



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711
Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365

CLERK
BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE

JUSTICES
NATHAN L. HECHT
PAUL W. GREEN
PHIL JOHNSON
DON R. WILLETT
EVA M. GUZMAN
DEBRA H. LEHRMANN
JEFFREY S. BOYD
JOHN P. DEVINE

GENERAL COUNSEL
JENNIFER L. CAFFERTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
NADINE SCHNEIDER

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
OSLER McCARTHY

January 31, 2013

Ms. Erica Wood
National Guardianship Network
1577 Spring Hill Road, Ste. 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182

Dear Ms. Wood:

The Supreme Court of Texas supports the Office of Court Administration's attached grant application to fund the Texas Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders Project. I have asked the Office of Court Administration to submit this application, accept the grant if awarded, and administer and manage the program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wallace B. Jefferson".

Wallace B. Jefferson
Chief Justice

Attachment

cc: Mr. David Slayton, Executive Director, Office of Court Administration



OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SLAYTON
Administrative Director

January 31, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attn: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Rd, Ste 220
Vienna, VA 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

Enclosed please find a proposal to obtain a mini-grant of \$7,000 from the National Guardianship Network to establish a Texas WINGS group. As I discussed with you yesterday, state law does not allow the Supreme Court of Texas to accept grants. Therefore, the Supreme Court regularly asks the Office of Court Administration to seek and manage grants on its behalf. Such is the case with this proposal. As you can see from the letter from Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, the Supreme Court is supportive of the application and will play a pivotal role in the formation and oversight of the Texas WINGS group. I certainly hope that this meets with the review committee's approval.

Should you have additional questions or wish to discuss the proposal further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Slayton".

David Slayton



OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SLAYTON
Administrative Director

Texas Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) Project

Name of Court: The Supreme Court of Texas

Court Project Point Person:

Name: David Slayton, Administrative Director, Texas Office of Court Administration
Address: PO Box 12066, Austin, TX 78711-2066
Phone: 512-463-1626
Email: david.slayton@txcourts.gov

Name and Signature of State Chief Justice:

Name: Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson

Signature: See attached letter

Principal Project Stakeholders and Contact Information:

Required Stakeholders

Department of State Health Services: Kathleen Anderson, Attorney, Guardianship, 512-424-6599,
Kathleen.Anderson@hpsc.state.tx.us

Department of Family and Protective Services: Beth Engelking, Asst. Commissioner, Adult Protective Services, 512-438-3205, beth.engelking@dfps.state.tx.us

Department of Assistant and Rehabilitative Services: Cassie Fisher, Stakeholder Relations Liaison, 512-377-0646, cassie.fisher@dars.state.tx.us

Department of Aging and Disability Services: Carol Sloan, Acting Asst. Commissioner, Access and Intake, 512-438-4245, carol.sloan@dads.state.tx.us; Sue Fielder, Director of Area Agencies on Aging, Access and Intake, 512-438-4238, sue.fielder@dads.state.tx.us; Tim McGinnis, Guardianship Services, Access and Intake, 512-438-4727, timothy.mcginnis@dads.state.tx.us

Texas Aging and Disability Services Council: Sharon Butterworth, Chair, 512-438-4563,
Heather.Kuhlman@dads.state.tx.us

Additional Stakeholders

Texas Guardianship Association: Inez Russell, Executive Director, 254-399-9115, inez@texasguardianship.org

Texas Veterans Commission: Kyle Mitchell, Deputy Executive Director, 512-463-5538, executiveoffice@tvc.texas.gov

Social Security Office, Austin, Texas: Mary Wolfe, Assoc. Commissioner Disability Determination Services, 512-437-8888, mary.wolfe@dars.state.tx.us

State Bar of Texas: Lisa Jamieson, President Elect, Probate and Trust Section, 817-336-9333, ljamieson@shannongracey.com

Department of Aging and Disability Services: Patty Ducayet, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Manager, 512-438-4356, patty.ducayet@dads.state.tx.us

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities: Roger Webb, Executive Director, 512-437-5440, Roger.Webb@tea.state.tx.us

Administration on Aging: Derek Lee, 214-767-2971, derek.lee@aoa.hhs.gov, and Omar Valverde, 202-357-3514, omar.valverde@acl.hhs.gov

a. Statement of Need

The population of Texans aged 65 and older has increased 50.6% over the last 20 years. In FY 2012, 3,686 new guardianships were granted with a total of 39,510 active guardianships as of August 31, 2012. As the population ages, the number of guardianship cases is expected to increase, which increases the need for collaborative and strategic efforts to address guardianship issues in the state. Currently, there is no statewide coordinated effort to identify issues and develop solutions. In addition, the state's decentralized court system, in which guardianship cases are handled in different types of courts by judges (including non-lawyer judges) with varying levels of guardianship knowledge, increases the difficulty of ensuring appropriate judicial response. Documenting the number and type of adult guardianships and ensuring the quality of that data is also a challenge faced in Texas. The creation of a Texas WINGS group would enable the Texas Judiciary to take a leadership role in adult guardianship reform and partner with community stakeholders to assess and resolve the challenges involved in addressing the needs of those under guardianship.

b. Project Approach

- Current collaborative efforts between key community stakeholders and the judicial system are limited. Key community stakeholders met with the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to discuss the creation of the Texas WINGS group and pledge their support. The WINGS project will enable the group to receive the support and guidance needed to assess the state's system of guardianship and alternatives, address policy and practice issues, and to serve as an ongoing problem-solving mechanism.

