

**Idaho County Board of Community Guardians Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Date: Jan. 16, 2025      Location: Idaho County Courthouse**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chris Hagenbuch (Chair), Lynda Fox (Vice-Chair), Nolene Weaver (Secretary), Alan Fox, Darlene Clark, Larry Clark, Jane Spencer, Andrea Solberg, and Debbie Hays.

**The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.**

**Chris announced the board has a new member.** Summer Duman didn't attend today because her daughter has covid and she didn't want to expose other board members. Hopefully, she will be at the next meeting and will be welcomed and introduced to the board then.

Darlene asked if she and Larry were still needed now that Jane and Summer are on the board. Chris told the Clarks they could resign and the board would still have enough members to meet bylaw requirements. This will be their last meeting.

**Nolene read the minutes aloud.** Lynda moved and Andrea seconded the motion to adopt the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chris thanked everyone for their service the past year.** He gave a special thanks to Larry and Darlene for their long and excellent service on the board.

**Chris opened nominations for officers for next year.** Larry nominated Chris as chair. There was no second. Members were asked if anyone was interested in being nominated. No one came forward. Current officers were asked if they were willing to continue. Lynda said she could continue as vice chair or could swap roles with Chris. Chris said he would continue as chair. Nolene said she could continue as secretary. Debbie made a motion to elect the current board for another year and Lynda seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

**Updates From Guardians on Wards**

LB (Debbie's ward) struck another resident last week while exiting the shower at Grangeville Health and Rehabilitation (GHR). As a result, LB is on a "watch". Debbie is concerned about LB and isn't sure what to do - Kirk advised her not to meet with LB in person because it may trigger aggression and put Debbie in harms way. Debbie would like LB to be seen by a local physician. Lynda said residents no longer see local doctors but do see a doctor in person every 4 to 6 weeks. Debbie thinks LB's care plan may not reflect her current needs. Lynda suggested that Debbie ask for a care conference. If LB can't remain at GHR they will give a 30 day notice and we would need to find a more suitable living situation, likely in a lockdown facility. LB has dementia, refuses to take her medication, uses a wheelchair full time, and her communication skills have declined markedly. It was reiterated that a care conference is needed.

LM (Alan and Lynda's ward) was in the hospital for several days. She went back to GHR and several days later Lynda got a call that LM was asking to go to the ER due to an elevated heart rate. LM said it was hard to breathe. Lynda told them to take her to the ER where it was determined she had a stuffy nose. While she was in their care, ER staff discovered and treated LM for open sores caused by dried feces in numerous skin crevices. She also had a catheter that wasn't functioning properly so ER staff drained the excess fluid. Lynda was very concerned. She complained to the head nurse at GHR and asked the ER staff to document everything and take photos. GHR corrected the situation and promised nothing like that would happen again. Lynda requested a follow up visit by Dr. Told. Dr. Told reported back that LM was clean and that the sores were healing. Board members mentioned that for the past year or so, GHR has been short staffed and has to rely on traveling nurses and aids to meet some staff needs. Lynda feels that LM may have asked to go to hospital because she wasn't getting the attention she needed at GHR.

MR (Alan and Lynda's ward) is feisty. She is her normal grumpy self with no concerns or needs that are out of the ordinary.

LB (Jerry and Joann Haaland's ward) is deceased and the judge directed the board to settle her estate. Kirk has been doing this on behalf of the board. The property has been switched into LB's daughter's name. Kirk told Chris there is one more final accounting and he will take care of it. Lynda was surprised to hear this because she and Alan felt that they had completed everything.

Several members said the board should not be involved in disposing property. Chris said LM's case has been a lesson to the board and that moving forward we should not accept referrals for individuals who have assets to pay for a guardian and/or conservator. Jane stated there is no statutory basis for the judge to order the board to settle a ward's estate and that the county treasurer has that responsibility.

### **Update on Referrals for Guardianship**

The referral for MC (Nolene's ward) was accepted by the board at the September meeting. The petition for guardianship paperwork was just prepared by Kirk in the last few days and was signed by Chris today. Nolene and Chris are listed as MC's representative. Kirk prepared a petition for temporary guardianship which is quicker to get in place but only lasts 90 days.

Chris said he met with Kirk yesterday to discuss how to make the guardianship process smoother and more timely. The board isn't always in the loop. The board rarely receives first notices and instead has to scramble at the last minute to comply with second notices. Jane asked if Chris has to do all court appearances because he is chair or if this responsibility could be delegated/shared by other members. Chris said he has only had to go to court once so it wasn't a problem. Kirk represents the board in court and board members only have to appear in court on initial appointment.

The solution Kirk and Chris discussed for improving the process was for a deputy prosecutor - Matt Jessup or Brennan Wright - to handle guardianships when Kirk is overbooked. Chris expressed confidence that this will be a big help. He hopes a deputy prosecutor will attend future meetings. Several board members expressed concerns about our legal and ethical responsibilities for individuals who need a guardian but the appointment is delayed due to process issues. Chris also asked Kirk to send us the first notice as well the second notice of things that are due. It was suggested that we take our concerns to the county commissioners if needed.

The referral for VD has been withdrawn, as reported by Chris.

### **Old and New Business**

There is a new referral via Mona Jack from Adult Protective Services. The nurse who is completing referral paperwork will drop it off this week. The potential ward is a woman in her thirties. Chris is unsure of her exact living arrangements except that she is living in Clearwater and is being taken care of by someone. The person who is taking care of her does not want responsibility for making medical decisions. She has numerous medical issues and the reasons she needs a guardian are unclear. We will probably need to meet in February to review this referral.

Numerous board member terms are about to expire. Appointments for Andrea, Alan, Lynda, and Debbie will expire on Feb. 23. All agreed to continue to be appointed for another 4 year term. Chris will notify the county clerk of this.

Kirk said it's perfectly fine to meet on Zoom, especially for emergency meetings.

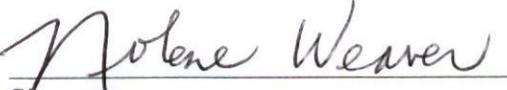
Jane asked if board members are expected to serve as guardians only, and not as conservators. After some discussion it was determined that board members serve as both guardian and conservator. Therefore, all board members should complete the online training provided by the Idaho supreme Court for conservators as well as guardians.

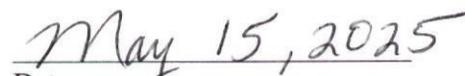
**The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 5 at 3:30 p.m., at the court house.**

Debbie moved and Larry seconded the motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously. **The meeting was adjourned 4:31 p.m.**

Submitted by: Nolene Weaver, Secretary

Approved by Board of Guardians

  
Signature

  
Date