

**OPG Board meeting  
Director Report  
12.20.2024**

Purpose: The Director Report will provide information about new matters, updates about the previous month's matters, and next steps for the following month. The Director will provide the Director Report to all Board members. Questions about the Director Report will be addressed at the Board meetings, if necessary. Board members are encouraged to reach out to the Director directly regarding any questions in between meetings.

- **Attachment 1.** Leadership NGA (National Guardianship Association) Class of 2025.

**I. Budget and Administrative Update.**

- a. COPG Monthly Budget. Mike Henthorn, Judicial Budget Analyst II, was unable to provide one due to the time constraints of the JBC Hearings.
- b. The Judicial Department Controller contacted me to complete the annual Management Representation Letter on behalf of the COPG for when the Office of the State Auditor completes the Judicial Branch audit. You may recall from last year this was one of the "new" responsibilities (completing the letter) that the Judicial Department decided they would no longer complete for the Independent Agencies. I reached out to the ASIA ED and requested her assistance, which she did for all the Independent Agencies. I will complete this task by the due date of 12.20.2024.
- c. Joint Budget Committee BC Hearing and FY2025 - 2026 Budget Request.
  1. JBC Briefing on 12.09.2024 where the JBC Analyst, Scott Thompson, provided a briefing for COPG. There was confusion due to how the annualization was indicated on the Budget Request. Mike Henthorn provided updated Schedules 3D and 10 to show that the annualization of \$748,844 is **not** extra CASH FUNDS.
  2. We requested two Decision Items:
    - a. \$263,392 for 1.0 FTE Grants Specialist, a contracted Community Engagement Coordinator, and a contracted Data Scientist.
    - b. \$184,536 for Participant Enrichment Services.

3. COPG JBC Hearing is scheduled for 12.18.2024 from 10:51 – 11:00am. I submitted our materials by the deadline of 2:00 pm on 12.16.2024.
  4. Our Legislative Liaison, Amanda Gall, and I will continue with our meetings and strategizing to ensure that our budget requests are supported.
  5. Instead of a Budget Amendment for office space, we will submit a Budget Supplemental during the actual FY 2025-2026, as that is when we are planning on moving. I spoke with the ASIA ED, who will inquire about space in the Carr building if the State Public Defender (PD) is approved to leave the Carr Building. However, at the JBC briefing, the PD's reason for requesting to leave the Carr Building is because the space may be more expensive than current options we are exploring.
- d. UGCOPPA.
1. Various stakeholders and I drafted alternative legislation to UGCOPPA.
  2. Amanda Gall and I met with Disability Rights Law Colorado Public Policy Liaison, Jack Johnson, on 12.11.2024 and walked through the proposal.
  3. Mr. Johnson was receptive, we discussed further discussions and opportunities to alternative legislation.
- e. Human Resources Update.
- i. Deputy Director Janelle Cantu was accepted into the Leadership NGA (National Guardianship Association) Class of 2025. See **Attachment 1**.
  - ii. One offer for a 2<sup>nd</sup> JD guardian position was accepted and she will start in January 2025.
  - iii. We are continuing the search to fill the last 2<sup>nd</sup> JD guardian position.
  - iv. We interviewed three candidates for the Staffing & Culture Leader and are hoping to make an offer this week.
- f. Legal Administration. SA Murphy continues to assist with day-to-day legal matters, policy review, and mental health motions to intervene, etc. SA Murphy worked with the AG's Office on defining each of the Office's roles, which the AG's Office will memorialize in a Memorandum. SA Murphy is attending criminal and mental health cases. SA Murphy is reaching out to

the 7th and 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District courts to renew our relationships for expansion.

