

**Public Guardianship Steering Committee
July 26, 2017 Minutes**

Present in Person: Wynn Gerhard, Peter Macy, John Ford, Heather Connors, Traci Cucinotta, Charles Glick, Kate Saville Worrall

By Phone: Scott Harshbarger, David Sontag, Elizabeth Pell, Sarah Boonin, Alex Nadworny, and Brendan Abel

1. Heather Connors and Traci Cucinotta provided an overview of GCT's guardianship research and training progress.
 - a. GCT is involved in several guardianship studies including an analysis of the cost to the Commonwealth of not having public guardianship with the Donahue Institute at UMass Amherst; a study of clinicians, lawyers and guardians' experience with the MA guardianship system with Dr. Jenny Moye of the Boston VA and; a study of how guardians make decisions which is being conducted by Heather and Traci.
 - b. Traci has been hired as GCT's Research Assistant to design a comprehensive training protocol for guardians in Massachusetts. She has been contacting each state to learn about what training each requires and to collaborate when possible.
 - c. Sarah Boonin offered to help with this work and suggested reaching out to the Volunteer Lawyers' Project, Senior Partners for Justice and the Court Service Center.
2. Peter Macy and Charles Glick provided an update on the Public Guardianship bill that was filed in January.
 - a. The bill was heard by the Judiciary Committee on May 8
 - b. We have held a number of meetings with people and groups who will be affected by this legislation to hear suggestions
 - c. Elizabeth Pell asked what the process would be for people/groups with feedback. John Ford explained that we will be drafting some technical amendments and Charles Glick mentioned that many bills come out of committee amended and small changes may be made between committee hearings.
 - d. Charles reported that in addition to the bill's hearing, we have met with both of the bill's sponsors, both Chairs of the Judiciary Committee and many groups who are in support of the bill. We plan to meet with as many committee members as possible in the coming months.
3. Alex Nadworny and Sarah Boonin gave a report on MGA. MGA has two half-day fall conferences scheduled. More information on both has been sent out in invitations.
 - a. September 27 – Autonomy and Guardianship
 - b. October 25 Substance Abuse and the Courts

4. Related Legislation:

- a. Brendan Abel reported that the Default Surrogate Consent bill was voted favorably out of the Judiciary Committee last year and is in the same committee again this year. The Senate sponsor is Senator Brownsburger. The Mass Medical Society has multiple bills this year but will be scheduling meetings with committee members to discuss this in the early fall.
- b. John Ford reported that a first meeting of the Supported Decision Making legislative drafting committee was held and that he had sent out a report on its progress. John is looking for feedback on the report and will be scheduling another meeting soon.

5. Other updates and announcements:

- a. John Ford reported that North Shore Elder Services has become an EOEA Guardianship Provider and it appears that EOEA is considering whether ASAPs would be an appropriate home for other programs in the future.
- b. The Institute is planning a conference on December 6. The hope is for this event to be more educational and on a larger scale than previous colloquia with the possibility of offering CEUs for some professionals. Anyone interested in working on this project should let Heather know.