



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 14, 2021

1pm to 3pm

In attendance: T. Holt, B. Russo L. Stiehr, D. Fleurant; S. Marz, N. Taylor, B. Goldstein; P. Icardi, J. Doherty. Guests: Tom McDuffie with Cache Integrity; David Moxley and Amanda Sandlin with UAA.

I. Welcome and Housekeeping.

- A. We say goodbye to a cherished magistrate, James Stanley who passed away this month. Lisa W has an address if anyone is interested in sending his family a note or card. Stacey M also indicated that the position would be recruited very soon.
- B. Minutes from May 25th are approved with one minor change of the ACL grant start date is 10/1, not 9/1.
- C. Discussion of doing a re-commitment of sorts to WINGS in January and looking at who is missing from the group including family guardians and protected individuals or those at risk. If anyone has potential member contacts, contact Lisa W so I can send some background.
- D. Introduction of our invited guests; Tom McDuffie with Cache Integrity and David Moxley and Amanda Sandlin with UAA both who are interested in what Alaska needs in terms of more options for appointment of guardians/conservators.

II. Committee Reports and Announcements:

Alternatives

- a. Jess Doherty reported that the Governor's Council is being restructured and an identified chair for this committee is still being worked on

Statute Committee

- A. Teresa Holt provided an update about the October 13th meeting to discuss HB 139 on succession planning where a guardian can appoint a new guardian in a will and that a guardian can withdraw life sustaining treatment. Rep Hannon will be at the meeting.
- B. The guardianship committee has completed its review of the statutes with the Uniform bill and the conservatorship committee continues its work.

Education

There have been discussions on the focus of this committee and if the direction should be changed to more of an advisory/action committee that addresses community engagement to identify the gaps or areas of educational improvement. Lizette and Dave will continue to co-chair and hold a meeting to further define its focus moving forward and update at the January meeting.

Probate Rules

The rules committee is still commissioned but suspended until necessary as the first set of rules has now been adopted and will go into effect 10/15.21. The Court forms attorney is addressing any forms that need updates/changes due to the new rules

Court Improvement & Monitoring

- a. No word yet on the ACL Elder Justice grant the court applied for. Start date for the grant is 10/1/21 so it should be soon. The grant would go towards court-wide guardianship improvement.
- b. We have judges who have volunteered to work on the bench book as a part of this improvement to have consistent practices statewide on guardianship case types.
- c. Lisa W gave an overview of the new Income and Expense Tracker app that is now starting an initial test pilot with a small group of family guardians to provide feedback over the next three months before we look at the larger pilot. ASAGA is hopeful to apply for a grant through the American Bar Endowment Opportunity grant to obtain funding for tech support and the larger pilot. The grant is due 10/1/21 and awards would be announced in February with funding coming in April 2022.

III. New Items

- A. Began discussion on whether or not to start a new committee on Appointment options.
 - i. Beth Goldstein gave an overview of what the Office of Public Advocacy has been doing to restructure to better serve clientele with the resources they have. Positions have been restructured as well as four different levels of public guardians based on their experience.
 - ii. Several questions were posed as far as structure, funding and payment sources and potential options.
 - iii. Of those in attendance, there wasn't anyone opposed to forming this committee so calls were made for members.
- B. Dave F noted a need to have an online place for some of the items that have been emailed out to be deposited so they are available to committee members. Lisa W will look into options and have set up before the January meeting.
- C. A final call for any announcements from committee members – no announcements today.
- D. A call for additional members to join WINGS, former education committee and newly formed (will be re-titled) Options committee with keeping in mind family guardians and protected individuals.

Doodle poll sent with meeting minutes for January 2022.