- g. Former Chair Deb Bennett-Woods, Research Assistant Grant Yoder and I are continuing with publishing our article based on the 2023 Report to the Legislature and have met several times. We are finalizing our article by 12.20.2024 to submit to the Journal of Aging and Social Policy before Christmas.
- h. Attorney General's Office Update
  1. I completed a Survey sent by the Attorney General's Office related to services provided by the AG's Office.
  2. AAG Grooms and Chelsea Ziegler have Board orientation and training scheduled for 12.17.2024.
  3. SA Murphy and AAG Grooms worked on defining each of the Office's roles, which the AG's Office provided in a Memorandum to the COPG.
- i. Office of Administrative Services for Independent Agencies (ASIA).
  1. ASIA has scheduled monthly Board meetings, and Executive Director, Melissa Jamieson, is updating the Board every other week. The ED has had several meetings with SCAO and other agencies as needed. It seems the goal is to set up ASIA as soon as possible as SCAO services are not available. The ED submitted a FY25-26 Budget Request to JBC to begin hiring ASIA staff.
  2. I am serving as ASIA Board Vice-Chair again.
  3. ASIA ED has been helpful in coordinating JBC Requests and the Judicial Branch Audit Management Letter.
- j. Expansion Planning Timeline will be forthcoming.
- k. On 08.30.2024, SA Murphy and I met with Chief Justice Monica Marquez and her Chief Counsel, Andrew Rottman. It was a great opportunity to share about the OPG. I shared all aspects of the OPG, and the Chief Justice inquired about the lack of resources and offered to reach out to the Judicial Department and the Attorney General's Office to assist in collaboration with our office.
  1. The Chair and I met with Chief Justice's Chief Counsel, AG Finke, SCAO Steve Vasconcellos, SCAO Acting Deputy HR Director Danielle

Becwar on 10.02.2024. Mr. Vasconcellos agreed that SCAO could assist COPG more and Ms. Becwar agreed to meet with me to discuss OPG's need.

2. Janelle Cantu and I met with Ms. Becwar on 10.15.2024 and discussed our HR, Payroll and Benefits needs considering the needs that we are currently receiving through Employer's Council. Ms. Becwar will review with Mr. Vasconcellos and get back to me by 10.18.2024. I am still waiting for Ms. Becwar to follow up. I communicated with her on 10.29.2024 and 11.12.2024. I received a response from Ms. Becwar which included the ASIA ED and seemed to stall.

I. **2024 COPG Annual Report to the Legislature.**

1. Grant Yoder, Research Assistant, and I finalized a draft and emailed that to the Board and staff, requesting feedback. Our goal is to submit it to the Legislature by **12.20.2024**.
2. You can review last year's report on our website [https://colorado-opg.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COPG\\_2023-Annual-Report\\_Final.pdf](https://colorado-opg.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COPG_2023-Annual-Report_Final.pdf)
3. Thank you to the COPG staff in providing timely information and stories for the Annual Report!

II. **Colorado OPG Pilot Program Commission and Operating Policies Updates.** Please note that Commission and Operating Polices are available on the OPG website: <https://colorado-opg.org/opg-in-depth/>

a. **Trainings and Projects – Ongoing.** A list can be provided quarterly.

b. Ms. Villegas is a Physician Assistant with Longevity Health Plan, a specialized Medicare Advantage health plan serving people living in skilled nursing facilities. Last session on 11.13.2024 – Death and Dying.

c. **Intake Eligibility, Prioritization and Referral Process.**

- i. Update on number of registered users, referrals, accepted cases, etc. as of **12.16.2024**
  1. 72 Active guardianships
  2. 0 referrals pending in court proceedings
  3. 0 Complete
  4. 2 Partial referrals
  5. 3 Registered

