

COLORADO CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

April 2, 2018

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 1F, Denver, Colorado, 80203 at 8:20 AM by Board Chairman, Kenneth Plotz.

A quorum of the Board was present.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Board Members

Chairman Kenneth Plotz

Vice Chairman Simone Jones

Darlene Martinez*

Richard Krugman

Pax Moultrie

Karen Beye

Victoria Shuler*

Kyle Forte*

Peg Rudden

Charles Greenacre*

Connie Linn

Others Present

Stephanie Villafuerte, Child Protection Ombudsman

Jordan Steffen, Communications and Policy Director

Karen Nielsen, Administrative Coordinator

Melissa Vigil, Child Protection Systems Analyst

Caroline Parker, Child Protection Systems Analyst

Sueanna Johnson, Asst. Atty. General

** Participated by Telephone*

PRESENT FROM THE PUBLIC

None

AGENDA ITEMS

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:22 a.m. at the request of Chairman Plotz, Dr. Richard Krugman made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice concerning the discussion of agency personnel matters. Ms. Constance Linn seconded the motion. The board unanimously passed the motion. A board quorum is present. The session will be recorded as is required by law.

Executive Session was held for the Board to receive legal advice pursuant to § 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S.

The Executive Session was recorded in compliance with §24-6-402(2)(d.5)(I)(A), C.R.S

Return to Open Meeting

Executive session ended at 9: 45 a.m. for Board members to take a break.

At 9:55 a.m. Chairman Plotz returned the meeting to executive session. Executive session was concluded at 11:03 a.m. The Board returns to the public meeting. The Board summarizes the executive session meeting.

The Board stated it obtained clarity on how to handle complaints filed by former staff members. The Board found that those complaints will be handled under the CPO's public complaint process promulgated on July 13, 2017. This will allow the public to know when a public complaint has been made. In this case, the minutes will reflect that the Board received a complaint from former Deputy Director Sabrina Burbidge and the complaint will be handled through the public complaint process. The Board will send a letter to notify Ms. Burbidge that the public complaint process will be followed regarding her complaint. Additionally, in the future, such complaints will be addressed through the public complaint policy.

Assistant Attorney General Sueanna Johnson stated that, through statute and legal advice, the Board has found that hiring and firing decisions by the Ombudsman are outside of the Board's purview. Any allegation that is appropriate for the public complaint process will be addressed as such.

Ms. Constance Linn made a motion to approve the summary of the executive session and the motion was seconded by Ms. Peg Rudden. The motion was passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 11, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The Board discussed the meeting minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2018. There were no questions or corrections to the minutes.

Vice Chair Simone Jones moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Karen Beye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Villafuerte discussed the CPO's budget and explained that the agency is on track to meet budget. Currently, the agency has approximately \$50,000 in vacancy savings. Ms. Villafuerte is working with the State Courts Administrator's Office to determine how those funds may be spent.

The Board inquired if those funds may be used for temporary employees. Ms. Villafuerte indicated that the funds may be used for such purposes. Additionally, Ms. Villafuerte informed the Board that the CPO's supplemental request for Fiscal Year 2018-19 was approved by the Joint Budget Committee. The CPO's total budget for Fiscal year 2018-19 will be \$1,011,267.

In the interest of time, Ms. Villafuerte directed the board to her executive director report for all other agency updates.

V. PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Ms. Steffen reported on the CPO's legislative efforts to date.

1. [SB 18-058](#): Failure to Report Child Abuse Statute of Limitations (Bill died)
2. [HB 18-1104](#): Family Preservation for Parents with Disability (CPO testified on the types of complaints it has received in this area)
3. [HB 18-1156](#): Limits Punishments for Juvenile Truancy (CPO testifies in favor of bill)
4. [HB 18-1044](#): Colorado Children's Trust Fund Act (Bill died)
5. Adoption Subsidies (Funding bill/Statutory Update)-CPO is working with Senator Smallwood on drafting a bill which will update the Colorado adoption subsidy statute.
6. Interim Committee on Data Sharing of Municipal Court Information- CPO is working with Senator Fields and other stakeholders to apply for interim committee status to research this issue.
7. JBC Child Welfare Funding Bill-currently in stakeholder negotiations. If passed it would increase adoption subsidy funding and create a

separate line item for spending. This will all benefit adoptive children and families. The CPO is actively involved in this effort.

VI. CPO OUT OF TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Board discussed the upcoming out-of-town meeting. The Board sought clarification regarding what locations are outside of the Denver/metro area. Ms. Johnson said she will research whether there is any legal guidance or definition regarding the Denver/metro area.

The Board agreed to select a location that was well outside of the Front Range. Judge Greenacre suggested the meeting be planned around judicial districts to reach more agencies. He suggested meeting in Alamosa, which is housed in the 12th Judicial District in southern Colorado. The Board agreed on the location and the meeting date was set for Monday, July 16 (3-5 p.m.) and Tuesday, July 17 (morning) in Alamosa. Additionally, the CPO will coordinate with the 12th Judicial District to attend a best practice meeting on Monday, July 16.

The Judge Greenacre moved to set the meeting dates and Ms. Constance Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed upcoming meeting dates, given the scheduling of the out-of-town meeting. The Board agreed to keep the scheduled board meeting on May 10, 2018. The meeting scheduled for July 12, 2018 will be canceled and replaced with the July 17, 2018 out-of-town meeting.

Vice-chair Simone Jones moved to adjust the meeting schedule and the motion was seconded by Ms. Constance Linn. The motion passed.

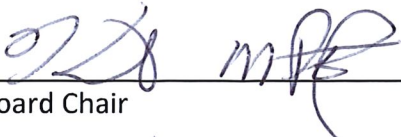
Ms. Karen Beye suggested reaching out to local media to promote the out-of-town meeting and encourage public attendance.

VII. CONCLUSION

Vice chair Simone Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Constance Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ATTESTATION

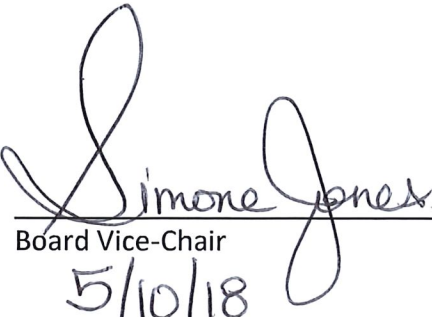
As Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair, I attest that these minutes of the open public meeting held on April 2, 2018, of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman Board substantially reflect the substance of the discussion and action taken related to the matters under the authority of the Board and in compliance with the Open Meetings Law, § 24-6-402, C.R.S.



Board Chair

5/10/18

Date



Board Vice-Chair

5/10/18

Date