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# Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

**Director,** Sophia M. Alvarez

**Commissioners**

Deb Bennett-Woods, Chair  
Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair  
Kelsey Lesco  
Spencer Crona  
Patrick Thiessen



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## **PUBLIC MEETING** **January 26, 2022** **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **CONVENE**

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Commission was convened by video conference via Zoom at 10:02 AM by Commission Chair Bennett-Woods.

A quorum of the Commission was present.

### **Commission Members Present**

Chair Deb Bennett-Woods  
Stephanie Garcia  
Spencer Crona  
Patrick Thiessen

### **OPG Director**

Sophia M. Alvarez

### **Others Present**

Jacquelyn Beal, Office of Public Guardianship  
Rhonda Sanchez, Office of Public Guardianship  
Erin McGavin, Office of Public Guardianship  
Cynthia Wells, Office of Public Guardianship  
Camille Price, Office of Public Guardianship  
America Paz Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship  
Robert Finke, Office of the Attorney General  
India Kidd-Aaron, Office of the Attorney General

### **Public Attendance**

Gina Brown, Legal Assistance Developer for the Elderly, Disability Law Colorado  
Jan Williams, Colorado Gerontological Society  
Brother James Patrick Hall, Rocky Mountain Refuge  
Ann McKenzie, Silver Key Senior Services  
Hanni Raley, Assistant Executive Director, The ARC of Aurora

Chantell Taylor, Vice President, Government & Regulatory Affairs, UCHealth  
Megan Leppke, Manager Hospital Care Management, Denver Health  
Amanda Thompson, Director Hospital Care Management, Denver Health  
Maureen Welch  
Carl Glatstein, Representative of the Colorado Bar Association (CBA), Elder Law  
Section

All participated by video conference.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

The meeting was called to order. Chair Bennett-Woods indicated that the meeting is being recorded.

### **II. Welcome to Commissioners Spencer Crona and Patrick Thiessen**

New commissioners, Spencer Crona and Patrick Thiessen were introduced to the Commission by Chair Bennett-Woods, and each provided a brief background of themselves.

### **III. Welcome to Assistant Attorney General India Kidd-Aaron**

Assistant General India Kidd-Aaron was introduced by Chair Bennett-Woods to the commission.

### **IV. Approval of the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Garcia **moved** to approve the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

### **V. Chair Report (Deb Bennett-Woods)**

Chair Bennet-Woods' Chair Report was distributed electronically and discussed. Chair Bennett-Woods informed that she will provide the Chair's report in written format prior to the Commission meeting.

## **VI. Election of Commission Vice-Chair**

Chair Bennett-Woods asked for nominations or volunteers for the Vice-Chair position.

- A. The Commission briefly discussed who would be the most appropriate candidate for Vice-Chair.
- B. Commissioner Garcia volunteered to be nominated as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to appoint Commissioner Garcia as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

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

Director Alvarez's January 26, 2022, Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- a. FY 22-23 Budget Request/JBC Hearing Update
  - b. Proposal for UC Health Grant
  - c. Data Update
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- A. Commission discussed the FY 22-23 Budget Request and JBC hearing. Director Alvarez informed that during the JBC hearing there were no follow up questions, nor indication as to whether the budget request was received.
  - B. Director Alvarez provided update that there are 78 active guardianships and 2 in court proceedings not including the OBH Momentum referrals.
  - C. The Commission discussed the Proposal for UC Health Grant and possible conflicts. Director Alvarez will provide a summarized report pertaining to the Proposal for UC Health Grant by next Commission Meeting.
  - D. The Commission discussed follow up questions from the SMART Act hearing.

## **VIII. Discussion of Legal Relationship with Denver Health**

Chair Bennett-Woods informed that there have been some contested client discharges by Denver Health largely driven by the COVID pandemic challenges. Chair Bennett-Woods asked to move into executive session to discuss the specific situations which may require legal advice.

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to initiate executive session. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. The Commission exited public session and entered executive session on a separate video conference at 11:05 a.m.

At 12:15 p.m., the Commission returned to open session.

Based on executive session discussion, Chair Bennett-Woods proposed that the Commission approve an action item authorizing Director Alvarez and Associate Attorney General Kidd-Aaron to contact Denver Health's Legal Counsel and other appropriate Denver Health representatives to arrange a meeting to address potential legal issues involving Colorado OPG clients.

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to approve the action item as presented. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion based on the authority of JDF 848 and 849 forms and C.R.S. § 15-14-315. Motion **passed** unanimously.

### **IX. Public Comment**

Chair Bennett-Woods informed that policy allows for 3 minutes of public comment per person and asked the public to adhere to it.

A. Maureen Welch, member of the public stated the following:

- i. That there was not mention of Denver Health comments at the SMART Act Hearing and urged the Commission to listen to the recording of the hearing.
- ii. Ms. Welch further stated that OPG is ineffective, unethical and is promising services that are not being provided.
- iii. Ms. Welch requested for OPG to pause operations until changes are made.
- iv. Ms. Welch requested an updated email account to reach all current Commissioners.

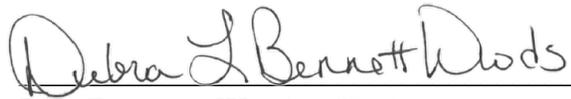
B. Chair Bennett-Woods asked if there was any further comment. There was none.

### **X. Adjourn**

Commissioner Garcia **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.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.



Deb Bennett-Woods, Chair

2.23.2022

Date



Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair

2.23.2022

Dave