



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.

***September 24, 2024
9am to 11am***

In attendance:

Lisa Wawrzonek, ACS

Marge Stoneking, AARP

Jamie Kokoszka, Gov. Council

Kara Casanova

Stacey Marz, ACS

Tamara Hunter, APS

Nekeysha Taylor, DOC

Nathan Dahl, Maple Springs

Brooke Keating, AG Office

Justin Nelson, AG Office

Kevin Gullufsen, AG Office

Chelsea Burke, Gov. Council

Steven Bookman, AG Office

Beth Goldstein, OPA

Teresa Holt, AARP

Carrie Epperson, VA

Kelda Barstad, AMHTA

Dave Fleurant, DLCA

Anne Applegate

Paul Peterson, AG Office

I. 9am - Welcome and Housekeeping

- a. No major housekeeping – welcome to new members
- b. April 2024 meeting cancelled due to a number of participants unavailability.

II. Committee Reports

a. Statute Committee: Teresa Holt reporting.

- i. Gave overview of project that started several years ago. No major update in decades. Lots of input from various stakeholders

- ii. SB250 was introduced in spring 2024 but did not move forward. Bill is drafted and was sent out to participants. Legislative session runs two-year cycle. SB 250 is no longer a bill but committee chair sent out to various stakeholders including elder law and probate section of the bar, Disability Law, OPA etc.

- iii. Next steps would be to have it sponsored again in January 2025
- iv. Beth Russo, formerly at OPA but is currently at AARP national has been involved and is currently still assisting so we've not lost the institutional knowledge. Ms. Russo put together a summary that is attached to these minutes.
- v. Meeting prior to end of year to further discuss after comments and before January.
- vi. Questions on the inclusion of minor guardianships were addressed as well as sending the bill to respondent attorneys
- b. Alternatives:** Anne Applegate reporting
 - i. Gave overview of alternatives on how it started and the focus of SDMA and alternatives to guardianship.
 - ii. Tools are really on a continuum – those who need more of the supports for decisions but also those who need a decision maker.
 - iii. Had two workgroups starting out with options for those who need only the supports and those who need the decision maker but now coming together.
 - iv. Three-day meeting coming up on SDMA, mediation, standards for guardianship. Beth Goldstein has done a lot of work on including alternatives in training materials for public guardians and respondent attorneys.
 - v. Aware of three cases recently using SDMA.
 - vi. Regarding the volunteer guardianship program from the second workgroup. See Memorandum sent for meeting.
 - vii. Other states have volunteer guardianship programs so Alaska looked at a variety of models.
 - viii. Model may be an agency for a clearinghouse for outreach, coordination.
 - ix. Questions about monitoring, risk came up with this potential model. Extensive research was done on how these programs addressed.
 - x. Ms. Applegate gave overview of the research found to date and opened for discussion.
 - xi. Discussion: Can a volunteer program be efficient and effectively administered?
 - 1. Possibly not working as a CASA program from an administrative perspective but a training program.
 - a. Potentially a position with OPA – like a project coordinator responsible for training and resource but unlike the CASA program, but not to help connect to cases. Discussion on how to connect trained volunteers to actual cases
 - b. Discussion of need for a mentor to new volunteers
 - 2. Discussion of creating a panel of those who have already been volunteers or willing to be.
 - 3. Discussion on the risk for the agency matching volunteers – the court is always ultimately responsible when appointing.
 - 4. Discussion on the different entities (APS, OPA etc) role in new program.
 - a. Promote, recruit
 - b. Screen applicants
 - c. Engage with contractor for background checks
 - d. Confirm education requirement
 - e. Provide candidate – most volunteer programs do not find the potential appointment or file a petition.

5. Question on if the Office of Public Advocacy would be responsible for having such a program legally but this question has not yet been answered.

Next meetings Doodle polls will be sent out for January, April and September.