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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



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

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## **PUBLIC MEETING** **April 27, 2022** **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 Bennet-Woods.

A quorum of the Commission was present.

### **Commission Members Present**

Chair Deb Bennett-Woods  
Kelsey Lesco  
Spencer Crona  
Patrick Thiessen

### **OPG Director**

Sophia M. Alvarez

### **Others Present**

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**

Ann McKenzie, Silver Key Senior Services  
Gina Brown, Legal Assistance Developer for the Elderly, Disability Law Colorado  
Shari Caton  
Jim Tatten  
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. The meeting was recorded.

### **II. Discussion and Update Regarding Denver Health Investigation Testimony and Relationship**

#### **a. An Executive Session will be held to discuss legal issues regarding OPG's relationship with health care providers including, but not limited to, Denver Health**

- A. Commissioner Bennett-Woods informed that the discussion and update regarding Denver Health Investigation Testimony and Relationship will be discussed at the beginning of the meeting because Assistant Attorney General Kidd-Aaron must leave meeting early to attend to other matters.
- B. Chair Bennett-Woods asked the Commission to direct any questions and concerns regarding the Executive Director's Evaluation timeline to AAG Kidd-Aaron.
- C. Chair Bennett-Woods asked for a motion to enter into executive session.

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to initiate executive session. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously with at least two-thirds of the membership present. The Commission exited open session and entered executive session on a separate line provided by AAG Kidd-Aaron at 10:12a.m.

At 11:06 a.m., the Commission returned to open session.

### **III. Approval of the March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Crona **moved** to approve the March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Chair Bennett-Woods' report, Chair Report, was distributed electronically and discussed. Chair Bennett-Woods did not have any updates to her report.

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

Chair Bennett-Woods' report, Chair Report, was distributed electronically and discussed. Chair Bennett-Woods did not have any updates to her report.

**V. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)**  
**a. FY22-23 Budget Requests Plan of Action**

Director Alvarez's April 27, 2022, Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- A. On April 25, 2022 the Long Bill was signed by the Governor, therefore, Director Alvarez will be moving forward with posting jobs for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial districts.
- B. The Deputy Director Plan of Action is to post the job on May 2, 2022, close the posting on May 13, 2022, start interviewing candidates starting on May 23, 2022, with a start date of June 6, 2022. Chair Bennett-Woods suggested to leave the posting open for as long as it takes to receive good candidates.
- C. On April 26, 2022, Amendment L.008 to HB-1271 was introduced. The amendment requests for the OPG Commission to create a Working Group to study issues related to protected persons, and to report findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives by December 1, 2022.
- D. New training for staff was added for May 2, 2022, Building Resilience and Healthcare through the Arts provided by the University of Colorado Anschutz center for bioethics and humanities.
- E. A data meeting with Dr. Kristin Myers was rescheduled to April 29, 2022. This meeting is for Dr. Myers to conduct third-party client interviews for the Final Report.
- F. On April 26, 2022, Director Alvarez had communications related to the Amendment L.008 to HB-1271 with:
  - Hugh Wilson, Judicial Budget manager,
  - Terry Scanlon, SCAO legislative liaison,
  - Adeline Hodge, OPG Legislative Liaison,
  - Dr. Courtney Everson, Colorado Action Lab,
  - Carl Glatstein, Colorado Bar Association Elder Law Section

**VI. Final Report Status (Grant Yoder)**

Grant Yoder provided a brief update on the data collection and research progress for the Final Report as of April 27, 2022.

Chair Bennett-Woods requested that the Commission review the Legislative History draft. Chair Bennett-Woods requested that the Commissioners work on content related to Process Charts explaining what happens to individuals that do not have access to public guardians as suggested by Jarrett Hughs of the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Lesco suggested that when determining the permanent makeup of the OPG governing body, the discussion may involve legal advice and may need to be held in Executive Session.

#### **VII. Discussion of OPG Commission Email Policy**

Director Alvarez informed IT consultant is currently working on the Commissioner Email Policy to ensure that it complies with Judicial branch policies. Email communications with the Commission have been sent to both the OPG email and personal account due to issues related to the account accessibility.

#### **VIII. Discussion of Commission Meeting Format and COVID-19 considerations (in-person/virtual)**

The Commission agreed to move meetings to a hybrid format of in-person and virtual attendance starting May 2022. In person meetings will take place at the Carr Building and virtually through the continued Zoom format.

#### **IX. Discussion Regarding Legislative Training and Statutory Role of Commission Special Meeting**

A Special meeting will be held soon to discuss Legislative Training and the Statutory Role of the Commission. The meeting will be between 30 minutes to an hour. AAG Kidd-Aaron will send legal memorandum prior to the meeting and potential dates will be send out to the Commission.

#### **X. Public Comment**

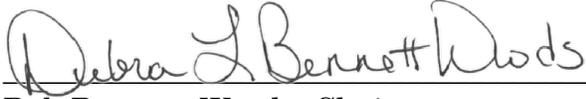
- A. Carl Glatstein expressed appreciation for the efforts the OPG office and the Commission has undertaken.
- B. Jim Tatten asked for further explanation of Amendment L.008 to HB-1271.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

Commissioner Crona **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 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.



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Deb Bennett-Woods, Chair

5.25.2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date