



CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN of COLORADO

COLORADO CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

January 13, 2022

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 via Zoom teleconference at 8:04 a.m. by Ombudsman Villafuerte.

A quorum of the Board was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Board Members on Zoom

Ann Roan, Chair
Judith Martinez, Interim Vice-Chair
Hon. Ken Plotz
Jerene Petersen
Victoria Shuler
Brian Bernhard
April Lane
Hon. Amanda Hopkins
Wendy Buxton-Andrade
Dr. Coral Steffey
Aaron Miltenberger
Benjamin Rounsborg

Others Present

Stephanie Villafuerte, Ombudsman
Jordan Steffen, Deputy Ombudsman
Tiffany Madrid, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy
Karen Nielsen, Director of Administrative Services
Amanda Pennington, Director of Client Services
Claire Hooker, Senior Client Services Analyst
Derek Cooley, Client Services Analyst

Wendy Oldenbrook, Client Services Analyst
Chelsea Adams, Client Services Analyst
Janna Fischer, Assistant Attorney General

PRESENT FROM THE PUBLIC

Simone Jones

INTRODUCTIONS

Pursuant to guidance handed down by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding the spread of COVID-19, Chair Ann Roan and Ombudsman Stephanie Villafuerte facilitated the meeting via teleconference. Board members, Office of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) staff and other attendees participated via Zoom teleconferencing.

Ombudsman Villafuerte welcomed everyone.

WELCOME AND FAREWELLS

Farewell to Former CPO Board Member, Simone Jones

Ombudsman Villafuerte thanked outgoing member Simone Jones for her commitment and contributions to the Board and her work to support and protect in children in Colorado. She stated Ms. Jones was one of the original board members and thanked her for her involvement and contributions to the growth of the agency.

Ms. Jones expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to partner and serve on the Board and the opportunity to improve and have an impact on the child welfare system, through the creation of the CPO. She stated that she looks forward to seeing the agency and Board's continued growth in the future.

Welcome to New CPO Board Member, Benjamin Rounsborg

Ombudsman Villafuerte welcomed Benjamin Rounsborg to the Board. Mr. Rounsborg was appointed by Chief Justice Brian D. Boatright to fill the position of a "an individual with experience in criminal justice involving children and youth." Mr. Rounsborg is filling the position formerly held by Simone Jones.

Mr. Rounsborg thanked Ombudsman Villafuerte and the Board for welcoming him. He stated he currently works for the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office and that his background involves dependency and neglect, as well as juvenile delinquency cases. Mr. Rounsborg previously served as a Guardian ad Litem in dependency and neglect and delinquency cases in El Paso County. He stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve and contribute to the CPO Board.

At 8: 13 a. m. Ms. Jones left the Zoom meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

At 8:15 a.m. Chair Roan joined the Zoom meeting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Chair Roan entertained a motion to approve the final minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2021. Brian Bernhard made a motion to approve the final minutes of November 18, 2021, and Tori Shuler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, minus Dr. Coral Steffey.

At 8:20 a.m. Laurel K (screen name) joined the Zoom meeting.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT DISCUSSION

Ombudsman Villafuerte stated she and Chair Roan are collaborating to determine how the CPO engage with the Board share updates regarding agency projects and solicit the advice, expertise and experience of board members. One such effort is to dedicate meeting space to in-depth conversations about issues impacting the child protection system. During a previous meeting, board members indicated they would appreciate a discussion dedicated to the impacts of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) on the child protection system. The FFPSA will be the subject of today's conversation and Ombudsman Villafuerte thanked the board members who volunteered to share their experience and perspectives.

At 8:22 a.m. Nived (screen name) joined the Zoom meeting and was removed by Deputy Ombudsman Jordan Steffen for disrupting the presentation at 8:25 a.m.

Amanda Pennington, CPO Director of Client Services, and Tiffany Madrid, CPO Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy, provided an overview of the law and current and anticipated impacts to the CPO's work. Following their presentation, board members discussed the various impacts of FFPSA, as well as their personal and professional experiences with the law.

At 8:30 a.m. Laurel K (screen name) left the Zoom meeting.

At 9:05 a.m. Dr. Steffey joined the Zoom meeting.

At 10:01 a.m. Mr. Miltenberger left the Zoom meeting.

Chair Roan and Ombudsman Villafuerte thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion.

BOARD BUSINESS

Appointment of Interim CPO Board Chair

Chair Roan reported that with Simone Jones' departure, Judith Martinez will be named the Interim Vice Chair. Assistant Attorney General Janna Fisher reported that at the next meeting on March 10, 2022, Chair Roan will take nominations for a new Vice Chair to begin a two-year term. At the May 2022, meeting the Board will take a vote on the nominee's and the elected board member will be begin their term in September 2022.

Selection of CPO Board Youth Voice Subgroup Members

Ombudsman Villafuerte stated that at the meeting in January 2022, that the CPO reported that is working on improving and increasing outreach to youth in out-of-home placements. She reported that she spoke with Ms. Shuler who provided some ideas on how the CPO might begin those outreach efforts. The CPO has also spoke with other board members about their interest and participation in a sub-group to lead these efforts. Ms. Fischer reported that the sub-groups are permitted but subject to open meeting laws and discussed the functions and structure of the working group.

Board members Judith Martinez, Hon. Ken Plotz, Victoria Shuler, April Lane and Wendy Buxton-Andrade volunteered for the sub-group.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Roan recognized the board for their diversity of experience, opinions and viewpoints. She stated that she appreciated the Board’s participation and robust discussion on FFPSA. She stated that the next CPO board meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2022, via Zoom teleconference.

Ombudsman Villafuerte introduced the newest CPO employee, Chelsea Adams. Ms. Villafuerte reported that Ms. Adams comes to the CPO from Jefferson County Human Services and brings a wealth of knowledge with her.

ADJOURN

Chair Roan entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Buxton-Andrade made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Bernhard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, minus Mr. Miltenberger.

The Board formally adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

ATTESTATION

As Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair, I attest that these minutes of the open public meeting held on January 13, 2022, 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.

Ann M. Roan

Board Chair

March 17, 2022

Date

Judith Martinez

Board Vice-Chair

March 17, 2022

Date

