

## Utah WINGS Update

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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, 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, Co-Director, Borchard Foundation of Law and Aging
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. Michelle Wilkes, Court Visitor Volunteer Coordinator
9. Nan Mendenhall, Director, Adult Protective Services
10. Nels Holmgren, Director, Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services
11. Wendy Fayles, Criminal Justice Mentor, National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Utah WINGS activities and accomplishments are:**

1. In November 2017 WINGS finished the grant from the Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities "Interagency Outreach Training Initiative" (\$30,000):
  - a. Trained 243 professionals and caregivers on advance life planning and guardianship around the state of Utah in FY 2017.
  - b. Organized a roundtable "Crossroads of Guardianship, Involuntary Commitment and Essential Treatment" on November 2, 2017 and produced an action plan: <http://www.utcourts.gov/utc/wings/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2016/01/2017-11-02-Roundtable-Report-and-Action-Steps-1.pdf>

2. Secured the Elder Justice Innovation grant “WINGS Focus on Court Oversight” (\$30,000) from the Commission on Law and Aging of the American Bar Association and National Center for State Courts to:
  - a. Establish judicial response protocol in cases of abuse and neglect, and protocol of appointment of limited guardianship.
  - b. Develop judicial training materials: benchbook, benchcard, checklist with questions for guardianship hearing, flowchart of referral in cases of abuse, and online resources for judges.
3. Secured an ASPIRE grant (\$40,000) to provide life planning and guardianship advice to families with children with disabilities on SSI. ASPIRE stands for Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment and is operating within the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation of the Department of Workforce Services.
4. Translated into Spanish the online training program on “Planning Ahead and Alternatives to Guardianship” and “Court Guardianship Process and Procedures”: <https://www.utcourts.gov/howto/family/gc/training.html>. Created and published online a third segment of the online training program “Serving as a Guardian and Conservator” that is in the process of being translated into Spanish.
5. In fall 2017 completed evaluation of the Court Visitor Program with the help of the graduate student of the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program of the University of Utah.
6. Guardianship Signature Program had 91 appointments of pro bono or low bono attorneys to represent indigent respondents in guardianship proceedings in 2017.
7. WINGS outreach activities in 2017:
  - Presented on the Court guardianship resources and oversight at the White Collar Crime Conference of the Certified Fraud Examiners on October 13, 2017.
  - Presented at the panel “WINGS: State Interdisciplinary Networks Take Flight to Advance Guardianship Goals” at the National Guardianship Association Conference on October 16, 2017.
  - Presented on the Court guardianship oversight efforts in response to New Yorker article “How Elderly Loose their Rights” at the Utah Commission on Aging meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Activities in progress:**

1. Conduct “Guardianship Basics” classes for district court judges in all districts until July 31, 2018 as part of the Elder Justice Innovation grant. Overview of the less restrictive alternatives, capacity evaluation, limited guardianship, and tools for court oversight.
2. Continue classes for ASPIRE families with children with disabilities until Sept. 30, 2018.
3. Follow up on the action steps of the roundtable “Crossroads of Guardianship, Involuntary Commitment and Essential Treatment”.
4. Provide training to the court clerks working on probate matters with the most updated information on Court guardianship resources available to the public.
5. Conduct outreach to minority communities with Court resources available in Spanish on advance life planning and guardianship: Consulate of Mexico in Salt Lake City, Minority Bar Association, United Communities, Utah Family Center, Utah Parent Center.