

To: Utah Judicial Council
From: Judge Keith A. Kelly, Chair, Utah WINGS
Re: Utah WINGS Update
Date: January 27, 2020

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) is a problem solving body that relies on court-community partnerships to:

- Oversee guardianship practice in the Courts;
- Improve the handling of guardianship cases;
- Engage in outreach/education; and
- Enhance the quality of care and quality of life of vulnerable adults.

WINGS meets about every two months. WINGS is effective through participation of key stakeholders who understand and are in a position to improve the Courts' guardianship processes.

WINGS Executive Committee:

1.	Keith A. Kelly	Judge, WINGS Chair	3 rd District
2.	Kent Alderman	Attorney/Partner	Lewis/Hansen Law Firm
3.	Nels Holmgren	Director	Division of Adult and Aging Services
4.	Nan Mendenhall	Director	Adult Protective Services
5.	Andrew Riggle	Public Policy Analyst	Disability Law Center
6.	Nancy Sylvester	Associate General Counsel	Administrative Office of the Courts
7.	Shonna Thomas	GRAMP Program Coordinator	Administrative Office of the Courts

Steering Committee:

1.	James Brady	Presiding Judge	4 th District
2.	David Connors	Presiding Judge	2 nd District
3.	Shane Bahr	District Court Administrator	Administrative Office of the Courts
4.	TantaLisa Clayton	Attorney / Director	Utah Legal Services
5.	Rob Denton	Attorney at Law	
6.	Jeff Daybell	Staff Attorney	Access to Justice, Utah State Bar
7.	Rob Ence	Director	Utah Commission on Aging
8.	Xia Erickson	Director	Office of Public Guardian
9.	Wendy Fayles	Criminal Justice / Mentor	National Alliance on Mental Illness
10.	Cora Gant	Deputy Court Clerk (retired)	4 th District
11.	Michelle Miranda	Clinical Neuropsychologist	University of Utah School of Medicine
12.	Daniel Musto	Administrator	Long-term Care Ombudsman
13.	Alan Ormsby	State Director	AARP
14.	Joanne Sayre	Judicial Case Manager	3 rd District
15.	Nancy Sylvester	Associate General Counsel	Administrative Office of the Courts
16.	James Toledo	Program Manager	Utah Division of Indian Affairs
17.	Norma Valavala-Ballard	Judicial Case Manager	4 th District
18.	Todd Weiler	Senator	23 rd District
19.	Michelle Wilkes	Court Visitor Program Coordinator	Administrative Office of the Courts
20.	KayeLynn Wootton	Assistant Attorney General	Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

General:

- WINGS Membership has increased by 54% since January 2019.
- Members regularly note the value WINGS brings to their respective organizations, highlighting benefits of collaboration, collective expertise, and raised awareness of the issues.

Accomplishments:

1. Native American Collaboration, January 2019 – WINGS Subcommittee on Collaboration with Native American Tribes identified and implemented goals for working with the tribal population, including: (a) improving mutual understanding between state and tribal adult protection systems to resolve issues; (b) establishing a referral procedure; and (c) improving education about state resources available to assist tribes in protecting vulnerable adults.
2. STAGES Conference, March 2019 – An interdisciplinary team was formed to participate in the Strategies and Training to Advance Greater Elder Safety (STAGES) conference in Charlottesville, VA. WINGS participants included representatives from Adult Protective Services, Attorney General’s Office - Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the Administrative Office of the Courts, as well as a probate judge, clerk, and private probate attorney.
3. Guardianship training, May 2019 – WINGS representatives presented on guardianship in Park City at the Elder Justice Conference - “Elevating Utah’s Seniors.”
4. Guardianship Signature Program (GSP) Recruitment, June 2019 – A CLE was held in St. George to recruit volunteers for the GSP.
5. Interagency Record Sharing, August 2019 – WINGS facilitated record-sharing processes for the benefit of vulnerable adults. Adult Protective Services, Office of Public Guardian, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Court Visitor Program coordinated in developing an internal policy.

Current & Upcoming Projects:

- Clerical Education – The guardianship manual for clerks was first developed in 2013 and is in need of revision. The Clerical Education Subcommittee is working to develop a revised draft, using input from probate clerical staff.
- GSP Monitoring – WINGS is engaged in monitoring to ensure improvements in the GSP, and expanding the network, especially in rural areas.
- Annual Reports and Court Visitor Review Process – WINGS has identified concerns with the processes in place in the different districts for reviewing guardianship annual reports and the reports submitted by Court Visitors. WINGS is developing recommendations for ensuring that problems raised by such reports are flagged by staff and addressed by the assigned judges.
- Financial Exploitation Concerns – WINGS members identified a need for training Court Visitors on accounting/financial issues to aid in their work on audit cases. Adult Protective Services and the Court Visitor Program are working together to coordinate financial exploitation training to offer both an in-person and recorded version. The Commission on Aging is developing additional training opportunities for attorneys and the public related to financial exploitation.
- Guardianship Test – Members have raised concerns about deficiencies in the guardianship test and the general training of proposed guardians. A subcommittee is addressing revisions of the guardianship test and test procedures, as well as developing training and resource materials to provide to new guardians. This should assist in producing greater accountability and understanding among guardians and the general public.