6. 32 clients passed away since COPG appointment
7. 1 Terminated – Successor Guardian
8. 1 Terminated – Client no longer meets the standard for continuing guardianship
9. 35 Hold status (now includes OBH/CHMI-Ft. Logan/Pueblo referrals that are non-OBH/Momentum contract referrals)
10. The OBH/Momentum dedicated caseload for one guardian is full and all 12 guardianships are active
11. 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District
  - a. Accepted – 1 Montrose
  - b. Declined Not incapacitated – 1 Delta
  - c. Declined No OPG Capacity – 1 Montrose
  - d. Withdrawn – 2 Montrose
12. Declined referrals – pre-Hold status
  1. 144 Denver declined referrals (some declined were prior to establishing the Hold status)
    - a. 10 - Family available to serve
    - b. 63 - Expired/Incomplete information
    - c. 13 – Not appropriate referral
    - d. 5 - Not adult
    - e. 2 – Not Indigent
    - f. 4 - Withdrawn by Ft. Logan
    - g. 11 - No OPG Capacity
    - h. 4 - Withdrawn Death
    - i. 11 - Withdrawn, not incapacitated
    - j. 21 - Withdrawn, other Guardian Available non- Family member
  2. Texas inquiry - 1
  3. Nebraska referral - 1
  4. Alaska inquiries – 2
  5. Colorado inquiries – 22
13. 122 streamlined referrals (Non-Denver County) – Declined
  1. Adams County – 8
  2. Alamosa County - 1
  3. Arapahoe County – 21
  4. Baca – 1

5. Boulder County – 8
6. Broomfield County – 1
7. Crowley - 1
8. “Denver County” – 2
9. El Paso County – 25
10. Fremont - 1
11. Garfield County – 1
12. Gunnison County – 1
13. Huerfano County - 3
14. Jefferson County – 13
15. Lake County - 1
16. La Plata County – 2
17. Larimer County - 6
18. Las Animas County - 2
19. Mesa County – 1
20. Montrose County – 3 \*
21. Otero County – 3
22. Pueblo County – 9
23. Weld County – 8

\*Montrose County: Two referrals were declined prior to April 2023. 1 referral was declined in May 2023 due to the AIP residing in Otero County

- III. **Stakeholder Outreach – Ongoing.** A list can be provided if requested.
  - a. I am presenting as part of a panel “First Generation Attorneys: Challenges & Superpowers” with the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP) in May 2025.
  - b. I will be assisting with the Pikes Peak (4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District) Nonprofessional Guardianship training program as needed.



## Leadership NGA is Dedicated to Identifying and Engaging Future Leaders in the World of Guardianship

The continued success of the guardianship profession depends on educating guardians, promoting Standards, and upholding ethics. It also needs people who are practiced in leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving. The guardianship community needs people who are engaged with NGA, well-connected, and ready to lead within their teams and organizations, within their communities, and within NGA. This is the essence of Leadership NGA.

### What Will I Learn?

The individuals selected for each Leadership NGA class will meet for five 1.5-hour sessions, each focusing on a theme such as *Getting to Know NGA*, *Leadership Styles and Tough Truths in Leadership*, and *Effective Communication*, to name a few. Participants will leave with an understanding of their own strengths and challenges as leaders, and new ideas to engage, inspire, and lead others.

### What Happens After Graduation?

Upon graduation, which will happen at the National Conference on Guardianship, participants will receive a certificate of achievement and will be offered leadership opportunities within NGA. Participants will have access to ongoing support via a *Leadership NGA Alumni* virtual special interest group, where participants can discuss leadership challenges and solutions with fellow alumni.

### 2025 Class Information

- Participants must be NGA members in good standing, and must pay 2025 dues prior to the first lesson.
- Each class will have approximately 30 participants
- Classes meet virtually for 1.5 hours, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, and May 15
- Applications must be submitted by November 15, 2024
- There is no registration fee to participate in the program
- Graduates are asked to assume leadership roles within NGA, including committee and task force membership, special interest group leaders, etc., based on each graduate's areas of interest and expertise
- Graduation will occur at the 2025 National Conference on Guardianship in Oklahoma City, OK
- Applications will be reviewed by a small group of NGA board members.
- Individuals will be selected for each Leadership NGA class based on their answers to questions asked, diversity of years of experience, geographic diversity, and more. Not everyone who applies will be selected.

[Apply for the 2025 Leadership NGA Class](#)