



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 31, 2023 Minutes 9am to 11am

- I. **9am - Welcome and Housekeeping**
 - a. Current list of members was sent out with the invite. We welcome Mary Calderon with the AG's office and Kim Champney with AADD.
 - b. I have sent out the re-commitment email today to anyone who was not in attendance at this time. I've asked for responses no later than 2/21/23.

- II. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Court Improvement & Monitoring – Stacey and Lisa W**
 - i. Lisa gave an overview of what the Court has been working on and the future projects for the court improvement and our guardianship improvement project. I have attached the slides for reference.

 - b. **Education - Dave Fleurant**
 - i. Dave and Lisa met in November to discuss the future of the education committee. We are seeking a few more members to discuss a mission of the education committee to give it direction and looking to make this an advisory committee. Nathan Dahl expressed willingness to join. Lisa also reminded everyone that the sub-committee members did not need to be on WINGS so please reach out to your circle of co-workers and contracts.

- c. **Statute Committee - Teresa and Diane.**
 - i. The statute committee continues to meet and do its work however there has been significant turnover of members so the committee is in need of others to assist; specifically attorneys to look at the proposed changes and reconcile the guardianship statutes with the conservatorship statutes. Mary Calderon volunteered as did Patrice Icardi.
 - ii. The second wave of review will pull in others such as court visitors and providers.
- d. **Probate Rules** – Tabled for now. Possible discussions for committee in the future are the guardianship plan due date and payment for Admin 12 attorneys
- e. **Alternatives:** This committee has not been active or had a chair in over a year and originally was working on SDMA. At this time, SDMA does not appear to be a viable option to promote since we aren't sure of the referral path.
 - i. Kim Champney volunteered to speak with Patrick at the Governors Council about reviving along with some of the AADD partners so that this can be a clear referral path and option.

III. New Business

- a. Alternative Guardianship Appointments
 - i. Discussion on both alternatives to guardianship but also guardianship appointments. With OPA's caseloads overloaded and the need for even more professional guardians, should we look to have other options such as a volunteer program.
 - ii. Beth Goldstein provided some information on the current issues at OPA noting that 80% of their current PG's level of experience is 4 years and under. Caseloads are in the 80's. To train a new guardian takes at least 2 years and the PG's are paid less than APS workers.
 - iii. Family members are willing to step into the role but need additional support; often on benefits and budgets.
 - iv. Professional guardians are often accused of neglect of their duties but at times, the issue isn't the guardian; it is the other programs such as SSA or DPA – Medicaid applications are sometimes 9 months in the rears. (as a side note, I'm sure we've seen the news articles about the current state of Medicaid) More education and awareness with providers and the public should be about the limitations that guardians have at times rather than to immediately accuse them of wrong doing.
- b. Announcements
 - i. William S with Social Security asked that when possible, to ask consumers to use their phone line for the needs they have as opposed to walk-in's as that can slow down the process. In addition, Social Security has done a revamp of their website recently.

- ii. WINGS does have another connection with the SSA, Nathan Cole, who has agreed to do the presentations on Applying for Benefits and Managing Benefits three times a year. He presented on 1/25 but had to postpone the 2/1 training due to a family matter.

IV. Next meeting is set for 4/25/23 at 9am via Zoom