What Adult Guardianship Reforms Do We Need?

Pre-adjudication
- Routine check for less restrictive alternatives
- Procedural due process
- Selection of guardian/conservator

Post-adjudication
- Limited orders
- Standards for guardians
  - Guardian accountability; court oversight

Resources
- Education and training for all stakeholders
- Assistance and support for family guardians/conservators
- Resources for public guardianship
### Challenges to Lasting Adult Guardianship Reform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tr>
<td>Increased Need</td>
<td>• Increases in population in need</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Resource constraints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diverse Practices and Interests</td>
<td>• Wide variation in practice, within &amp; across states</td>
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<td>• Interdisciplinary nature</td>
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<td>• Broad range of stakeholders</td>
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<td>Complexity of Cases</td>
<td>• Multiple aspects to address, both pre-appointment and post-appointment</td>
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<td>• Inherent tension in guardianship concept</td>
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<td>Staffing</td>
<td>• Constant turnover of stakeholders with ongoing need for re-education and training</td>
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<td>• Inertia; ingrained practices</td>
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Where Do We Stand?

- Substantial legislation over past 25 years
- Revised National Probate Court Standards

- Practice remains uneven
- Inadequate data and research
- No state guardianship “systems”
Courts should “engage in a vigorous campaign to organize and mobilize partners . . . “

- NCSC High Performance Court Framework
2011
NGN Third National Guardianship Summit

2004
National Guardianship Network’s “Action Steps”

2001
Second National “Wingspan” Guardianship Conference

1988
“Wingspread” Guardianship Symposium

National Recommendations for Court Community Partnerships
Recommended that states create WINGS – Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders
What is WINGS?

- Court-Community Partnerships
- Evaluation of “on the ground” practices
- Ongoing forum
“Large scale social change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than from the isolated intervention of individual organizations.”

- 2011 article on “Collective Impact”
Ten Hallmarks of WINGS

- Ongoing & sustainable
- Broad-based & interdisciplinary
- Problem-solving
- Highlight changes in practice
- Start with “low hanging” fruit
- “Mutually reinforcing” activities
- Focus on rights & person-centered planning
- Transparent to public
- Collect data, evaluate & adapt
- Part of national network
WINGS Stakeholders

- Highest state court; AOC
- Bar association
- State unit on aging
- Protection and advocacy agency
- Developmental disabilities council
- Adult protective services
- Mental health agencies
- State guardianship association
- Professional guardians; family/lay guardians
- Social Security & VA regional offices
- People with disabilities who are self-advocates
National Guardianship Network selected four 2013 pilot sites from proposals received from AOCs

- New York State Unified Court system
- Oregon State Unit on Aging, with leadership from Oregon Judicial department
- Texas Office of Court Administration
- Utah Administrative Office of the Courts
2015 Round II WINGS Named

- District of Columbia Courts
- Supreme Court of Indiana
- Minnesota Judicial Branch
- Mississippi Supreme Court
- Washington State Supreme Court
- Wisconsin Supreme Court
States with Similar Problem-Solving Partnership Groups

- **Ohio** Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship, under Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts
- **Missouri-WINGS**, emerged from task force convened by MO Developmental Disabilities Council
- **West Virginia** WINGS Roundtable Group
Early WINGS Accomplishments

- Website/Facebook page for family guardians
- Court link to aging/disability resources
- SS rep payee training curricula
- Booklet/website on less restrictive options
- Template on person-centered planning
- Momentum for passage of key legislation
- Strengthening court oversight
“Connections were established between agencies that sometimes serve the same population but do not communicate with each other or provide referrals.”

- Utah

“Without WINGS... [the senator] may not have made the public guardian bill one of his two bills this session... When the bill died last year, it could have stayed on that heap, but the momentum was here to make it a priority bill. “

- Oregon
WINGS Evaluation-
National Center for State Courts

- WINGS “proving to be a feasible and effective means for addressing the current shortcomings of the guardianship system and process.”

- Now time to “take steps to prepare for the long-term effort needed.”
Support for WINGS

Replication Guide with Video
Technical Assistance

Welcome to the National Guardianship Network

The National Guardianship Network is a collaborative group of national organizations dedicated to effective adult guardianship law and practice. First convened in 2002, the National Guardianship Network has played a leadership role in advancing guardianship standards, best practices and education.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, May 28 through Friday, May 30, 2014

The National Guardianship Network, in conjunction with the International Guardianship Network, invites you to mark your calendar for the Third World Congress on Adult Guardianship.

Click here for website

www.nationalguardianshipnetwork.org