to the April 11, 2024 Board special meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Fields **moved** to approve the April 11, 2024 Board special meeting minutes as presented. Board member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Chair Stephanie Garcia)

There was not a written Chair report to discuss.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

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 ASIA independent agencies are meeting with Alfredo Kemm tomorrow, April 25, 2024, to review comments, amendments, and suggestions regarding the updated ASIA bill that was just provided.
- Chair Garcia inquired about what significant changes are being made to ASIA's bill. Director Alvarez informed that the bill will not come into effect until next year, and that Judicial and the Independent Agencies need to

comply with OIT computer technology standards, based on the hack that occurred to the State Public Defender's office and there will be budget increases to consider. Director Alvarez further indicated that there is going to be a liaison who is going to assist with the transition from the services rendered between Judicial and ASIA. The bill strongly encourages the Judicial Department to create a liaison, but it does not require it. They are looking into adding some stronger language or enforceability when they meet with Mr. Kemm.

- Chair Garcia asked for an update on Senate Bill 136, the UGCOPPA bill. Director Alvarez stated that Monday or Tuesday of this week OPG and the Denver, City Attorney's office is meeting with Senator Gardner and the ARC of Colorado to provide final amendments. Director Alvarez further indicated that Senator Gardner and Arc of Colorado are willing to strike some of the troubling provisions such as third-party acceptance, however, she has not seen finalized amendments yet.
- Board Member Thiessen asked if there is a spot open since there was a guardianship terminated because the person no longer meets the standard for guardianship. Director Alvarez stated she is going to wait until she hires a Denver and a Mental Health guardian. Director Alvarez informed that they are actively working on hiring more guardians and in a good case scenario it will take two to three months to be fully staffed. Board Member Thiessen asked how many total staff members should be employed by the office to be fully staffed. Director Alvarez stated that it would be a total of 12.
- Chair Garcia asked about the workforce development position. Director Alvarez stated that the workforce development position would be an additional staff member.
- Board Member Thiessen asked about how many total guardians should be. Director Alvarez responded seven and we currently have four guardians.

V. **Public Comment**

- Michael Apgar informed that the VA is on a hiring pause nationwide and hiring critical positions. Mr. Apgar further stated that they have special committees that will review each position that comes through, and they are waiting to see what happens.

VI. **Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting**

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

VII. Legal Discussion Regarding Personnel Issues
a. Specifically, the matters referred to Executive Session and Discussion of Personnel Issues

Chair Garcia asked for motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the remaining items.

Board Member Thiessen **moved** to initiate Executive Session. Chair Garcia **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 10:16 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

VIII. Adjourn

Board Member Thiessen **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 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