

**Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board
Legislative Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229**

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Lindsay Pickral; Lucy Beadnell; MacKay Boyer; Mary Jane Hall

Member Present Virtually: Donna Smith

DARS Staff Present: Charlotte Arbogast; Laura Koch; Bronwyn Lewis; Ellie Rest; Catherine Harrison; Ansley Perkins; Fay Lewis

Welcome and Introductions

Laura Koch, Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Program Director

Ms. Koch called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The meeting was then turned over to Charlotte Arbogast, DARS Senior Policy Analyst.

Ms. Arbogast reminded attendees that the Legislative Committee is primarily responsible for crafting recommendations on potential legislation and budget items affecting the Public Guardian Program for consideration by the full Advisory Board. The Committee's recommendations will be presented to the full Advisory Board, which will vote on whether to send them to the DARS Commissioner.

Review and Adopt Agenda

Laura Koch

The agenda was reviewed. Lindsay Pickral made a motion to accept the agenda as proposed, which was seconded by Mary Jane Hall. The committee members voted to accept the agenda.

Public Comments

Laura Koch, Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Program Director

Ms. Koch opened the floor for public comment. No comments were presented.

Election of Committee Chair

Charlotte Arbogast, Senior Policy Analyst

MacKay Boyer nominated Lindsay Pickral to serve as Legislative Committee Chair. Ms. Hall second the motion. There were no other nominations. The members unanimously elected Ms. Pickral as the Chair.

Update on Prior Legislative Recommendations

Laura Koch, Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Program Director

Ms. Koch gave an overview of three recommendations generated by the 2025 Legislative Committee: (1) create a training curriculum for members of local provider Multidisciplinary

Panels (MDPs); (2) enhance judicial training and informational materials on public guardianship; and (3) support funding for a data management system for the Public Guardian Program.

Discussion of Potential Legislative Priorities and Recommendations

Lindsay Pickral, Committee Chair

After discussion, the Committee approved two recommendations.

- (1) Fund a database management platform for the PGP that would allow local providers to make changes in real time. This would support the PGP's ability to monitor clients, analyze data, and create useful reports. The Committee directed the Chair to work with DARS to identify the initial and ongoing funding needed for such a system.
- (2) Increase in the rate paid to providers for Public Guardian Program client slots. Most slots are currently funded at \$5,000 annually, with 98 slots funded at \$7,000 annually. The Committee noted that rates had not kept pace with inflation, salary requirements, and the costs of administering the local programs. Recruitment and retention of staff have been affected, particularly given the increasing complexity of client needs. The Committee directed the Chair to work with DARS to identify the amount of the proposed increase.

The Chair will prepare these recommendations for the consideration of the full Board at the meeting to be held on September 16, 2025.

Determine Date and Time of Next Meeting

Lindsay Pickral, Chair

No further meeting was scheduled.

Public Comment

Lindsay Pickral, Chair

Lindsay Pickral opened the floor for public comment. No comments were presented.

Meeting Adjournment

Lindsay Pickral, Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.