

COLORADO CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

July 13, 2017

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 Child Protection Ombudsman Board was convened in the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center, 1300 Broadway, Conference Room 2B, Denver, Colorado, 80203 at 8:17 AM by Chairman, Judge Ken Plotz.

A quorum of the Board was present.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Board Members

Chairman Ken Plotz

Simone Jones

Connie Linn

Pax Moultrie

Victoria Shuler

Peg Rudden

Kyle Forti

Charles Greenacre*

Others Present

Stephanie Villafuerte, Child Protection Ombudsman

Sabrina Burbidge, Deputy Ombudsman

Jordan Steffen, Communications and Policy Director

Karen Nielsen, Administrative Coordinator

Caroline Parker, Child Protection Systems Analyst

Melissa Vigil, Child Protection Systems Analyst

Sueanna Johnson, Asst. Atty. General

** Participated by Telephone*

PRESENT FROM THE PUBLIC

Lucinda Connelly, CDHS

AGENDA ITEMS

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. OPENING MEETING REMARKS AND APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Opening Remarks

Judge Plotz stated that the board met its statutory obligation by holding the June meeting in Fort Morgan County. He stated that the meeting was a success. There was good attendance and individuals from both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems were present. He reported that there was a lot of great conversation, questions and input by those that attended. Judge Plotz thanked Simone Jones for being instrumental in helping set up the meeting. Ms. Simone Jones reported that she got a call from the individuals that helped facilitate the meeting. They told her that this was the first time anyone from the State or in our office held a meeting in their area. They reported that we were welcome back anytime.

Ms. Villafuerte indicated that she also thought the meeting was a success and that she sent thank you notes out to those that attended. The board members indicated that the meeting was very informative and that the meetings should be held out of town more often.

June 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes

In review of the June 21st meeting minutes Ms. Linn indicated that a minor change was needed. Ms. Linn indicated that the meeting minutes indicated that she made a motion to adjourn the meeting and she did not as she was absent. The record was corrected and the minutes will be amended accordingly.

Ms. Shuler made a motion to approve the June 21, 2017 minutes with the above change. Ms. Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

The board had three items on the consent agenda. These three documents have been previously discussed and extensively reviewed by the board. These documents are:

1. Board By-Laws
2. Ombudsman Grievance Policy
3. Board Document Retention Policy

Judge Plotz thanked everyone and specifically Sueanna Johnson for her help with finalizing these projects. There was no additional discussion on the Consent Agenda documents.

Judge Plotz asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Linn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Shuler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION OF OMBUDSMAN EVALUTION FORMS

The board discussed the final Ombudsman evaluation forms. There was some brief discussion about some technical language in the document. Judge Plotz asked for a motion to be made to accept both evaluation forms and the changes discussed today. Ms. Rudden made a motion to approve the evaluation documents. Ms. Shuler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board took a break at 9:08 AM. The board returned to open session at 9:21 AM.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Financial Report

Ms. Stephanie Villafuerte reported that CPO budget has increased by 27.3% from FY16-17. She stated that we have doubled our staff from 3 to 6 employees. Ms. Villafuerte indicated that she is pleased with the growth of the office. She stated that it will continue to allow the office to carry out the work that is required by law.

Database

Ms. Sabrina Burbidge indicated that the new database has been built. She stated that CPO files have been migrated to the new database and is now operational.

Case Specific Complaints

Sabrina Burbidge discussed case specific complaints. She talked specifically about the different type of complainants that the office has received. She stated that rural jurisdiction, juvenile and behavioral health complaints have increased in FY16-17. She provided the board members with an example of a case specific complaint.

There was some discussion from board members indicating they would have more information on individual cases so as to learn about the various complaints that are received. Ms. Villafuerte agreed to work with Ms. Burbidge to create an ongoing report that allows the board to receive this information in the future.

Systemic/System Complaints

Ms. Stephanie Villafuerte provided an update on the statewide adoption subsidies ongoing investigation. She reported that CPO issued a survey to the counties in April 2017. She stated

that the majority of the surveys were returned by July 1, 2017. Ms. Villafuerte said that she is working with the human services directors association to give them an update on the investigation and a preliminary look at some of the issues the office has identified. She stated that she appreciated the counties responses and will continue to communicate with them. CPO will also continue to do research and review state data. Ms. Villafuerte indicates that the final CPO report will be released in October or November. The counties will have the ability to review the report if issued recommendations and will have the opportunity to respond. She stated that the counties are asking to be a part of the solution. CPO is committed to doing so.

New CPO Website

Ms. Jordan Steffen reported that the office is doing a soft launch of the new website next week. She provided the group with a live demo of what the new website will look like.

Ms. Steffen further talked about the importance of CPO's messaging and how the website, its report/investigation section, strategic outreach, and the Performance Plan/Smart Act will increase direct access and transparency of the office. She further indicated that all materials will both be in English and in Spanish and the public will have the ability to download them from the website.

There was some discussion from the group on how impressed they were with how the website looks and the ability to see all aspects of what the office is doing in real time.

CPO Staff – New Hire

Ms. Sabrina Burbidge indicated that the application process for the Child Protection System's Analyst position is now closed. She indicated that the office is reviewing applications and will be setting interviews shortly.

Board Appointments

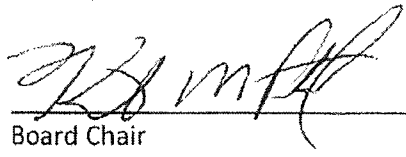
Ms. Villafuerte provided the board with an update on board member appointments. She indicated that there are now two board seats open and she is working with various agencies to fill these appointments. She stated that if anyone knows someone with expertise in primary or secondary education and medical expertise (not currently practicing) please have them contact her.

ADJOURN

Chairman, Judge Plotz formally adjourned the meeting at 10:39 AM.

ATTESTATION

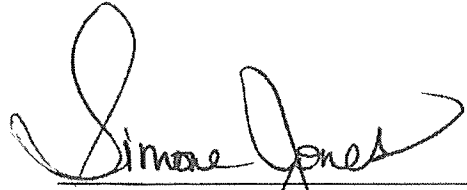
As Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair, I attest that these minutes of the open public meeting held on July 13, 2017, of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman Board substantially reflect the substance of the discussion and action taken related to the matters under the authority of the Board and in compliance with the Open Meetings Law, § 24-6-402, C.R.S.



Board Chair

Sept 14 2017

Date



Board Vice-Chair

9/14/17

Date