

Utah WINGS Update

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS), <http://www.utcourts.gov/utc/wings>, is a multi-disciplinary problem solving body that relies on court-community partnerships to:

- Oversee guardianship practice;
- Address key policy issues;
- Improve the current system of guardianship and less restrictive alternatives;
- Engage in outreach, education;
- Enhance the quality of care and quality of life of vulnerable adults.

WINGS Executive Committee:

1. David Connors, Associate Presiding Judge, Second District Court, WINGS Chair
2. Karolina Abuzyarova, WINGS and Court Visitor Program Coordinator
3. Kent Alderman, Elder law attorney, Elder Law Section of the Utah State Bar
4. Mary Jane Ciccarello, Director, Self-help Center, Utah State Courts
5. Nancy Sylvester, Associate General Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts
6. Shannon Alvey, Director, Office of Public Guardian

Steering Committee:

1. Andrew Riggle, Policy Analyst, Disability Law Center
2. Daniel Musto, Director, Long-term Care Ombudsman
3. Dustin Hammers, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Neuropsychologist, Center for Alzheimer's Care, Imaging and Research, University of Utah Health Care
4. James Brady, Judge, Fourth District Court
5. James Toledo, Program Manager, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
6. Joanne Bueno Sayre, Probate Clerk, Third District Court
7. Kaye Lynn Wootton, Deputy Director, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Attorney General
8. Nan Mendenhall, Director, Adult Protective Services
9. Nels Holmgren, Director, Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services
10. Wendy Fayles, Criminal Justice Mentor, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Utah WINGS activities and accomplishments are:

1. Secured \$30,000 grant from the Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities to conduct public classes on advance life planning and guardianship in FY17:
 - a. WINGS trained 97 professionals and caregivers in Vernal, Logan, Ogden, Provo, Salt Lake City in the first and second quarters of FY 2017
 - b. Teachers: Kent Alderman and Mary Jane Ciccarello
 - c. Expenditures: \$12,000 helps the Courts pay salary of the Project Director, Karolina Abuzyarova; \$500 is paid to presenters for each class; other expenditures: class advertising, travel, flyer design, space rental, meetings.

- d. Advance Life Planning/Guardianship class schedule in 2017:
 - January 27, 12pm, Senior Expo, South Towne Expo Center
 - March 9, 11am, Richfield Courthouse
 - March 10, 11am, St. George Courthouse
 - March 11, 11:30, Spring Bar Convention, St. George
 - April 6, 11am, Price, Seventh District Courthouse
 - April 7, 11am, Moab, Senior Center
 - May 19, 11am, Salt Lake City, River's Bend Senior Center
2. Classes in Spanish on advance life planning and guardianship were held at the Consulate of Mexico in Salt Lake City on April 19 and May 17, 2016.
3. Online training program on advance life planning and guardianship published online: <https://www.utcourts.gov/howto/family/gc/training.html> (Mary Jane Ciccarello and Kent Alderman produced script, Libby Wadley produced the OTP)
4. WINGS outreach activities in 2016:
 - Presentation to the Elder Law Section "Looking after the rights of the adults with diminished capacity in guardianships - Court Visitor Volunteer Program", Karolina
 - Panel presentation on guardianship and resources, Fall Convention of the Utah Healthcare Association; Karolina, OPG, APS, LTC Ombudsman
 - Public film screening and panel discussion "Caring for Mom and Dad", Salt Lake City, Vernal and St. George
 - Annual Judicial Conference presentations: "Resources for Capacity Evaluation", Kent Alderman; Panel on "Addressing Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in Adult Guardianship Cases", Judge Connors, Karolina, APS, OPG, AG's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
 - Presentation on the Visitor Program and WINGS development from the point of view of the U. N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, "Comparative Guardianship Study in Utah and Argentina", Karolina Abuzyarova, ABA National Aging and Law Conference, Alexandria, Virginia
 - Presentation to the National Association of Social Workers in St. George "Monitoring & Assisting Court-Appointed Guardians of Adults: Court Visitor Volunteer Program".

Activities in progress:

1. Create subcommittee on Judicial Response Protocol in cases of identified abuse and neglect, e.g.: identify red flags, establish referral policy and create a uniform process.
2. Increase the number of limited guardianship and establish practice of preparing care plans by court appointed guardians.
3. Evaluate the impact of the Court Visitor Volunteer Program and adjust accordingly.
4. With approval of the Management Committee and the Board or District Court Judges, apply for the Elder Justice Innovation Grant of the U.S. Administration for Community Living to enhance Court Oversight in Adult Guardianship (establish judicial response protocol in cases of abuse and neglect, and protocol in establishing limited guardianship)
5. Create online training program on standards of practice for family guardians.
6. Translate into Spanish online training program on advance life planning and guardianship.