

Oregon WINGS General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Oregon Judicial Department

Juvenile & Family Court Programs Division

Meeting held via WebEx

Attendees: Hon. Patrick Henry, Jeffry Brandon, Eugenia Liu, Chris Rosin, Kristin Riley, Ellen Klem, Mark Kochanski, Em Braman, Jerry Cohen, Cory Suratt, Ruth Bern, Traci Robertson, Matt Shields, Mary Jaeger, Tom Stenson

OJD Staff: Bryan Marsh, Jeffrey Petty, Nanci Thaemert, Cristina Guillen

Introductions

Bryan Marsh

Called to order by Bryan Marsh 9:00 AM.

The June Minutes will be sent out after the meeting.

Legislative Updates

Bryan Marsh

SB 380 is in Ways and Means; directs Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator to develop and administer program for providing guardianship services to criminal case defendants who are unable to aid and assist.

SB 793 was submitted by DHS and creates rebuttable presumption that protected person consents to ordinary and preventive health care.

HB 3578 directs DHS to investigate elder financial abuse.

SB 528 modifies provisions relating to protective proceedings. DRO is the designated agency handling the appointments in conservatorships and guardianships. They have signed a contract with defense services and are currently hiring staff for this work. They will join a future WINGS meeting to provide an update on their plans moving forward.

Project Updates

Elder Justice Innovation Grant

Jeffrey Petty

The Grant Advisory Committee came up with a list of recommendations to improve court monitoring. The recommendations were passed on to the State Protective Proceedings Advisory Committee (SPPAC). SPPAC has formalized their membership and received additional funding to continue working on the long terms goals. The #1 priority is improving the court visitor system. They also plan to improve the website. The Audit Program is imminently rolling out statewide and in a position to expand to all counties who want to use it. OJD is hiring an Analyst to facilitate the roll out.

Lunch and Learn monthly sessions continue to be recorded. There are currently 900 hours of training available for judges and staff.

There were 12 attendees at the first Probate Commissioner meeting. Since beginning this grant project, the number of probate commissioners in the state has nearly doubled.

Oregon Public Guardian Grant

Chris Rosin

OPG received a grant from Asante Health System that has allowed OPG to hire one additional Deputy Public Guardian. The grant is for 4 years, and in that time, OPG will try to secure permanent funding to maintain that position.

SB 578 Implementation

Tom Stenson

Disability Rights Oregon is increasing staffing and training to allow for the appointment of people in guardianship and protected person proceedings. They will have an increased capacity and be an available resource, but do not have a volume number yet. Folks can check in with Tom Stenson or Jan Friedman regarding their volume and capacity to take on cases.

Center for Youth Voice Youth Choice

Em Braman

The goal of this group is to provide a means where transition age youth can access information about less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. The focus is on people 14-26 years old who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. There are currently four youth involved in leading the work, and they are looking for more to join. Youth get a \$50 stipend per meeting (meetings are at 4:00 PM). If you know of a youth who may be interested, contact Em Braman for a flyer.

They are working on developing curriculum for a peer mentor program. Once the youth are trained, they continue supporting the youth to do the work (i.e., transportation, talking to the school district, materials). They are also looking at developing curriculum to train parents to talk to other parents about how they have supported their young adult in the transition to adulthood.

The Arc Oregon

Em Braman

They received a grant that will allow them to update and expand the Train the Trainer curriculum. They have re-trained the folks that were originally trained in 2019 and have added tools to help identify what supports work and how to create a supported decision-making agreement.

Guardian Partners

Mark Kochanski

Earlier this year, Clatsop, Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler were added to Guardian Partner's service area. Lincoln County will be added in October. There are conversations happening with Benton County, and Mark is optimistic about that potential growth. Once Benton County is added, 2/3 of Oregon residents will live in a county served by Guardian Partners. This has been a year of growth and they are on track to monitor a record high number of cases. WINGS is invited to their annual Partners Party on October 4, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 PM at The Loft in SE Portland. Mark will share the flyer.

Central Oregon Guardian Assistance Program (COGAP)

Bryan Marsh

COGAP has been formed as a nonprofit organization to provide public guardian services in the region. They have secured funding and have hired professional fiduciaries to take on guardianships. We would like to invite someone from COGAP to a future WINGS meeting.

Roundtable Discussion Workgroup

All

The Dissemination/Promotion workgroup never got off the ground. Bryan Marsh proposes we narrow down the focus and meet quarterly to evaluate resources that come in and continue developing the [Resource page](#) on the WINGS website. There are no objections from WINGS members to shift the focus of the workgroup to reviewing resources. Jerry Cohen, Kristin Riley, Eugenia Liu, Em Braman, and

Mark Kochanski volunteer to be part of the initial conversation. Bryan will send out a meeting invitation to the whole WINGS group.

Eugenia Liu adds that the LGBTQIA Coalition would like to enhance the materials for LGBTQIA individuals and close some of the gaps on the webpage. Eugenia can serve as a liaison for the two groups as she participates in both.

WINGS- Focus and Future

The group is invited to discuss areas that WINGS can focus on/address. The group proposed the following ideas:

- 1) Health care decision making for individuals supported by the developmental disabled disability system
- 2) Better training for professional fiduciaries, improving the court visitor system, and establishing standards for licensure
- 3) See what roadblocks exist to charge the Medicaid system with the cost associated with guardianship
- 4) Legislature change to create a duty for the court to appoint a court visitor in all conservatorship cases

The group consensus is to focus on #1-3. There is no significant interest, at this time, on #4. These items will be added to the December Agenda. We hope to continue the conversation and narrow the areas of focus for the coming year.

Public Comments

No public comments received.

Next Meeting: December 13, 2023, by WebEx.

Meeting Ended 10:35 a.m.