

Chair Report

May 2022

Fellow Commissioners,

Thank you for your quick assistance in reaching out to educate legislators regarding the challenges incumbent with HB 1271. The amended bill did not advance. Hopefully the Office will be in a better position to assist with evaluating potential safeguards regarding general issues in guardianship once our own final report is complete and the Office has permanent status with both staffing and budgetary resources to assist with such a request. Just a quick reminder moving forward, please notify Sophia of all legislative and stakeholder outreach so that America can maintain a log and we can better coordinate time and resources for both you and the legislators/stakeholders.

I attended the Colorado Healthcare Ethics Forum annual conference in early May. There were a couple of presentations of note as well as several opportunities to engage with attendees on OPG support. One panel presentation examined the challenges hospitals still face in their efforts to utilize physician proxies for medical and placement decision-making. While not all of these patients may fall under the qualifications of the OPG, many do and providers are looking forward to broader access to that possibility in the future. A second presentation was by Lisa Thompson, CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). She provided fascinating cost/benefit information they have produced in relation to their various housing and medical care access initiatives. Her presentation was followed by another interesting panel presentation entitled “Caring for the Unhoused at the End-of-Life”. Again, as the need increases, there are several opportunities for partnership and innovative approaches to supporting this particularly vulnerable population.

I continue to attend weekly research and data meetings. I have reviewed and incorporated suggestions and edits from Commissioner Lesco on the legislative history. We have also asked Shari Caton, former chair of the Commission to review it as well for accuracy and completeness. I look forward to hearing any progress Commissioners may have made on process charts and thoughts on the make up and functioning of a future governing body. Anticipating that there may be some legal questions for follow-up regarding that particular recommendation, I hope to be able to discuss your thoughts and questions at least briefly during an upcoming executive session.

With regard to the 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, we continue to look for a date but hope to have it established by our May meeting. If time allows, this may be a good opportunity to explore any legal questions we might have regarding recommendations for the statutory role of a future governing board.

Last but certainly not least, Director Alvarez and I met with our representative from Frontline Public Affairs to debrief the activities in their current limited contract from the past legislative session. At our request, Ms. Hodge also graciously reviewed the process we should anticipate moving forward into the summer, fall and new legislative session. As a result of that conversation, Director Alvarez and I have

pieced together a rough strategic timeline for milestones we should try to meet this year. Timing and the process will be complicated by the fact that this is an election year so many legislators will be busy with their campaigns and may or may not be back for the next session.

May/June:

- Legislators are typically taking time off immediately after the session so this time is also a breather to allow us to get in some good work on the final report.
- Begin investigating the process for contracting with legislative liaison services starting in late summer or early fall (August/September) through the end of the 2023 legislative session. (Director/Commission)

July/August:

- It will be important for us to have portions of the final report at least in draft form for use in educating legislators during the fall along with summary information sheets. As such, we have identified a couple of areas of the report we believe should be drafted over the summer to the extent possible. (Staff/Commission)
 - Preliminary statistics on population served
 - Notable accomplishments
 - Draft recommendations for establishing the OPG on a permanent basis including governing board, organizational structure, anticipated rollout challenges, and a timeline for statewide rollout.
 - Please note that suggestions from legislators and stakeholders may well be incorporated into final recommendations later in the fall.
- Begin contacting key stakeholders to request support including formal letters of support to append to the final report and possible testimony. (Commission/Staff)
 - Please begin to identify to Director Alvarez any key stakeholders with whom you have an existing relationship and would feel comfortable approaching for support for a permanent OPG when the time comes.

July/October:

- Begin meeting with legislators to educate them on the pilot and the need for a permanent OPG. (Commission/Staff)
 - Because of several limitations on Director Alvarez, legislative communications will fall largely to the Commission and whatever legislative liaison support we contract.
 - Commissioners may be called upon based on existing relationships, location, expertise and availability. Please begin to identify to Sophia, any existing relationships you have with legislators likely to be seated in the 2023 session.
- Locate primary sponsors for a bill, preferably bi-partisan. (Chair)
- Continue networking with key stakeholders, (Commission/Staff)

September/October:

- Work with primary sponsor(s) to begin to draft bill for the 2023 session (Chair/Director/Commission)

November/December:

- Final report prepared and presented/distributed (Director/Commission)
- Development of fiscal note (Director)
- Presentation to JBC (Director/Chair) – budget hearings begin in December.

We can discuss this more in the meeting. Please don't hesitate to bring suggestions or clarifications.

DBW / 5-17-22