

COLORADO CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

June 21, 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 Morgan County Combined Court Building at 400 Warner Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, Denver, Colorado, 80202, in courtroom 4, at 11:07 AM by Chairman, Judge Ken Plotz.

A quorum of the Board was present.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Board Members

Chairman Ken Plotz

Karen Beye

Ginny Riley*

Pax Moultrie

Victoria Shuler

Peg Rudden

Dee Martinez*

Others Present

Stephanie Villafuerte, Child Protection Ombudsman

Sabrina Burbidge, Deputy Ombudsman

Jordan Steffen, Communications and Policy Director

Karen Nielsen, Administrative Coordinator

Melissa Vigil, Child Protection Systems Analyst

Caroline Parker, Research Assistant

** Participated by Telephone*

PRESENT FROM THE PUBLIC

Lexie Kuznick, CHSDA

Mandi Lindsey, Morgan County District Court Juvenile Clerk

Jo Kline, General public

Judge Ken Plotz opened the meeting. He stated that the CPO board was meeting in Fort Morgan as a result of requirements in legislation. He stated that the group is grateful to be in Fort Morgan and appreciated their hospitality.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was discussion from the public that they were not aware that the meeting was occurring in the area. They suggested that in the future the office might run an ad in the local paper and contact the local radio stations so as to notify citizens of upcoming meetings in their jurisdiction.

Judge Plotz also added that all meetings are posted on the website regularly and that the office is always open to suggestions on how to improve communication with the public.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

No comments or changes regarding the minutes.

Ms. Karen Beye made a motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2017.

Ms. Peg Rudden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH UPDATE

New CPO Website

Ms. Jordan Steffen reported that the office is launching a new website in July 2017. She provided the group with a handout that gave sample pages of what the new website will look like. She further discussed that the new website will serve a much more utilitarian function in terms of sharing information with the public in a timely manner.

In terms of outreach, there will also be a new event calendar that will be featured on the home page. There will also be a board page where CPO meeting announcements and meeting minutes will be kept. The new website will also contain a report page where investigative briefs, investigative reports and statutory reports will be posted.

There was questions and discussion regarding what an investigative briefing meant. Ms. Steffen explained that it is part of CPO's new policies effective July 1, 2017, where if the office has a case that goes beyond the 60 business day deadline, due to complex subject matter, the office will explain why our office needs more time to investigate it.

Data Dashboard

There will also be a data dashboard on the new website that will have our agency findings. There was some discussion about what the data will look like and how far back the office will be posting. Ms. Steffen indicated that all available reports/investigations will be on the new website when in roles out in July 2017.

Performance Plan/Smart Act

Ms. Jordan Steffen indicated that the office submitted the new performance plan yesterday for the Smart Act. She indicated that the strategic policy initiatives have been streamlined for the new Fiscal Year 2017-2018. She pointed out the first few policy initiatives and directed everyone to the report. There was no discussion about the report.

Internal Database

Ms. Sabrina Burbidge indicated that the office is using a Salesforce platform in our new database. She stated that this platform will allow the office to simplify our intake process and move through the process more effectively with the individuals that contact our office. Everything will be stored in one location. This new database will take us to the next level when it comes to being able to gather and provide data to the public and the legislature. Ms. Burbidge indicated that the office will show the board members a demonstration of the new database in a future board meeting so they will be able to see its functions.

IV. OMBUDSMAN EVALUTION FORMAT DISCUSSION

Judge Plotz indicated that both Vice Chairman, Simone Jones and Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Sueanna Johnson have circulated a draft of the Ombudsman Evaluation for board members to review. The board agreed that they will vote on a final form at the July 2017 meeting but also need to determine an evaluation schedule as well. Judge Plotz reminded the board members that if they had questions about the forms to direct them to Sueanna Johnson.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Stephanie Villafuerte gave an update on her experience at the Aspen Institute, Human Services Fellowship meeting. Ms. Villafuerte indicated that the fellowship extends for the next 18 months and is comprised of 20 human service professionals from across the state. The purpose of the group is to develop supportive relationships that will serve to support each member's project that is designed to improve the child protection system. Ms. Villafuerte indicated that she had a wonderful opportunity to inform the group of the mission

and scope of the CPO's work. She stated that most people were unfamiliar with the office but that over time many in the cohort began to see how the CPO could be useful to their work. She also indicated that she spent quality time with several county human service directors and appreciated the opportunity to learn how the CPO could work cooperatively with these partners.

Ms. Villafuerte also talked about her recent trip to East Africa, which was part of her Livingston Fellowship. Ms. Villafuerte talked about the individuals she met there who are engaged in health and human services work. She discussed and compared the differences between the U.S. and East African child protection systems. The experience was vitally important as it gave perspective of the gains Colorado and the U.S. continue to make in this important area.

ADJOURN

Chairman, Judge Plotz made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Peg Rudden. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board formally adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.

ATTESTATION

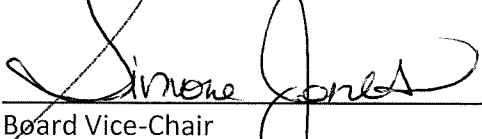
As Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair, I attest that these minutes of the open public meeting held on June 21, 2017, of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman Board substantially reflect the substance of the discussion and action taken related to the matters under the authority of the Board and in compliance with the Open Meetings Law, § 24-6-402, C.R.S.



Board Chair

9-14-2017

Date



Board Vice-Chair

9/14/17

Date