

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders

October 25, 2017 Summary Minutes

Attendees: Judge James Brady, Dustin Hummers, Shannon Alvey, Nels Holmgren, Nan Mendenhall, Kaye Lynn Wootton, Joanne Bueno Sayre, Robert Denton, Karolina Abuzyarova, Andrew Riggle, Wendy Fayles, Todd Weiler, James Toledo

Excused: Mary Jane Ciccarello, Nancy Sylvester, Daniel Musto

No show: David Connors, Michelle Wilkes, Kent Alderman

Introduction: Karolina was facilitating the discussion. Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Karolina introduced Nini Rich, Director of the Courts Alternative Dispute Resolution Department. Nini agreed to facilitate the roundtable.

Roundtable “Crossroads of Guardianship, Involuntary Commitment and Essential Treatment” is to take place on November 2, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel. Nini went over the agenda for the roundtable. The group discussed the options for breakout sessions: majority wanted to stick to the smaller groups of 5-6 people. Group decided there was a need for a flip chart and a scribe to take notes at the meeting. Todd Weiler suggested having colorful stickers to help with prioritization of the challenges and action steps.

Elder Justice Innovation grant: Karolina thanked those who have submitted the stakeholder time reporting form for the period June 1 - September 30, 2017 and collected the signed forms from the rest of the group. Phase I report is due on October 30, 2017 including the summary of the stakeholder match, financial report and program report. Karolina will write the reports, calculate the match and include information in the next meeting’s materials.

Karolina attended Board of District Court Judges meeting and asked about the preferred format for the specialty conferences in 2018. With a lot of new district court judges, judges preferred a “nuts and bolts” 20-minute sessions at the bench meetings in each district. Judges also wanted a bench card with contact information for further information. Karolina will be in touch with TCEs to get on the agenda of the bench meetings. Mary Jane agreed to make edits to the current benchbook and bench card. Andrew Riggle brought up that Judge Connors made a good point at the Executive Committee meeting that unless there is a disagreement or an issue is not flagged by attorney, guardianship is usually granted. Therefore there is a need to make sure that judges ask questions and not rely as much on attorneys and clerks.

In addition, Board of District Court Judges recommended having a plenary session at the District Court Judges Conference that will take place on May 16-18, 2017 in St. George. A topic for the plenary session and presenters are yet to be determined. Subject could be the same as focus of the Elder Justice Innovation grant: limited guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, capacity determination. WINGS will further discuss this.

Update from participants: Dustin Hammers performed capacity evaluation in the Second District Court in Farmington and was for 2.5 hours on the stand. Joanne Bueno Sayre informed that there was a case in court when respondent didn’t want guardianship; the respondent drafted a motion that he didn’t want that attorney that was secured for him by petitioners. Committee then discusses that it might be helpful for the respondent to file the request to rule by the judge. James Toledo was working on a federal grant and needs feedback from the group on how communication could be strengthened between the state and tribal government. James will make a presentation to the group. Committee was interested in the issue of jurisdiction.

Next meetings: December 13, February 1, April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4, Dec. 6, 2018.