

Chair Report

January 2022

Fellow Commissioners,

As I anticipate this year to be a particularly busy one given our task to complete the OPG pilot project final report and prepare for the 2023 legislative session, including our request to establish the Office on a permanent basis, I will be submitting a Chair report each month to accompany the Director's report. It will be particularly important to optimize Commission communication this year and I want Commissioners who are unable to attend the meeting to receive the same information.

Along those lines, if you have other ideas or requests regarding how we manage Commission roles, responsibilities and communication this year, please don't hesitate to share them.

Chair Lesco was unable to attend the **Joint Budget Committee (JBC)** meeting in December, so I attended in her stead. While Sophia did the formal presentation, I did address the Committee briefly. I reminded them of the long and rather arduous path we've traveled to get here and expressed my own pride at how we have not only met the statutory expectations but exceeded them with respect to our current scope of services. I pointed out that it was particularly a pleasure to be here today, not asking for money, but rather simple permission to extend our services to include the original scope of the authorizing statute. There were few questions after the presentation and my impression was that the request was well received.

Prior to the JBC meeting, Sophia and I met to discuss a number of issues for the upcoming year.

- I have asked Sophia to prepare a more formal welcome and orientation process for our new Commissioners and the AG's office is assisting with providing background documents.
- I will be meeting weekly with Sophia and Grant to familiarize myself with data collection efforts and progress on the final report. I want to be sure we don't miss opportunities in which members of the Commission might be able to assist with securing data or otherwise assisting in this critical process.
- We discussed a communication I had with Judge Leith regarding our progress, and Sophia will fill you in on a very productive follow-up meeting she arranged with Judge Leith.
- Sophia and I are working on a short term strategic plan for the year. We discussed using some version of the interim report as a communication tool along with other ways to re-engage key stakeholders. And we brainstormed a set of questions we need answered regarding how we go about producing the final report and new enabling legislation to make the Office permanent.

Sophia arranged a meeting with **Alfredo Kemm**, Chief Legislative Budget & Policy Analyst, for earlier this month. Mr Kemm was extraordinarily helpful in reviewing the technical options we have for proceeding this year in preparation for the 2023 Legislative Session. The timing and coordination of the budget process is more complex than I realized and so this meeting was critical to gaining a better understanding. We have a couple of options to be discussed at a later date. One involves asking the JBC

to carry a bill and another to follow the basic process we did last time with either the same or a new set of sponsors. He also had recommendations on how to formulate the bill (phased multi-year funding and roll out vs full funding and one year roll out) and a strong recommendation to secure a lobbyist by summer.

I was invited to join an introductory meeting with **Robert Finke and our new AG representative India Kidd-Aaron**. Among the items discussed were the Commission orientation process, the annual ethics training, use of a lobbyist, and questions that were previously raised regarding the Commission role and potential limitations in working with the Legislature. All agreed that it would be valuable to research a few of those issues and India will be preparing a Commission training session dedicated to helping us understand our role and responsibilities during this last phase of the pilot project process.

In additional follow-up to the JBC meeting, Sophia arranged a meeting for the two of us with **Hugh Wilson**, the Budget Manager for the Colorado Judicial Branch. The meeting was primarily Sophia's; however, I attended in order to obtain some additional feedback for our planning process for the year. Again, it was extraordinarily helpful. Mr. Wilson made similar suggestions regarding the need to start now with our push for permanent status and asserted the importance of the commissioners as the lead voice of the project. We discussed processes and needs related to contracting a lobbyist along with publication costs and potential data collection costs for the final report that are not currently in the budget. Mr. Wilson, along with Judge Leith, is easily one of our biggest cheerleaders and will provide critical guidance throughout the year.

I have continued to communicate with the **Chief Justice's office** regarding the empty commission slot and have enlisted additional assistance in expediting that request.

Finally, a bill has been introduced in the House, **Temporary Proxy Medical Decision-makers**, with which I have some concerns generally, having been one of 4 authors of the current amended proxy statute. It appears to enable physicians to appoint proxy decision-makers, circumventing the normal guardianship process. I have asked Sophia to review the bill for potential conflicts or concerns regarding OPG guardians.