
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 **August 24, 2022** **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

CONVENE

The meeting of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Commission was convened by video conference via Zoom at 10:04 AM by Commission Chair Bennett-Woods.

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Commission Members Present

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

OPG Director

Sophia M. Alvarez

Others Present

Janelle Cantu, Deputy Director, Office of Public Guardianship
Jacquelyn Beal, Office of Public Guardianship
Rhonda Sanchez, Office of Public Guardianship
Cynthia Wells, Office of Public Guardianship
America Paz Pastrana, Office of Public Guardianship
Grant Yoder, Office of Public Guardianship
India Kidd-Aaron, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Shannon Kealiher, Paralegal, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Jim Tatten
Gina Brown, Legal Assistance Developer for the Elderly, Disability Law Colorado
Participation was by video conference.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of the July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Crona **moved** to approve the July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Deb Bennett-Woods)

Chair Bennett-Woods' Chair Report, was distributed electronically and discussed.

- A. Chair Bennett-Woods encouraged the Commission to participate in the Research and Data meetings on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Chair Bennett-Woods asked the Commission to notify Director Alvarez ahead of time if they wish to participate, since only one Commissioner can participate per meeting. There were no other updates.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

Director Alvarez's August 24, 2022, Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- A. The proposal for the Client Visit Verification System. Director Alvarez will provide a copy of the proposal to the Commission after the meeting.
- B. The closing date for the new vacancies for Public Guardian was extended to August 22, 2022. Director Alvarez expects to begin training the new employees by the end of September or early October.
- C. The President from the National Guardianship Association expressed interest in doing an article about the Colorado OPG for their monthly newsletter.
- D. The Department of Corrections asked Director Alvarez to participate in their new Guardianship Committee. Additionally, they provided data to OPG for the final report.

V. **Final Report Status (Deb Bennett-Woods, Sophia M. Alvarez, and Grant Yoder)**

- A. Grant Yoder, Research Assistant, provided a brief update on the final report and advised that he will have more refined drafts at the Special Commission meeting.
- B. Director Alvarez is working on the table of contents, putting together draft sections of the report and will be asking the Commissioners to review for content.
- C. Commissioners Garcia and Thiessen expressed interest in attending the Legislative Session for the presentation of the Final Report. Chair Bennett-Woods advised to provide Special Meeting Notice so that the Commission can be present at legislative hearings.

a. **Demographics List**

Commissioner Crona offered that there is a Colorado State Demographer.

b. **Specifically, the matters referred to Executive Session from Open Session, and Discussion of Confidential Sections of the Final Report**

Commission moved into Executive Session

Chair Bennett-Woods asked for a motion to enter into executive session for Discussion of Confidential Sections of the Final Report.

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to initiate executive session. Vice-Chair Garcia **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 at 10:38 a.m.

VI. **Commission Approval of Commission Oversight Policy**

a. **Specifically, the matters referred to Executive Session from Open Session, and Discussion of the Commission Oversight Policy**

At 12:21 p.m., the Commission returned to open session.

Discussion of this section was tabled for a future meeting.

VII. Public Comment

No public Comment.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Garcia **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:23 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

10.26.2022

Date



Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair

10.26.2022

Date