



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 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes 9am to 11:30am

Attendance:

- Lisa Wawrzonek, Coordinator
- Mike Gray, ACS Student Intern
- Teresa Holt, LTCO
- Tammy Hunter, APS
- Dave Fleurant, DLC
- Anne Applegate, Governor’s Council on Disabilities/Special Education
- Davyn Williams (ALSC for K. Chung)
- Stacey Marz, ACS
- Lizette Stiehr, AADD
- Kelda Barstad, AMHTA
- Beth Goldstein, Elder Fraud (telephonic)
- Beth Russo, OPA (telephonic)
- Judge Daniel Schally (telephonic)
- Justin Nelson (telephonic)
- Lesley Thompson, ACOA (telephonic)

I. Housekeeping & Grant Updates

- a. Update from the ABA and the WINGS Grant. An additional \$9000 has been allocated to Alaska and we will have a grant match of \$3000 that will be based on stakeholder time. The funds have been budgeted for thumb drives and translation of the new course. The thumb drives will be used for individuals who have poor internet connections in rural Alaska and cannot stream the course online. The Alaska Court System is exploring options for how to provide the information in other languages. As a first step, it has compiled the English scripts for translations.
- b. Discussion on the time match and how to calculate it, including required reporting form. Lisa will send a reminder email each month to send in time spent to add to our spreadsheet.
- c. Overview of the Income and Expense Tracker App being developed by Neota Logic. Provided a brief demonstration of the app to stakeholders and those who were not present received the Power Point presentation. Feedback thus far is the app is simple and should be helpful.
- d. Provided location and clarification for the new educational course on the Alaska Court System website so if others might be assisting families with questions, they have a better understanding of the process. After going through the course and completing the preparatory quizzes, there is an email to request the final quiz which covers the entire course and needs to be passed with an 80% or more. Once that is done, the participant is provided a certificate of completion to file with the Affirmation of Education (PG 120) with the Court. There had been some confusion from users not realizing there is the additional final quiz which is necessary to generate the certificate of completion. The course is found at:
<http://courts.alaska.gov/shc/guardian-conservator/index.htm>

II. Committee Updates

- a. Court Improvement – Stacey Marz
 - i. Ongoing meeting with the Third Judicial District Presiding Judge and Court administrators regarding a variety of issues brought up by this committee. One result of this meeting was the formation of a newly commissioned special guardianship rules committee to address guardianship specifically, including consistent procedures statewide, access and enforcement on the various issues outlined by the court improvement committee to see what could be resolved with a probate rule versus statute or just a forms revision.
 - ii. Superior Court Judge Daniel Schally chairs the committee which had its first meeting in December 2018 with the next meeting

January 25th. The committee has created five sub-committees (annual report, orders, minors, post-appointment order and petitions). Recommendations are due to the Supreme Court by April 30, 2019.

- iii. The Anchorage annual report pilot project has finished but has evolved into (1) the compliance manager position that Lisa W is doing to review all Anchorage implementation and annual reports, and (2) collecting information about minor guardianships to see if analogous processes for monitoring those cases should be created. The compliance monitoring includes ensuring that affirmation of education and all required reports are filed. For 2018, over 1600 adult guardianship reports were reviewed with an approximate assets total of \$116 million for just the Anchorage court.

b. Alternatives – Anne Applegate

- i. SDMA Summit on 11/15/18 went very well and was delivered statewide. Robert Fleischner from Massachusetts was the featured speaker along with providing expertise for the day. There were mostly professionals in attendance with 5-6 families and self-advocates.
- ii. Plans for next year include systems change for both the legal and medical models.
- iii. 35 trainings for over 2000 participants have been provided regarding SDMAs.
- iv. Website is up and running with information for all types of groups including providers, legislators etc. There is also a brochure that can be downloaded. See:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/default.aspx>
- v. Note – Texas had a 6% reduction in guardianships after SDMA implementation
- vi. Anne is working on public health issues – SDMA and d/c planning. Also with Elder Law bar section and court guardianship mediators.
- vii. Pilot project going very well with the 1st agreement being finished in January 2019 with five more going through the interview process.
- viii. A proposal for funding from the WITH Foundation has been submitted.
- ix. Anne is looking for a lead for SDMA and the senior population; Lesley Thompson stepped forward and the two of them will discuss options.
- x. Looking to do training for judges with a judge speaking on SDMAs.

- c. **Monitoring – Lisa**
 - i. Monitoring committee met and discussed the possibility of splitting the professional versus non-professional guardian annual reports as there are a few different questions and requests for documentation.
 - ii. Monitoring committee is standing by with several suggestions from the special Guardianship Rules committee
 - iii. E-filing is strongly recommended by the monitoring committee and while costly upfront will save time, money and provide better monitoring of these reports overall.
 - iv. Request made for reports on the total number of guardianships, conservatorships in Alaska and if possible, breakdown of whether they are limited or partial.
 - v. Three year reviews are still being done as a large part of monitoring – more financial training is needed for Court Visitors. See the need for a standard form so the reviews are consistent and follow statute.
- d. **Education – Dave Fleurant**
 - i. Education committee was not able to meet however is also standing by for several of the recommendations from the Court Improvement and special Guardianship Rules committee.
 - ii. Anne continues her efforts on spreading education for SDMAs.
 - iii. Lizette shared that a welcome video for the Shared Vision should be done soon along with the new statute that was passed for services to be flexible and person-directed.

III. Next Steps Discussion

- a. Discussion and call for volunteers for a new sub-committee – Legislative Committee that will review current statutes on guardianship with the new Uniform Probate Code in mind that addresses some of the outdated language and ensures best practices. Any interested individuals should contact Lisa with the hope that an initial meeting could be set up in March or early April (prior to the special Guardianship Rules committee’s recommendations).
- b. Will develop a survey to get community feedback.

Next Meeting time and locations:

4/30/19 from 9 to 12 pm	Snowden Training Center
9/17/19 from 9 to 12 pm	AARP Conference room #1404
Meeting adjourned 11:30 am	