



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 2022 Minutes

Attendance:

William Seggara – Social Security Administration	Beth Goldstein, Office of Public Advocacy
Tammy Bailey, AK Regional Hospital	Diane Brewer, AG
Nekesha Taylor, Department of Corrections	Stacey Marz, Alaska Court System
Dave Fleurant, Disability Law Center	Beth Russo, Office of Public Advocacy
Tom McDuffie, Cache Integrity	Hon. Daniel Schally, Alaska Court System
Kelda Barstad, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	Lisa Wawrzonek, WINGS Facilitator

I. Welcome and Housekeeping.

- a. Welcome to new a member, Collene Ouzts with the Alaska Native Justice Center and a guest today, Tom McDuffie with Cache Integrity. I learned after the meeting that Corrine O'Neill will be replacing Lauren Anderson with Providence Hospital. We had one observer today, Keska Register, a new facilitator with the self-help department at ACS.
- b. Lisa will work on an online folder for putting documents relating to WINGS for easier access.

II. Committee Reports and Announcements:

- a. **Probate Rules** – This committee is still in place but suspended. New rules took effect 10/15/21 and several forms received updates. Lisa reminded everyone to update their form stock if need be.
- b. **Options for Appointees** – A doodle poll has been sent to see about an initial meeting in February.
- c. **Alternatives** – No updates at this time. Lisa will reach out to see about a new chair.

- d. **Education** – Dave, Lizette and Lisa will meet prior to the April meeting to determine the forward motion of this committee.
- e. **Court Improvement/Monitoring**
 - i. The Court did receive the ACL grant on Guardianship Improvement and has hired one position for a self-help facilitator. The other two positions closed by 1/25/22 and with hopes we'll round out hiring. Should have more of an update for the April meeting.
 - ii. ACS will begin individual assessments of court locations on guardianship improvement needs.
 - iii. Began the transition in ACS's absorption of the Court Visitor program. HB 155 is up for committee discussion on 1/28/22 but it is expected to pass this session.
 - iv. While not fully under the court, ASAGA did get awarded the ABE Opportunity Grant for the Income and Expense Tracker for it to move forward with awareness.
- f. **Statute Committee Presentation and Update**
 - i. Beth Russo reported that the conservatorship sub-committee was recommending removing language regarding reasons for conservatorship appointments under advanced age. There were some voiced concerns between the guardianship and conservatorship statute committee but this will continue for discussion.
 - ii. There was a call for a reconciliation committee regarding the two sub-committees to meet and help combine the two sub-committee recommendations.
 - iii. The plan for a legislative sponsor would be the fall of 2022 so the September WINGS committee will be made available for further discussion and anything not agreed on, a vote.
 - iv. Diane Brewer indicated the guardianship committee was through about 2/3 of the guardianship statutes and hopes to work on at the next meeting. Conservatorship committee should also be finishing up its review in February.

III. New Business

- a. Thoughts on new members or those who have fallen off attendance?
 - i. Dave Fleurant suggested putting together a list of entities that should be on this committee from the original WINGS agreement. Lisa will do this and send out in February and reach out to individuals to see if they are still committed.
- b. Announcements?
 - i. Kelda Barstad announced that Steve Williams is the new CEO for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. Diane Brewer announced Alex Hildebrand is now the Head of their Human Services department.
- c. **Next meeting will be in April – TBD by Doodle poll.**