Delaware Guardianship Commission Meeting

July 24, 2017 - MINUTES

Present were:

Brian Hartman, Esq.	Linda Brittingham
Suzanne I. Seubert, Esq.	James R. Reynolds
Joyce Hayes, Esq.	Margaret Bailey, DNHRQAC
Stefanie Champiny, NCG	Lexie McFassel, Esq.
Sherri Hageman, NCG	Tasha Stevens, Esq.

I. OPENING REMARKS

Welcome. Quorum was present; Vote on January 2017 minutes taken, minutes were passed. Vote on minutes from April 2017 meeting was taken, minutes were passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- WINGS:
  It was indicated by the chair that Erica Wood, Esq. from the American Bar Association, had contacted her and requested an outline of information in order to move forward on inclusion with the WINGS groups, access to the ListServe, and other resources. Two specific areas of the request, stakeholders and goals, required Commission input.

  Stakeholders were discussed. Of primary importance, it was observed that we (the Commission might not want stakeholders at every meeting. By-Laws should be consulted, but a prudent course of action was discussed regarding the idea that stakeholders should be invited to participate in those areas of expertise where they would most be able to contribute. (*Note: Not discussed at meeting but significant, that these meetings are open to the public).

  Previously discussed Stakeholders:
  Private Bar, Elder Law Section and the Estates and Trusts Section
  (Current Joyce Hayes and Suzanne Seubert)

Family Representative (Suggested Pat Maichle, dual role)
VA representative (Possible contact: Susan Barton, Chief of Social Services)
SSA representative (possible contact: Matthew Baxter)
AARP
CLASI
DDC (Pat Maichle)
ARC (Terry Olson, current Director)
Ombudsman (Theresa Ritter, contact. Pam Williams oversees)
DNHRQAC (Currently Margaret Bailey

SUGGESTED:

John McNeal, as both the State ADA coordinator and the Director of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities
MCO representative
Representative of the Homeless Population
Homeless Planning Council (Homeless Population)
DE Continuum of Care (Homeless Population)
LACC (Hispanic Community)
Medical Community

GOALS:

1. Statutory Amendment to include Limited Guardianship, Adjustments to the law regarding Minor Trust Accounts to allow investment, and allowance for the Office of the Public Guardian to act solely as Representative Payee for clients of DHSS without appointment as guardian.[1]
2. Money Management, looking into the DE Money Management program to see if it was not funded in last budget, and further action.
3. "Medicaid Cutout" payment, to encourage professional guardians, or to see if it could be defined as a fundable service under waivers.
4. Informational Campaign on estate planning to avoid need for guardianships, or at least, OPG payment of mileage to private attorneys in order for them to travel with an informational program.

III. New Business

[1] After research on liability of RP's on acting as such).

Meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.