



Alaska WINGS

Vision – the Dream

Design an effective system of processes that maximizes the support of vulnerable adults in Alaska.

Mission – The What and Why

To ensure a functional and responsive adult guardianship system that maximizes self-determination, avoids unnecessary guardianships using less restrictive alternatives and prevents and addresses abuse through monitoring and education.

January 23, 2024 Minutes 9am to 10am

In attendance: Teresa Holt, Jamie Kokoszka, Kelda Barstad, Nathan Dahl, Patrick Reinhart, Stacey Marz, Anne Applegate, William Seggera, Nathan Cole, Marge Stoneking, Nekesha Taylor, Tamara Hunter, Mary Calderon, Dyland Krueger

I. 9am - Welcome and Housekeeping

- a. Welcome back Anne Applegate to WINGS
- b. Reminder of missing representation for the WINGS of who can/should be added.

II. Committee Reports

- a. Education – Dave Fleurant, Chair
 - i. Nathan, Dave and I are working on language for an advisory committee with WINGS. Keeping tabs on what might be needed in the realm of leading up to, during or post guardianship issues in the area of education.
 - ii. Also looking for those who would be speakers for future training. Beginning level, expert level – wide range of topics that could be relevant.
 - iii. Audience could be families, providers, professional guardians/conservators; anyone navigating this potential tool and including alternatives.
 - iv. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let Lisa W know.

- b. Alternatives; Pathway to SDMA & Appointment Options – Anne Applegate
 - i. Two workgroups with Anne as the chair
 - ii. SDMA and Alternatives to Full guardianship Working Group
 - iii. Increasing Access to Needed Guardians Work Group
 - 1. Attachments sent with January meeting agenda
 - 2. Groups looking to find an organizational home for information and sustainability as well as volunteer guardians groups and meeting with volunteer programs to get more information.
 - 3. Volunteers could include supports for SDMA or guardian appointments. Need possibilities for all levels of decision making but also to alleviate some pressure with OPA.
 - 4. Meetings in February for workshops and full meeting is March 7th.
 - 5. Next step – looking at legal services regardless of what tool they’ll be looking at.
 - 6. If you are interested in either of these workgroups, please contact Anne. There have been upwards of 30 folks interested in these groups.
- c. Court Improvement and Monitoring – Lisa W and Stacey M
 - i. Working on new forms – PG 100 and PG 104 our petitions have had updates to now include discussion on alternatives.
 - ii. Implementation and Annual reports no longer require a notary
 - iii. Court is teaching four classes
 - 1. Fundamentals on Guardianship/Conservatorship twice a month
 - 2. How to Track information and Completing the Annual Report
 - 3. Understanding the Basics of Public Benefits
 - 4. Alternatives to Guardianship Quarterly
 - iv. Updates to PG 190 – Petition for Review. New form now for financial requests which is PG 179
 - 1. PG 179 is to request items for room and board, Paid PCA etc
 - 2. Does not necessarily prompt a hearing or full review/visitor appointment unless the judge has questions on PG 179
 - v. ACS has a request with this legislative session for three monitoring and mentoring programs to both expand the monitoring program ACS in four court locations but also provide a little more assistance on administrative items and requests (for example, PG 179) to both provide the community with more support but also free up judicial time for more important matters with regards to these petitions.
 - vi. Court Visitors are getting together for the first time in person in April 2024 with a focus on alternatives to guardianship and restoration of rights. The restoration of rights will also be presented at the magistrate conference a couple of days later.
 - vii. Bench cards are being revised for judges to use in hearings on family appointments and professional guardian appointments
- d. Probate Rules – Not active at this time but reconvening this summer

- e. Statute Committee – Teresa with Dylan and Mary stepping in for Diane Brewer
 - i. UGCOPPA talking points were sent out with meeting.
 - ii. Statute Committee begin pre-Covid with two sub-groups; one on guardianship statutes and one on conservatorship.
 - iii. Committee working with Beth Russo who moved from Alaska but began working with an AARP contract did a deep dive of the recommendations comparison. Ms. Russo is now working with AARP and be able to continue working with her.
 - iv. Recommendations have been sent to LegLegal for review. When this comes back, the statute committee will reconvene to review their changes. Next step, identifying a legislative sponsor and identifying a plan.
 - v. Anne asked about a data component and this wasn't discussed via the statute committee but ACS is working with the internal CMS team on data collection and how we can collect better data. Stacey noted that court case management systems are limited. Discussion on if it is in statute; then funding could be attached to ensure the data is collected but there is also not a lot of programs set up or that are affordable at this time but there is a growing movement with guardianship related software.
 - vi. Mary C has a question on the timeline of LegLegal – Marge noted they've had the documents since October and had hoped to have them back by March. Mary suggested the statute committee discuss data collection at the next meeting. There are concerns of a formal system change would have a large fiscal note.
 - vii. Discussion about the plans and opportunity for a legislative champion when ready. The process could take several years so a plan needs to be developed. Guardianship is a "hot topic" at this time.

III. New Business

No New Business. Doodle Poll will be sent out for April and September meetings.