
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Director, Sophia M. Alvarez

Commissioners

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



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

PUBLIC MEETING **September 28, 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
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
Robert Finke, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Public Attendance

Gina Brown, 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 and September 12, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner Crona **moved** to approve the September 12, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Vice-Chair Garcia **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Recognition and resignation of Commissioner Kelsey Lesco

Chair Bennett-Woods acknowledged the tremendous contribution of Commissioner Lesco and expressed appreciation for the leadership she provided since the inception of the office.

IV. Chair Report (Deb Bennett-Woods)

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

- A. Chair Bennett-Woods informed she was invited to join the meeting with the Colorado Action Lab to discuss elements of the final report. Chair Bennett-Woods expressed her thanks to the Colorado Action Lab for their time and insights. Chair Bennett-Woods asked Director Alvarez and Grant Yoder to share the valuable insights the Colorado Action Lab provided during executive session. There were no other updates.

V. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

Director Alvarez’s September 28, 2022, Director Report was distributed electronically along with other materials and discussed. Additional items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- A. Job offers were made to candidates for the Public Guardian positions in the 2nd, 7th, 16th Judicial Districts. Both the 2nd Judicial District candidates accepted. The 16th Judicial District candidate declined as she accepted a different position. The 7th Judicial District candidate accepted but has three days to return her paperwork. We are still in the process of checking references for the Case Management Aid position.
- B. General Counsel Finke and Director Alvarez will meet to discuss the filing of Motions to Intervene in Mental Health Proceedings cases.
- C. Chair Bennett-Woods requested clarification of “Declined – No Capacity” category of referrals. Director Alvarez explained that that category was an initial category that was used before the current “Hold” category. We now place referrals on “Hold” status until caseload capacity is available. Then we reach out to “Hold” referrals to see if they still require OPG services.

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

- a. **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 Crona **moved** to initiate executive session. Commissioner Thiessen **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 10:26 a.m.

At 11:17 p.m., the Commission returned to open session.

VII. Commission Approval of Commission Oversight Policy

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

Chair Bennett-Woods asked for a motion to approve the Commission Oversight Policy as discussed in the Executive Session.

Commissioner Crona **moved** to approve the Commission Oversight Policy as discussed in the Executive Session. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion as discussed in the Executive Session. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Chair Bennett-Woods advised that the Commission Oversight policy will be posted on the office website.

VIII. Presentation of District Court Funding of a Public Guardian for the Criminal REACH Docket (Honorable Elizabeth D. Leith)

Judge Leith provided a brief description of the District Court Criminal REACH docket and funding request for an OPG Public Guardian to serve as guardian for Defendants of this docket. The District Court would make a funding request to the Special Masters that oversee the fines levied against the State of Colorado due to a lawsuit. Judge Leith asked OPG for a letter in support of the funding request for the additional Public Guardian to assist eligible individuals from the District Court Criminal REACH docket.

Chair Bennett-Woods asked Judge Leith for additional information about this request to add to the Final Report to justify the need for those services.

IX. Public Comment

No public Comment.

X. Adjourn

Commissioner Crona **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Thiessen **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 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.

Debra L Bennett Woods

Deb Bennett-Woods, Chair

10.26.2022

Date

Stephanie Garcia

Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair

10.26.2022

Date