



CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN of COLORADO

COLORADO CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

July 26, 2023

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 8:05 a.m. by Chair Ann Roan.

A quorum of the Board was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Board Members

Ann Roan, Chair
Hon. Kenneth Plotz
Jerene Petersen
Wendy Buxton-Andrade
Judith Martinez, Vice-Chair
Hon. Amanda Hopkins
Brian Bernhard
Commissioner Charles Tedesco

Others Present

Stephanie Villafuerte, Ombudsman
Karen Nielsen, Director of Administrative Services
Janna Fischer, Assistant Attorney General
Kristen Mahlin, Coach Craft LLC

PRESENT FROM THE PUBLIC

None

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ann Roan and Ombudsman Stephanie Villafuerte facilitated the meeting via Zoom teleconference.

Chair Roan welcomed everyone.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Roan entertained a motion to approve the final minutes of the meeting held on May 11, 2023. Judge Amanda Hopkins made a motion to approve the final minutes of the May 11, 2023, meeting. Brian Bernhard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD BUSINESS

Board Member Appointment Updates

Farewell

Ombudsman Villafuerte reported that, at the end of this month, the terms of several board members will concluded. Their leadership, dedication, wisdom, insightful contributions, unwavering advocacy and commitment to the CPO have left a mark on the agency's mission and vision. The outgoing board members are:

- Judge Ken Plotz
- Ann Roan
- Jerene Petersen

Judge Ken Plotz joined the meeting at 8:09 a.m.

Their expertise and commitment have greatly influenced the success and growth of the organization and this Board. Other members extended their heartfelt thanks for their years of service.

New Appointment

Ombudsman Villafuerte stated that she is pleased to announce the Chief Justice appointment of Hon. Gail Meinster who is replacing Judge Plotz. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the team. Her first term will expire on July 31, 2027.

Reappointment

Ombudsman Villafuerte reported that Brian Bernhard has been reappointed to the Board by the House Minority Leader. His second term will expire on August 1, 2027.

Ombudsman Villafuerte reported that the agency still has two appointments to fill, and that we are awaiting confirmation on the reappointment of April Lane by the Governor’s office, whose term is set to conclude on August 1, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 a.m. Chair Roan called for a motion to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing the Child Protection Ombudsman annual performance evaluation.

Wendy Buxton-Andrade made a motion to enter executive session for the purposes described above. Jerene Petersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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.S)(I)(A), C.R.S

Ombudsman Villafuerte, Assistant Attorney General Janna Fischer and Kristen Mahlin, Coach Craft LLC, attended the executive session in whole.

Judge Plotz and Ms. Mahlin left the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

At 8:33 a.m. Chair Roan returned the meeting to open session. Judith Martinez made a motion to approve the Child Protection Ombudsman annual performance evaluation. Mr. Bernhard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD BUSINESS CONTINUED

Chair/Vice-Chair Elections Process

AAG Fischer reported that there was an oversight in the election process and that the chair and vice-chair are not on the term. She asked the Board to consider deviating against the CPO Board Bylaws to hold elections today to have both the chair and vice-chair begin two-year terms.

Ms. Buxton-Andrade made a motion to deviate against the CPO Board Bylaws to hold elections today to have both the chair and vice-chair begin two-year terms. Ms. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations

Members engaged in a discussion regarding various nominations for the chair and vice-chair positions.

AAG Fischer read a statement from Ben Rounsberg to be considered for the Board chair position although he was not present at the meeting.

Board Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Ms. Buxton-Andrade made a motion to nominate Ben Rounsberg as Board chair. Chair Roan seconded the

motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Roan made a motion to nominate Judith Martinez as Board vice-chair. Ms. Buxton-Andrade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AAG Fischer stated that the Board has appointed a new chair, Ben Rounsberg and vice-chair, Judith Martinez. Their term will end on July 31, 2025.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Roan closed by thanking members for their time and commitment to helping Colorado's most vulnerable children. She expressed her gratitude to serve as chair on the Board. Chair Roan thanked everyone for their collective efforts, expertise and collaboration that has enriched the Boards discussions and decisions.

ADJOURN

The Board formally adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

ATTESTATION


As Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair, I attest that these minutes of the open public meeting held on July 26, 2023, 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

9/29/2023

Date



Board Vice-Chair

10.3.2023

Date

