

Oregon WINGS General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Oregon Judicial Department

Juvenile & Family Court Programs Division

Meeting held via WebEx

Attendees: Hon. Patrick Henry, Jeffry Brandon, Chris Rosin, Kristin Riley, Em Braman, Ruth Bern, Emily Cooper, Jan Friedman, Fred Steele, Ivy Heuton, Theresa Hollis, Whitney Yazzolino, Matt Shields, Leslie Sutton, Allison Enriquez, Jerry Cohen

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

Introductions

Bryan Marsh

Called to order by Bryan Marsh at 9:00 AM.

Minutes approved for September 13, 2023.

WINGS Project Updates

Bryan Marsh

Website

The subcommittee met to discuss changes to the website. Bryan and Cristina are working on updating the page. One addition will be to include members' organization on the page. Bryan will reach out to folks for information. The subcommittee will reconvene in January.

Publications

This group will be reconvening in January to update the publications and shift the tone/focus of those.

Stakeholder Project Updates

Elder Justice Innovation Grant/SPPAC

Jeffrey Petty

Angela Keffer is working on data analysis regarding reasons for termination of protective proceedings and collecting data on court visitors around the state.

The State Protective Proceedings Advisory Committee (SPPAC) is looking at improving some of the systems in place for court visitors and forming subcommittees.

1. UTCR Review Subcommittee had their first meeting, established co-chairs, and will do a line-item review of Chapter 9 to identify what needs to be further investigated.
2. Court Visitor System Improvement Subcommittee had their first meeting and identified two pillars they want to investigate: availability of court visitors around the state, and setting best practices and minimum standards for the qualifications of visitors and appointment process. This subcommittee will work parallel with the UTCR Review Subcommittee. There will be an opportunity at a future meeting for folks to attend and participate on this subcommittee.
3. Bench Book Subcommittee has their first meeting schedule this month. Judge Kelly Kritzer, Klamath County, will help facilitate the creation of a bench book as a resource for judges.

The Conservatorship Auditing Program has gone statewide. Any county in the state can refer problematic accountings or issues to Christian Hale. Christian will do an in-depth review and will send a report to the judge.

There will be a training in January for court visitors to access interpreter services. Court Language Access Services (CLAS) at OJD will provide and track services.

We are working on improving the data collected and creating an updated data dashboard to include new metrics that we were not previously tracking (i.e., timeliness of court visitor appointment, timeliness of report filing, timeliness to hearings for objections, reasons for termination, appointment of counsel).

SB 578 Implementation at DRO

Emily Cooper

Court staff will send the Order Appointing DRO as counsel to Guardian@droregon.org. Attorneys taking cases are Emily Cooper, Jan Friedman, Tom Stenson, and Meghan Apshaga. Two support staff will be handling client intake. They are estimating receiving 5-10 referrals per week, beginning January 3, 2024. If DRO has a conflict, each county should be prepared with a list of attorneys willing to take referrals. Emily is happy to come to a future meeting to report on how it's going and receive feedback.

Center for Youth Voice Youth Choice

Em Braman

The Arc Oregon, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, and FACT Oregon brought together a group to elevate youth voice around guardianships, targeting transition age youth. The group meets monthly. Currently working on creating a peer-to-peer information system, and training and supporting parents of transition age youth to talk to other parents. Two of the youths became youth ambassadors and will be presenting at a webinar in January. Em Braman will share the flyer.

Legislative Update

Chris Rosin

There may be a bill that would increase funding for OPG. It would be a match funding concept with potential community funding partners receiving matching funds from the state for individual deputy public guardian positions. It's being worked on at the moment. More to come.

Uniform Guardianship Act Workgroup

Fred Steele

The group is reviewing the Uniform Guardianship Act. Fred Steels is co-leading with Judge Holland. They are meeting monthly. Membership is at 30, with a lot of support from DHS. Possibility of legislation for 2025.

Roundtable Discussion: Future & Projects

All

Health Care Representation/Advocates

Revisions of the publications will include health care representation as an alternative to guardianship. Jerry Cohen will reconvene the Train the Trainer group. The curriculum is available online, password will be removed. Allison Enriquez will draft revisions discussed by the workgroup to the Choices brochure. Get a Life Plan workgroup will reconvene to come up with revisions to page. Em Braman shares that community partners are working on dissemination, and WINGS can support that. More information to come on how WINGS can support.

Medicaid Pay for Guardians

Bryan will schedule an informational meeting in January or February. We'd like to have someone from Washington join to inform us about the process, funding, and implementation.

Professional Licensure

Bryan will schedule an informational meeting or add it to the quarterly meeting agenda. We'd like to invite someone from GCA to the meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments received.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2024, by WebEx.

Meeting Ended: 10:50 A.M.