

OFFICE OF THE COLORADO'S CHILD PROTECTION BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

June 9, 2016

Record of Proceedings

Notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to the Colorado Open Meetings Law, §24-6-402, C.R.S.

CONVENE

The meeting of the Office of the Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman Board was convened in the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center, 1300 Broadway, Conference Room 1B, Denver, Colorado 80203 at 9:00 AM by Chairman Ken Plotz.

Present at the Meeting

Board Members

Chairman Ken Plotz
Victoria Black
Charles Greenacre
Peg Rudden
Simone Jones
Sarie Patterson

Staff

Stephanie Villafuerte, Executive Director/Child Protection Ombudsman
Sabrina Byrnes, Deputy Ombudsman
Karen Nielsen, Intake and Administrative Coordinator
Melissa Vigil, Investigator

From the Public

Anne Comstock, University of Denver School of Social Work

Absent

Pax Moultrie
Ginny Riley
Jose Mondragon (resigned)
Joe Carrica (resigned)

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Public Comment

None

II. Board and Staff Retreat

--Introduction of facilitator Anne Comstock (Biography available upon request)

--Purpose of the retreat is to allow the board and the staff to get to know one another and learn how to come together to move the office forward.

--Retreat Objectives:

(1) Affirm vision and mission of the Office

(2) Create shared understanding of Board roles and responsibilities

(3) Identify Board priority goals and next steps

III. Introductions of Board and Staff Members

--Went around the room and discussed background, experience and reasons for being involved with the Child Protection Ombudsman Office.

--Speed Networking Activity

IV. Group Agreements

--Discussion of group agreements

--Group agrees that discussions must allow for the following: Respect for one another's ideas, open to other's experiences, willingness to share, working to consensus.

V. Review of Board Surveys

--Each board member was sent a Survey Monkey in advance of the retreat.

--The survey asked board members about what they believe should be the role of the board and to list their priorities for the board.

--Board members responded to the survey and the results are summarized below:

1) Office Support and Oversight

- Ability to understand and oversee the office
- Learn more about the office
- Support CPO to become fully functioning office
- Monitor and develop the CPO

(2) Office Vision and Planning

- Assist office in accomplishing goals
- Vision for the office
- Provide guidance and support in developing goals and 3 to 5 year strategic plan

(3) Board Development

- Fill vacant seats
- Develop training for new board members
- Establish board infrastructure plan (bylaws, committees)
- Establish 3 to 4 board goals

(4) Outreach

- Statewide outreach program
- Promoting the CPO to community partners
- Serve as ambassadors for the office; further mission and goals
- Spread awareness
- Marketing materials
- Increase calls from foster youth
- Community awareness

(5) Roles and responsibilities

- Define and establish consensus on the roles of the board
- Clarify OML—what can board members discuss with one another and the public about the office

(6) Support of the Ombudsman

- Assist CPO in developing policy

- Solution based decisions that benefit families
- Be a resource to the ombudsman
- Support the ombudsman in identifying areas of concern and goals for improvement

(7) Miscellaneous

- Stability and collaboration
- Strong leadership based on best practices and national research

(Surveys available upon requests)

VI. The Mission of the Ombudsman Office

--Group reviews and affirms the Vision, Mission and Values of the Ombudsman Office (Vision, Mission and Value statement available upon request)

VII. Visioning for the Future

--Group answers the following questions:

(1) What will individuals and families say about how the office has impacted their lives?

- Listened, was respectful
- Well known resource
- Well publicized, very helpful

(2) How do stakeholders describe their relationship with the office?

- Office is multi-dimensional, it's part of the system not separate
- Collaborative
- Good at building trust
- Shared responsibility for child safety

(3) What are legislators saying about the work of the office?

- Important statewide resource

(4) What is the biggest impact the office has made in the lives of families and children?

- Increased safety
- Better understanding for the public

(Individual handouts and responses available upon request)

VIII. Board Roles and Responsibilities

--AG Sueanna Johnson appears to discuss the board's legal roles and responsibilities given the passage of SB 16-013.

--AG indicates that she prepared a legal memorandum to discuss the new legislation with the board, however, she indicates that the group cannot discuss the legal memorandum in executive session because there is not a quorum of the board present.

--The group decides to table this legal discussion until a quorum of the board can be present.

IX. Group Goal Setting

--The group proceeds with general discussion of the office.

--All members agree that there will be no decisions made or voting regarding board goals until a quorum can be present.

--Summary of discussion:

(1) Who does the child protection system include?

- a. CDHS/County Human Services
- b. Placement providers
- c. Mandatory reporters
- d. Medical providers
- e. Educators
- f. Public health
- g. Faith Community
- h. Treatment providers
- i. Nonprofit community
- j. ICWA
- k. Welfare services; TANF, WIC
- l. Legal: Judges, OCR, ORPC, CASA's
- m. Law Enforcement

(2) Proposed goals for the board/future topics to discuss

- a. Outreach: promoting the CPO across the state and to partners
- b. Board Development: Need to create a board plan and infrastructure
- c. Fill board vacancies
- d. Develop consensus around board roles and responsibilities

e. Be careful to balance the expectations of the office with the realities of setting up a new state agency—the first couple years will be building years.

The board discusses the summer board schedule and decides to cancel July and August meetings. Executive Director Ms. Villafuerte indicates that she will work with the Governor's Office Boards and Commissions to fill the newly vacant seats.

The meeting was concluded at 1 p.m.

ATTESTATION

As Board Chair and Board Vice Chair, I attest that these minutes of the open public meeting held on June 9, 2016 of the Office of the Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman Board substantially reflect the substance of the discussion and action taken related to the matters under the authority of the Board and in compliance with the Open Meetings Law, § 24-6-402, C.R.S.



Board Chair



Board Vice-Chair

9/8/16

Date

9/8/16

Date