
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 Zigler



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PUBLIC MEETING March 26, 2025 RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

CONVENE

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Board of Directors was convened by Zoom video conference at 10:02 by Chair Brandon Fields.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Board Members Present

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

Office of Public Guardianship

Sophia M. Alvarez, Executive Director
Janelle Cantu, Deputy Director
Josh Murphy, Staff Attorney
KeAre' Rhea, Staffing and Culture Leader
Shelly De Lisi, Guardian
Anita Hoffman, Guardian
Kimberly Baker, Guardian
Michelle Trejo, Guardian
Mary Olguin, Guardian

Office of the Attorney General

Kirsten Grooms, Assistant Attorney General

Public Attendees

Maureen Welch

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was recorded.

II. Approval of the February 26, 2025 meeting minutes

Approval of the February 26, 2025, meeting minutes was tabled to the April meeting because a draft was not distributed to the Board for review prior to the present meeting.

III. Chair Report (Brandon Fields)

Chair Fields reported meeting with Director Alvarez with regard to the budget and personnel matters.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

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

Director Alvarez reported the following:

A. Budget

- a. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) March economic forecast projects a \$1.16 billion. Director Alvarez is in the process of reviewing drafts of the long bill for potential impacts on OPG.
- b. The March 10 hearing before the JBC was "successful" in that the Committee approved much of what OPG had requested. JBC chair, Senator Bridges, and vice chair, Senator Bird, made on-the-record comments supporting and highlighting the work of OPG.

- B. An article written by Director Alvarez, former Board Chair Deb Bennett-Woods, and Research Assistant Grant Yoder, based on the 2023 OPG report to the Colorado General Assembly, was submitted for peer review on March 3, and a response from the Journal of Aging and Social Policy is expected in April.

- C. Director Alvarez and Assistant Attorney General Grooms reviewed a draft of a bill from the Legislative Council, which is estimated to have a \$30,000.00 fiscal impact on OPG. Additional details are not available at this time because the bill is confidential.

V. Public Comment

Ms. Welch expressed her belief that Director Alvarez inaccurately portrayed OPG's budget request as approved, as well as her opposition to the use of cash funds for "fancy" office space. In response, Board Member Thiessen disputed the characterization the budget has been definitively approved by the General Assembly, and instead Director Alvarez's comments specifically referenced the JBC, and the Board is well informed and aware of the legislative process.

VI. Board Comment

Chair Fields asked for board comment.

Board Member Collison expressed gratitude for the work of Director Alvarez and OPG staff towards marginalized clients of the community.

Chair Fields expressed appreciation for the work of OPG staff.

VII. Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting

- a. Specifically, the matters referred to executive session and discussion of critical incident reporting.

Chair Fields asked for a motion to enter executive session at 10:23 a.m.

Board Member Garcia moved to initiate executive session. Board Member Thiessen 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 10:25 a.m.

At 10:55 a.m. the Board returned to open session.

VIII. Adjourn

Board Member Thiessen moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Collison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

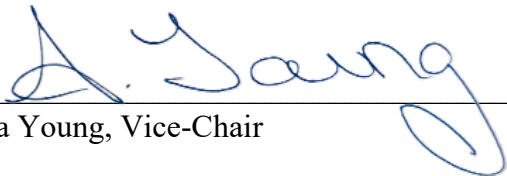
ATTESTATION

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.



Brandon Fields, Chair

Date 4/23/2025



Aisha Young, Vice-Chair

Date 4/23/2025