
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Director, Sophia M. Alvarez

Commissioners

Kelsey Lesco, Chair
Deb Bennett-Woods, Vice Chair
Marco Chayet
Alison Zinn
Stephanie Garcia



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PUBLIC MEETING

July 28, 2021

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

CONVENE

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Commission was convened by video conference via Zoom at 10:03 AM by Commission Chair Lesco.

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Commission Members Present

Chair Kelsey Lesco
Vice-Chair Deb Bennett-Woods
Marco Chayet
Stephanie Garcia

OPG Director

Sophia M. Alvarez

Others Present

Rhonda Sanchez, Office of Public Guardianship
Camille Price, Office of Public Guardianship
Erin McGavin, Office of Public Guardianship
America Paz Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship
Grant Yoder, Office of Public Guardianship
Deborah Enck, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Ann McKenzie, Silver Key Senior Services

All participated by video conference.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Chair Lesco indicated that the meeting is being recorded.

II. Approval of the April 28, 2021, May 26, 2021, and June 23, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Chair Lesco calls for amendments to the June 23, 2021. There were none. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods **moved** to approve June 23, 2021, as presented. Commissioner Chayet **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Chair Lesco calls for amendments to the April 28, 2021, and May 26, 2021. There were none. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods **moved** to approve the April 28, 2021, and May 26, 2021, as presented. Commissioner Chayet **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Kelsey Lesco)

Chair Lesco announced that the Commission meetings are now set up to be via zoom. Chair Lesco informed that the Executive Director's Evaluation will be through a Special Meeting on August 5, 2021, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Enck will work on the Notice and Agenda and the office will distribute.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

Director Alvarez's July 28, 2021, Director Report was previously distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- A. Director Alvarez announced that Cynthia Wells is OPG's new Public Guardian and Cynthia introduced herself.
- B. Director Alvarez reported an update under trainings and projects.
 - i. Rhonda Sanchez and Camille Price are now nationally certified guardians.
 - ii. Director Alvarez will schedule her exam to become CGC certified in September and the remaining guardians are working on completing their curriculum.
- C. Director Alvarez provided an update on the number of registered users, referrals, accepted cases, etc. as of 7.28.2021.

1. 61 Active guardianships
2. 19 referrals pending in court proceedings
3. 1 Partial/Incomplete referral
4. 6 clients passed away since CO OPG appointment (all non-COVID related)
5. 7 “Hold” OBH/CHMI- Ft. Logan/Pueblo referrals
6. Declined referrals
 1. Expired/Incomplete information – 4
 2. Withdrawn by Ft. Logan – 1
 3. Family available to serve – 5
 4. Not incapacitated - 1
7. 55 streamlined referrals (Non-Denver County) – Declined
 1. Adams County – 2
 2. Arapahoe County – 8
 3. Boulder County – 4
 4. “Denver County” - 2
 5. El Paso County - 5
 6. Garfield County - 1
 7. Gunnison County – 1
 8. Huerfano County - 3
 9. Jefferson County – 2
 10. Lake County - 1
 11. La Plata County – 2
 12. Larimer County - 4
 13. Las Animas County - 2
 14. Mesa County – 2
 15. Montrose County – 2
 16. Otero County – 3
 17. Pueblo County -1
 18. Washington County - 1
 19. Weld County – 5

- D. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods asked if there is a way to identify where the streamline referrals are coming from and assuming that there is under reporting, is there a way to extrapolate from that to use for the final report. Director Alvarez stated that the Survey will help obtain that data and that the Case Management System retains specific location of all referrals.
- E. Commissioner Chayet suggested to sit down with stakeholders from rural counties to obtain a more accurate report and figure out another way to get that data. Director Alvarez asked Commissioner Chayet to meet offline to discuss this further.

- F. Grant Yoder informed that he is meeting with the University Review Board this afternoon to obtain feedback and approval of the survey.
- G. Director Alvarez stated that she provided all the updates she had and asked for any additional comments.
- H. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods stated that he price-tag for the online complaint form is kind of high and asked if Director Alvarez is going to proceed with it. Director Alvarez informed that she is not moving forward with the online complaint form because it is too expensive for the Pilot Program, however, the complaint process and regular forms are available through the website.
- I. Commissioner Chayet inquired about how the \$150/hour fee the OPG is paying to Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) for matters referred was determined. Director Alvarez stated that the fee was based on information collected from Hugh Wilson, the executive director of another state agency like OPG and conversations with Chair Lesco.
- J. Commissioner Chayet inquired about how many hours MLP is expected to bill OPG. Director Alvarez informed that the range is between 8 and 10 hours with the idea that the office will perform as much as possible to limit the expenses. MLP will draft legal documents.

a. Policy 6.10. Internal Ethics Committee (IEC) discussion

- A. Director Alvarez informed that Commissioner Zinn provided some suggested changes for the policy, however, she did not have time to discuss this with Commissioner Zinn.
- B. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods stated that for the most part the changes were fine with some clarifications. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods stated that it is not clear when the Public Guardian will consider matters on her own and when the Director and Public Guardian need to consult with the Internal Ethics Committee. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods further explained that there is a missing step when the public guardian should consult with the director and when they should decide to consult with the IEC.
- C. Chair Lesco asked Director Alvarez to add those clarifications and to review with Commissioner Zinn.

b. Review of updated Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) materials and discussion

Director Alvarez informed that she updated the Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) materials with comments sent to her by Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods and AAG Enck and asked for any additional comments. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods asked for clarification regarding the size of the SAP.

- A. Chair Lesco asked for any comments on other matters.
- B. Commissioner Chayet inquired about the interview Director Alvarez gave Channel 7 and if it made to a report. Director Alvarez informed that Channel 7 asked for off the record conversation about OPG because they had previously done a report mostly about conservatorship and the abuse of clients through conservatorships. Director Alvarez further informed that Channel 7 asked if they could contact her in the future for a story about OPG and she agreed.

V. Public Comment

Chair Lesco asked for public comment.

- A. Ann McKenzie from Silver Key Senior Services stated that she has a huge collaboration from people at public meetings and thought that it would be helpful to do a public announcement to the press as to the work being done pertaining to guardianship, the programs that are in place and highlight their work with OPG. Ann further stated that she will be sharing the press release with Director Alvarez for feedback.
- B. Chair Lesco agreed that it is a good idea to get information to the public about guardianship options.
- C. Chair Lesco asked for further comments. There were none.
- D. Commissioner Garcia asked about the referral screening process as it relates to the passage of the supportive decision-making legislation and determining if there are available family/friends to assist a potential client. Director Alvarez stated that the referral process includes screening to determine if a guardianship is warranted and availability of family/friends.

VI. Adjourn

Commissioner Chayet **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Bennett-Woods **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

ATTESTATION

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



Kelsey Lesco, Chair

10.27.2021

Date



Deb Bennett-Woods, Vice-Chair

10.27.2021

Date