
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Director, Sophia M. Alvarez

Commissioners

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



3900 East Mexico Avenue
Suite 300
Denver, CO 80210
(720) 552-5215
Info@Colorado-OPG.org

PUBLIC MEETING February 23, 2022 RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

CONVENE

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Commission was convened by video conference via Zoom at 10:01 AM by Commission Chair Bennett-Woods.

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Commission Members Present

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

OPG Director

Sophia M. Alvarez

Others Present

Jacquelyn Beal, Office of Public Guardianship
Rhonda Sanchez, Office of Public Guardianship
Cynthia Wells, Office of Public Guardianship
Camille Price, Office of Public Guardianship
America Paz Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship
Grant Yoder, Office of Public Guardianship
India Kidd-Aaron, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Gina Brown, Legal Assistance Developer for the Elderly, Disability Law Colorado
Shari Caton
Ann McKenzie, Silver Key Senior Services
Maureen Welch

All participated by video conference.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. The meeting was recorded.

II. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chair Bennett-Woods calls for amendments to the January 26, 2022 draft meeting minutes. Commissioner Crona asked to correct a misspelling of the name of a member of the public.

Commissioner Crona **moved** to approve the January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Deb Bennett-Woods)

Chair Bennett-Woods' report, Chair Report, was distributed electronically and discussed. Chair Bennett-Woods announced that she received a letter from the Governor's office pertaining to COVID 19 Vaccinations and testing and asked for it to be added as an agenda item for the March meeting.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

- a. FY 22-23 Budget Request Update
- b. Data Presentation (Grant Yoder)

Director Alvarez's February 23, 2022, Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- A. Director Alvarez informed that recently she received 3 CORA requests and she is getting guidance from AAG Kidd-Aaron of how to handle the requests.
- B. Director Alvarez provided an update of the Intake, Prioritization and Referral process and as of February 23, 2022:
 1. 13 New Hold status for 6 months (now includes OBH/CHMI-Ft. Logan/Pueblo referrals that are non-OBH/Momentum contract referrals)
 2. 6 Partial / 1 Complete referrals

3. 9 referrals pending in court proceedings - OBH/Momentum dedicated caseload and 1 appointed.

C. Director Alvarez informed that she has several Stakeholder meetings scheduled and will provide updates at next meeting.

Data Presentation (Grant Yoder)

Grant Yoder provided an overview of data collection as of February 23, 2022.

V. Approval of the 2021 Executive Director Evaluation

Commissioner Garcia joined the meeting only for this portion of the meeting. Chair Bennett-Woods asked for a motion to approve the 2021 Executive Director Evaluation.

Commissioner Garcia **moved** to approve the 2021 Executive Director Evaluation. Commissioner Lesco **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously with at least two-thirds of the membership present.

Commissioner Crona and Commissioner Thiessen abstained from voting. Commissioner Garcia and Commissioner Lesco left the meeting at this time.

VI. Public Guardian presentation of NGA Annual Conference (Rhonda Salazar Sanchez)

Guardian Rhonda Sanchez provided an overview of the following subjects discussed at the NGA Annual Conference:

- a. Overprotected: Guardianship Overreach
- b. Guardianship Assistance Program
- c. Introduction to Sexual Education

VII. Discussion of OPG Commission Email Policy

Director Alvarez sent the OPG Commission Email Policy to the Chair via email message and it was briefly discussed. The Commission was in favor of utilizing OPG Commission emails especially for compliance with document retention purposes. Chair Bennett-Woods is in favor of adopting an email policy and requested to add it to the agenda for the March meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

Chair Bennett-Woods asked for public comment.

- A. Ann McKenzie from Silver Key Senior Services stated that she has been a guardian for 7 years and 75% of her cases are pro bono. She stated that Silver Key developed a Guardianship Volunteer Advocacy Program 5 years ago to train families and professionals and they could offer their experience to the OPG and the state. Chair Bennett-Woods thanked her for the offer.
- B. Maureen Welch, member of the public, made comments regarding that the OPG website is outdated and concerns about the Denver Health's comments at the SMART Act Hearing. Ms. Welch asked for a moment of silence for the wards who are no longer with us.
- C. Chair Bennett-Woods stated that OPG is actively engaged in working with Denver Health to understand and investigate their concerns, and until that is complete, the OPG is not going to discuss that publicly because it is not appropriate. Chair Bennett-Woods further stated that Denver Health is an important stakeholder and we will continue to work closely with them in those processes. However, until we have all the information, OPG will continue an investigation, and it will not be discussed publicly.
- D. Commissioner Thiessen informed that a discussion of quality of services can be challenging without revealing personal information about specific wards and we will not do that in a public forum.
- E. Chair Bennett-Woods asked if there was any further comment. There was none.

IX. Adjourn

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 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.

Debra L Bennett Woods

Deb Bennett-Woods, Chair

3.23.2022

Date

Stephanie Garcia

Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair

3.23.2022

Date