

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. Andrew Riggle, Policy Analyst, Disability Law Center
2. James Brady, Presiding Judge, Fourth District Court, WINGS Chair
3. Karolina Abuzyarova, WINGS and Court Visitor Program Coordinator
4. Kent Alderman, Elder law attorney, Elder Law Section of the Utah State Bar
5. Michael Drechsel, Associate General Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts
6. Nan Mendenhall, Director, Adult Protective Services
7. Nels Holmgren, Director, Division of Adult and Aging Services

Steering Committee:

1. Cora Gant, Probate Clerk, Second District Court
2. Daniel Musto, Director, Long-term Care Ombudsman
3. David Connors, Presiding Judge, Second District Court
4. Dustin Hammers, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Neuropsychologist, Center for Alzheimer's Care, Imaging and Research, University of Utah Health Care
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. Keith Kelly, District Court Judge, Third District Court
9. Michelle Wilkes, Court Visitor Volunteer Coordinator
10. Robert Denton, Private Elder Law Attorney
11. TantaLisa Clayton, Attorney, Utah Legal Services
12. Wendy Fayles, Criminal Justice Mentor, National Alliance on Mental Illness
13. Xia Erickson, Director, Office of Public Guardian

Utah WINGS activities and accomplishments are:

1. With financial support of 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 (funds from the Administration on Community Living) conducted the following:

Report for the Utah Judicial Council

Date: January 16, 2019

- a. Developed materials for judges on adult guardianship (bench card, bench book, flowchart on referral of cases to other agencies and checklist on guardianship process) that are now posted on Intranet under the resources for District Court Judges: <https://www.utcourts.gov/intranet/dist/distjudge.htm>.
 - b. Presented on alternatives to guardianship and guardianship procedures on:
 - February 14, 2018, Third District Court, Salt Lake City
 - April 4, 2018, Second District Court, Farmington
 - April 11, 2018, Seventh District Court, Price
 - April 12, 2018, Fourth District Court, Provo
 - May 10, 2018, Fifth District Court, St. George
 - June 15, 2018, Second District Court, Ogden
 - June 29, 2018, Eighth District Court, Vernal
 - c. Produced report to the ABA Commission on Law and Aging that reviews guardianship procedures in Utah and challenges to be addressed:
http://www.utcourts.gov/utc/wings/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2018/10/2018-09-Program-Report_Utah-WINGS-Phase-II.pdf
2. Provided life planning and guardianship advice to families with children with disabilities on SSI with support from the ASPIRE grant (\$40,000). 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.
 3. Translated into Spanish the third segment of the online training program “Serving as a Guardian and Conservator” at <https://www.utcourts.gov/howto/family/gc/training.html>.
 4. Continued providing support to the Guardianship Signature Program that helps provide representation to indigent respondents in guardianship proceedings. Conducted free CLE for attorneys on guardianship in St. George in June 2018.
 5. In October 2018 WINGS formed Subcommittee on Collaboration with Native American Tribes to address abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults on tribal land.
 6. Court Visitor Program or GRAMP (Guardianship Reporting and Monitoring Program) received legislative funding and from a pilot program since 2011 became a state funded program starting July 1, 2018. Volunteer case management is directed as a priority. Tasks including WINGS policy work, addressing system gaps and fundraising are not identified as priorities. Planned WINGS activities were directed not to be pursued:
 - Follow up on the action steps of the roundtable “Crossroads of Guardianship, Involuntary Commitment and Essential Treatment”.
 - Provide training to the court clerks working on probate matters with the most updated information on Court guardianship resources available to the public.