



Guardian Monitoring Program Workgroup Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Zoom Meeting

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Sujatha Jagadeesh Branch
Jacalyn Brudvik
Arielle Finney
Julie Higuera
Ana (Forston) Kemmerer
David Lord
Audrey Pitigliano
Judge Nancy Retsinas
Jane Severin
Daniel Smerken
Tracie Thompson

Staff

Ms. Amber Collins
Ms. Heather Lucas

Guests – No guests invited/admitted

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Amber Collins called the October 12, 2021 Guardian Monitoring Program (GMP) Workgroup meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

2. Welcome, Introductions

Ms. Amber Collins welcomed all present and thanked everyone for participating in the GMP Workgroup. Workgroup members were asked to introduce themselves and share a little of their background.

3. Discuss GMP Mission and Purpose

Ms. Amber Collins addressed concerns regarding GMP expressed during the Workgroup's introductions (more monitoring, resources for current and future guardians). Ms. Collins stated the purpose of the GMP is to implement the program statewide, acting as a default program for counties that cannot build or maintain their own GMP. Ms. Collins added that she expects participation from all Workgroup members, and wants the process of building the GMP to remain candid and transparent. The GMP Workgroup will meet once a month throughout 2021, will meet twice a month in 2022, with an expected launch by Fall 2022. Workgroup members are expected to give notice if they cannot make a meeting or future meetings. If three or more consecutive meetings are missed without any communication to the GMP coordinator, the member will forfeit their placement in the workgroup.

4. Review GMP Bylaws

GMP bylaws were circulated to the Workgroup prior to the meeting for the Workgroup's review. Discussion and approval of bylaws is expected at the next Workgroup meeting.

5. Q&A

Ms. Amber Collins began a Q&A session for Workgroup members to ask questions or express concerns in a solution-focused forum.

Mr. Dan Smerken expressed concern with making the GMP mandatory if counties aren't funded and expressed concern for better tracking technology. Ms. Collins responded that tracking technology is the most expensive component, but a discussion based on funding is ongoing. Ms. Collins also expressed a desire to create amendments that push counties to use AOC's GMP if they do not have a program.

Ms. Jacalyn Brudvick noted that current guardianships are difficult to identify. She stated the AOC GMP should look at how individual county GMP's work. Ms. Brudvick expressed concern over the January 1, 2022 implementation of the UGA and identified "potholes," missing pieces in the UGA that she and Superior Court Commissioner Craig Adams have identified, and would like to share those lists. Ms. Collins and other Workgroup members expressed interest in receiving that info and Ms. Brudvick agreed to share.

Ms. Ana (Forston) Kemmerer offered to conduct trainings based on the Spokane County GMP and is willing to share forms, ideas and training information. Ms. Kemmerer asked if future GMP Zoom meetings could be recorded for those who were unable to attend. Ms. Collins responded that AOC staff would look into recording future meetings.

Mr. David Lord stressed the importance of meeting formal requirements and guardian visits, along with more support for supported decision making and less restrictive alternatives. Mr. Lord also expressed concern regarding all voices being heard in the building of the GMP and asked if the public will be involved. Ms. Collins stated the meeting minutes will be made public, but the public will not be invited to join Workgroup meetings during the beginning phase of the GMP Workgroup, and this decision is supported by OGES management.

Ms. Audrey Pitigliano stated that Region 3 used to have a database and tools to track guardianship and she would look into obtaining info.

Mr. Dan Smerken agreed with statements made by Mr. David Lord regarding supported decision making and less restrictive alternatives as they benefit the court and the person under guardianship.

6. Wrap Up/Adjourn

The next Guardian Monitoring Program Workgroup meeting will take place via Zoom Conference on Tuesday, November 9, at 8:00 a.m. With no other business to discuss, the September 12, 2021 meeting was adjourned at 8:54 a.m.