Judicial Information System Committee Meeting August 25, 2023

<u>DECISION POINT</u> – Authorize and Prioritize Information Technology Governance (ITG) Request #1357- Guardianship Monitoring and Tracking System (GMTS)

MOTION:

I move that ITG Request #1357 be authorized.

I. BACKGROUND

Since November 2021, the guardianship program has been discussing the need for a software solution for guardianship cases to aid the Guardianship Monitoring and Support Initiative (GMSI).

The GMSI is charged with providing a uniform approach that includes safeguard and accountability practices throughout the duration of adult guardianships and conservatorships in Washington State. This approach serves as structured guidance and support to guardians and other professionals to mitigate risks of mistreatment, neglect and exploitation, and protect vulnerable adults subject to guardianship or conservatorship.

GMSI staff met with court officials, guardians, and guardianship coordinators from different jurisdictions to understand the challenges and deficiencies in current guardianship monitoring practices. With constraints for time, lack of resources, workload by judges and court staff, lack of processes and electronic tools, the risks of guardianship cases becoming out of compliance and unchecked are high. The proposed software solution will address these concerns.

II. DISCUSSION

There is currently no statewide tracking and monitoring technology-based solution for guardianship cases, making the effort of tracking and monitoring largely a manual endeavor of re-creating cases outside of known case management systems and creating lists and spreadsheets. Furthermore, practices for tracking and monitoring guardianship cases vary by superior court, and in most jurisdictions the practice is absent due to the lack of resources, processes, and tools.

Providing a technology-based solution available to all of the superior courts is desired to support and promote the practice of proactively tracking and monitoring the guardianship cases while maintaining consistency and efficiency.

Providing a technology-based solution is one of the opportunities learned from Spokane County Superior Court, who leads the way in the practice of tracking and monitoring of

guardianship cases in Washington, and from discussions with the guardianship community and court leaders for helping jumpstart the tracking and monitoring practice. As such, GMSI seeks to develop tracking and monitoring practices that will be embodied and facilitated by a statewide technology-based solution.

III. OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED –

The GMSI program and superior courts will not have a standardized, effective, and efficient way to track adult guardianships and conservatorships in Washington.