

## Chair Report

April 2022

Fellow Commissioners,

A primary focus since our last meeting has been the budget process at the Legislature. I have had numerous communications/meetings related to the budget process with Director Alvarez and with Hugh Wilson (Budget Manager for the Judicial Branch), Jarrett Hughes (Senior Policy Advisor on Aging, Office of Governor), various external stakeholders and a number of legislators. Legislators appreciated the educational outreach that included a newly developed fact sheet and the document regarding guardianship at the end of life. Our outreach, combined with that of several key stakeholders including Denver Health and our colleagues at Frontline Public Affairs, not only ensured that our budget remained intact but it successfully renewed interest and critical support from our various legislative champions in anticipation of our final report and the 2023 legislative session.

I continue to attend weekly research and data meetings. With agreement from Director Alvarez, I have identified two areas of the report in which Commissioners could be of great assistance and which we can discuss in more detail at the meeting. The first is based on a conversation with Jarrett Hughes from the governor's office who suggested it would be helpful to have process charts that identify steps and barriers in the process of establishing a guardianship as well as what happens when a guardian is not available. The goal would be to illustrate the process for legislators that have little direct experience or knowledge of guardianship. The second element is related to recommendations in the final report for establishing a permanent office. The basic structure and role of the governing board of an independent agency is established in statute so we have the opportunity to recommend the structure and composition of the board that will eventually replace the Commission. With consideration of other models, such as the Child Protection Ombudsman and Office of the Child's Representative, and thoughts from Director Alvarez, I would like the Commission to develop this specific recommendation. My homework this month was to draft the history of the pilot project for your initial review and feedback. Again, please consider these drafts to be confidential legislative work product so that we do not have incomplete and unrefined draft portions floating around ahead of the final report.

In an effort to avoid spending the bulk of routine public meetings in executive session, I have asked Director Alvarez and AG Kidd-Aaron to coordinate a special meeting dedicated to legal parameters and review of the Commission's statutory role and guidelines for communicating directly with legislators as we enter this final year of the pilot project, prepare our final report, and put forward recommendations and a bill to establish the OPG on a permanent basis with a graduated statewide rollout. We will discuss the scheduling of this session at the meeting.

Finally, it is time to begin the process of the Director evaluation for the 2021/2022 review period. In light of the budget request that allows for the much needed addition of a deputy director in this final year of the pilot, it may be necessary to re-visit the existing job description of the director, particularly with respect to the relative weighting of elements for the next review period. With a possible revision in mind, I would like to propose the following timeline:

## May 2022

- Dissemination of staff and stakeholder surveys
- Submission of the Director's self-assessment (May 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Executive session to discuss weighting of the evaluation rubric and answer questions regarding the review process. Review and possible revision of Director job description and weighting of the evaluation rubric for the 2022/23 review period (May 25<sup>th</sup>)

## June 2022

- Dissemination of evaluation materials to the Commissioners
- Receipt of staff and stakeholder surveys by AG Kidd-Aaron; forwarded to Commissioners
- Initial evaluation feedback from all Commissioners returned to Chair Bennett-Woods no later than June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Director Alvarez will be on vacation for the regular June meeting of the Commission; therefore, the substance of that regularly scheduled meeting will be dedicated to approval of any revisions to the Director job description and an initial executive session discussion of the collated Commission feedback and goals for the next review period (June 22<sup>nd</sup>)

## July 2022

- Final evaluation prepared and approved by the Commission at the regular meeting (June 27<sup>th</sup>)

Other items will be covered in the report by Director Alvarez.