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# Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

**Director,** Sophia M. Alvarez

**Board Members**

Brandon Fields, Chair  
Aisha Young, Vice-Chair  
Stephanie Garcia  
Patrick Thiessen  
Chandra Matthews  
Roseanne Collison  
Chelsea Ziegler



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## **PUBLIC MEETING December 20, 2024 RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **CONVENE**

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Board was convened by video conference via Zoom at 1:04 PM by Board Chair Fields.

A quorum of the Board was present.

### **Board Members Present**

Chair Brandon Fields  
Stephanie Garcia  
Chandra Matthews  
Roseanne Collison  
Chelsea Ziegler

### **OPG Director**

Sophia M. Alvarez

### **Others Present**

Janelle Cantu, Deputy Director, Office of Public Guardianship  
Josh Murphy, Staff Attorney, Office of Public Guardianship  
Michelle Trejo, Office of Public Guardianship  
Katie Donohue, Office of Public Guardianship  
Shelly De Lisi, Office of Public Guardianship  
America Paz-Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship  
Kirsten Grooms, Assistant Attorney General

### **Public Attendance**

Amanda Gall, Meridian Public Affairs

Carl Glatstein, Attorney and Member of the Colorado Bar Association  
Emily Bowers-Kogan, Maryland Guardian  
Elizabeth Moran, Executive Director, ARC of Colorado  
Meredith Henry, Senior Policy and Advocacy Associate, ARC of Colorado  
Maureen Welch

Participation was by video conference.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm. The meeting was recorded.

### **II. Approval of the November 18, 2024 Meeting minutes.**

Chair Fields asked for comments or amendments to the November 18, 2024 Board Meeting minutes. There were none.

Board Member Garcia **moved** to approve the November 18, 2024 meeting minutes, as presented. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

### **III. Chair Report (Chair Brandon Fields)**

Chair Fields provided the following updates:

- A. Executive Director's Performance Evaluation was completed.
- B. Director Alvarez provided a sheet with each Board Member's term and when they end in an email.

### **IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)**

#### **a. JBC Hearing Update**

Director Alvarez's Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed.

Director Alvarez provided the following updates:

- A. The Annual Management Representation Letter from the Judicial Department Controller was completed and submitted on 12.19.2024.
- B. Deputy Director Cantu was accepted into the Leadership National Guardianship Association Class of 2025.  
Deputy Director Cantu provided a brief overview about the NGA leadership position.
- C. Human Resources update: Director Alvarez made an offer for the Staffing and Culture Leader position, and it was accepted. A new Guardian will be starting in January along with the Staffing and Culture Leader.
- D. Director Alvarez, Former Board Chair Deb Bennett-Woods, and Grant Yoder submitted an article based on our 2023 Report to the Legislature to be published in the Journal of Aging and Social Policy.
- E. The 2024 Annual Report to the Legislature was submitted.
- F. JBC hearing update: Director Alvarez had only four minutes of the nine minutes allowed to present at the hearing. Director Alvarez and the Legislative Liaison will meet with JBC members individually if they have any questions. Director Alvarez provided a summary of the budget requested.
- G. Amanda Gall explained that the State is in a difficult budget environment, provided a brief overview of OPG's budget request and informed that they will be following up with the JBC committee with fact sheets and additional opportunities for conversation.
- H. Board Member Garcia asked if the unspent budget funds must be returned in a reversion and Director Alvarez answered no.
- I. Chair Fields asked Ms. Gall about her view on whether OPG continues to have a positive level of support. Ms. Gall indicated that the State understands that the population that OPG serves is very vulnerable, and OPG has the support from our partners in hospital systems and others that help us convey to members of the legislature and the Governor's office that this is a crucial work in serving this population and part of the State's picture in conserving critical healthcare and other resources.

## **V. Public Comment**

Chair Fields asked for public comment.

- A. Maureen Welch provided various public comments, including that she spoke with Board Member Garcia.
- B. Board Member Garcia informed that she never spoke with Ms. Welch.

## **VI. Board Comment**

Chair Fields informed that OPG has testified multiple times about client deaths including SMART Act hearings and before the Judiciary Committee. Chair Fields further explained that every client that has passed away has been in a hospital setting or nursing home setting under the direct care of medical professionals.

Board Member Collison thanked guardians and staff for their work advocating for vulnerable clients.

Chair Fields advised that these guardianship services did not exist prior to OPG in Colorado and thanked OPG's staff.

**VII. Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting**

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

Director Alvarez informed that there is not a report to review and asked to be tabled for the next meeting.

**VIII. Adjourn**


Board Member Garcia **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Matthews **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.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.

  
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Brandon Fields, Chair

1/22/2025  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Aisha Young, Vice-Chair

1/22/2025  
Date