

## Chair Report

March 2022

Fellow Commissioners,

It has been a busy month.

I met with Director Alvarez to review her delayed performance review and to set goals for the current period, many of which she already has met or has well underway. You have received and I hope had a chance to review the final relevant documents. I will lay out a timeline and attempt to schedule reasonable deadlines and meetings ahead of time this year so we can avoid some of the delays we experienced last year.

I have attended several other meetings with Director Alvarez variously related to either budget questions, recent media coverage and/or the Denver Health testimony. These included meetings with Hugh Wilson (Budget Manager for the Judicial Branch), Rob McCallum (Public Information Officer, Judicial Branch), and Jarett Hughes (Senior Policy Advisor on Aging, Office of Governor). Finally, I asked to join an OPG staff meeting to express support and to explore a couple of opportunities related to data collection.

I requested and attended a meeting with Denver Health CEO, Robin Wittenstein. Jackie Zheleznyak, Government Relations Administrator, and Amanda Thompson, Director of Hospital Care Management, were also in attendance at Ms. Wittenstein's direction. Ms. Wittenstein affirmed again that Denver Health intended for their testimony to be supportive of additional resources for the OPG; that they recognize the importance of the office and want it to be successful; and, that she believes, as does Director Alvarez, ongoing regular meetings with DH staff will resolve the communication barriers and other issues related to discharges. I emphasized the importance of established communication channels with both the Office and the Commission for timely response to issues that might come up and the need for specific information if we are to conduct an effective investigation of their concerns. I was assured that Director Alvarez would receive a detailed response to our written request for specific information on aspects of the testimony. I added a request for specific examples of where DH staff believed OPG staff did not have adequate training.

Director Alvarez and I agreed that recent media coverage was an opportunity to provide some targeted education regarding the OPG and the clients we serve. With the assistance of Director Alvarez and America Paz-Pastrana, I drafted an information sheet to help legislators, media representatives and the public to better understand the nature and scope of OPG services at or near the end of life. At the time of this report, that draft is still under review.

I continue to attend weekly research and data meetings. This past month we have had good discussions on ways we can begin to pre-format elements of the final report, particularly graphics associated with basic data to be entered later in the fall. We have also identified a few areas of the report that can be partially or substantially prepared ahead of this fall. As a result of those conversations, Director Alvarez

has added a dedicated, rolling agenda item to keep you updated. Draft documents, when available, will be circulated to you for review and comment. 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. Again, I encourage you to share specific questions or suggestions with Director Alvarez.

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