

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders

November 19, 2014 summary minutes

New Committee Chair, Judge Kate Toomey, started the meeting with introductions. August 20, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Chair thanked medical evidence subcommittee for writing an article on medical reimbursement, and informed that after some research the Courts' Legal Department came to a conclusion that WINGS will not be able to support publication of the article as the reimbursement topic doesn't align with the Courts' impartiality standard. Norman Foster will still pursue publication as a private party, and WINGS representatives will be able to participate in a meeting with Utah Medical Association to provide background information on the effort.

Karolina Abuzyarova provided update on the agency cooperation subcommittee. Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is no longer with WINGS. State WINGS and SSA representatives are working on WINGS training guide via email and conference calls, most recent draft was included under Tab 2 of the 11.19.2014 Utah WINGS agenda. In December 2014 a report is coming out in regard to cooperation between the Courts and the Social Security Administrations and information sharing in particular.

Kent Alderman, education subcommittee chair, described the online and live training sessions to be developed by the group and called for new members. Gonzalo Palza, Julie Rigby, Joanne Bueno Sayre, Karolina Abuzyarova and Mary Jane Cicarrello volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Gonzalo Palza emphasized the need for the training to be culturally competent. Target population to reach out are adults over 18 with diminished capacity and their families, caregivers and guardians. Participants could be reached through AARP consumer protection presentations, mental health associations' meetings, e.g.: Utah General Conference, and activities provided by the Utah Parent Center that provides special education classes and has Autism society under its umbrella.

Among fourteen tasks listed in the meeting minutes of 4.17.2014, seven were accomplished or are in the works: identify medical evidence as part of the appointment of a guardian, examine the role of the courts in monitoring guardians, provide representation for vulnerable adults, educate lawyers on guardianship proceedings, collaborate with the law enforcement agencies to serve victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation, collaborate with VA and SSA, involve family caregivers, guardians, representatives of the Hispanic and LGBT community.

As a follow up, efforts will be made to engage Utah Parent Center and LGBT community (Karolina to contact them), work with the Utah State Bar to spread the word about signature program and CLE on guardianship (Nancy Sylvester to include it in the monthly Bar President's message), continue reaching out to law enforcement agencies outside SLC (Nan Mendenhall and Karolina).

Tasks #1, 5 and 6 were deleted from the list, tasks 3 (establish Guardianship Ombudsman), and #7 (establish Office of the Guardian Ad Litem for Adults with Diminished Capacity) were put on the backburner. Task #11 (Public education) was identified as a priority.

Committee approved meeting schedule for 2015: January 14, March 11, May 13, August 12, October 14, and December 9.