
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Director, Sophia M. Alvarez

Commissioners

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



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PUBLIC MEETING **January 25, 2023** **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
Vice-Chair, Stephanie Garcia
Spencer Crona
Patrick Thiessen
Brandon Fields

OPG Director

Sophia M. Alvarez

Others Present

Janelle Cantu, Deputy Director, Office of Public Guardianship
Erin McGavin, Office of Public Guardianship
Rhonda Sanchez, Office of Public Guardianship
Loretta Vigil, Office of Public Guardianship
Nancy Bowden, Office of Public Guardianship
Teresa Esquibel, Office of Public Guardianship
Angela Bullard, Office of Public Guardianship
Camille Price, Office of Public Guardianship
America Paz Pastrana, 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.

Director Alvarez welcomed the new Commissioner Brandon Fields.

Director Alvarez welcomed the new 7th Judicial District Guardian Angela Bullard.

II. Approval of the December 21, 2022 Commission Meeting minutes

Commissioner Thiessen **moved** to approve the November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Crona **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. Chair Report (Deb Bennett-Woods)

Chair Bennett-Woods' Chair Report, was distributed electronically and discussed. Chair Bennett-Woods informed that testimony at the SMART Act Hearing went well, and it was well received. Chair Bennett-Woods did not have any additional updates.

IV. Director Report (Sophia M. Alvarez)

Director Alvarez's January 25, 2023, 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 the office bill was introduced on Monday, January 23, 2023, and the bill number is SB23-064.
- B. Director Alvarez was informed late Monday January 23, 2023, that the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing was scheduled for February 6, 2023.
- C. Director Alvarez has a meeting scheduled with the legislative liaison for tomorrow, January 26, 2023, to prepare for the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing.
- D. Director Alvarez informed the Fiscal Note is not completed yet, she has provided all necessary information to the Fiscal Note Analyst.

E. Director Alvarez is currently working on contacting stakeholders to prepare letters of support and testimony for the hearing. Director Alvarez asked the Commission to let her know if they knew of any stakeholders who would testify on our behalf, and she will add them to the list.

F. Director Alvarez informed that the Final Report has not been released to the public, however she conferred with AG Finke and determined that since the report was already submitted to general assembly, it can be shared with the public.

a. **Specifically, the matters referred to Executive Session and Discussion of Critical Incident Reporting**

Chair Bennett-Woods asked for a motion to enter executive session.

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 10:23 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m., the Commission returned to open session.

V. **Meridian Public Affairs Presentation (Amanda Gall)**

Director Alvarez introduced Amanda Gall from Meridian Public Affairs. Ms. Gall provided a brief presentation regarding the logistics of introducing the COPG Bill process.

After Ms. Gall's presentation a discussion followed regarding the transition of the Commission from pilot program to an established permanent agency.

- A. Vice-Chair Garcia inquired about the process for establishing the new Board as per the bill.
- B. Chair Bennett-Woods informed that the Commission is appointed through the end of the pilot project and the new Board members will need to reapply.
- C. Director Alvarez informed that the expectation is that everything will remain in place and will run until the new Board is appointed.
- D. Chair Bennett-Woods stated that the new statute will be in place 30 days after the Governor signs it. However new Board members cannot be appointed before the signing of the bill.

- E. Chair Bennett-Woods informed that she is at the end of her second term and will be moving off the Commission at the end of the legislative session.
- F. Chair Bennett-Woods encouraged the Commissioners to reapply and to think of suggestions of non-attorneys that could be good candidates for the Board.

VI. Public Comment

No public Comment.

VII. Adjourn

Commissioner Crona **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fields **seconded** the motion. Motion **passed** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 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.

Deb Bennett-Woods, Chair

Date

Stephanie Garcia, Vice-Chair

Date