- This project will establish and convene the WINGS group by engaging stakeholders in strategic planning and problem solving. In addition to the community stakeholders, judges, attorneys, advocates, clerks, court administrators, and legislators will review the status of adult guardianship in the state. Some of the topics to be reviewed include data collection, judge and court staff education, court monitoring, and best practices. During the initial project period, the overall goal of the group will be to create a strategic plan to identify problems, prioritize issues, and develop goals. Potential non-legislative and legislative remedies will be identified and prioritized.
- The Texas WINGS group will engage initially in a strategic planning session to identify problems, prioritize issues, and set goals. Quarterly meetings will be held to monitor the progress in reaching those goals. The group will present their work to the Texas Judicial Council, which is the policy-making body for the state judiciary.
- The Texas WINGS group will need the following technical assistance from the National Guardianship Network: education, assistance with problem identification, and information on best practices in other states.

c. Budget

- The \$7,000 grant will provide support for a 2-day guardianship strategic planning session.

\$2,500 Fee, travel, and expenses for a nationally recognized facilitator of strategic planning familiar with guardianship issues

\$4,500 Limited travel reimbursement for stakeholders, including judges and court staff, to attend strategic planning session

- OCA will provide in-kind support that will include staffing and hosting meetings, web conferencing and teleconference services, writing and publishing, website development and maintenance, and project management. In-kind support will also be provided by the stakeholders.
- The Texas Judiciary, OCA, and the community stakeholders are committed to continue this project after the initial project period. OCA will continue to provide project leadership and in-kind assistance in support of the ongoing project. Additionally, the Texas Judicial Council will continue to provide oversight to and receive input from the Texas WINGS group.



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

January 31, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road
Suite # 220
Vienna, VA 22182

Dear Ms. Wood:

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the grant application submitted by the Supreme Court of Texas. The application submitted through the Office of Court Administration is for a \$7,000 incentive grant to establish a Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders group in Texas (WINGS).

DADS plays a key role in adult guardianships in Texas through the provision of direct and contracted guardianship services. In addition, DADS operates or has oversight of multiple programs serving individuals who reside in Texas who are older or are individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities. These programs include area agencies on aging, local authorities and community services programs.

DADS is supportive of the proposal to develop a WINGS group in Texas, and we commit to being an active partner. DADS will participate in the project should it be funded by the National Guardianship Network and will also continue participation after the project ends.

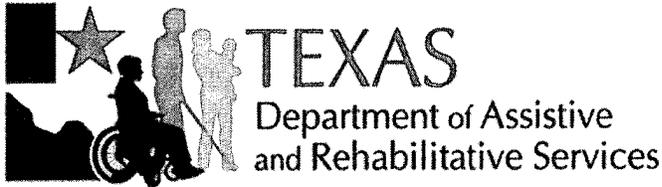
Your consideration of the Texas proposal is appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Tim McGinnis, Section Manager, Guardianship Services, serves as the lead staff on this matter and can be reached by phone at (512) 438-4727 or by email at timothy.mcginis@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Weizenbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Weizenbaum
Commissioner

JW/tm



Debra Wanser
Commissioner

January 28, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

I am aware of the intent of the Supreme Court of Texas through the Office of Court Administration to submit a proposal for the \$7,000 incentive grant and technical assistance to establish a WINGS group in Texas. The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) was a participant in a recent meeting to discuss the effort, and I am supportive of this project. DARS is committed to making available information regarding services provided by the agency to individuals who may have guardianships.

We are supportive of the proposal to develop a WINGS group in Texas and commit to actively participating in such a group. We will also participate in the project if it is funded by the National Guardianship Network and continue that participation after the end of the project.

We appreciate your consideration of Texas' proposal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Neal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn Neal
Deputy Commissioner,
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Partnerships for Independence

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, 4800 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78756

1-800-628-5115 or TTY 1-866-581-9328

www.dars.state.tx.us



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER
John J. Specia, Jr.

January 25, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

I am aware of the intent of the Supreme Court of Texas, through the Office of Court Administration, to submit a proposal for the \$7,000 incentive grant and technical assistance to establish a WINGS group in Texas. A representative from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) was a participant in a recent meeting to discuss the effort, and I am supportive of this project. DFPS, through the Adult Protective Services (APS) program, investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults who are 65 and older or who have disabilities. APS provides or arranges for services necessary to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment. APS may refer the client for guardianship services if the client appears to lack capacity to consent to services and less restrictive alternatives are not adequate to protect the client.

We are supportive of the proposal to develop a WINGS group in Texas and commit to actively participate in such a group. We will participate in the project if it is funded by the National Guardianship Network and we will continue that participation after the end of the project.

We appreciate your consideration of Texas' proposal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beth Engelking".

Beth Engelking
Assistant Commissioner for APS

January 29, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

I am aware of the intent of the Supreme Court of Texas through the Office of Court Administration to submit a proposal for the \$7,000 incentive grant and technical assistance to establish a WINGS group in Texas. Our agency/group was a participant in a recent meeting to discuss the effort, and I am supportive of this project. Our agency/group plays a key role in Texas in adult guardianships by supporting guardianship efforts that ensure the protection of the best interests of and maximum appropriate independence of incapacitated individuals in Texas.

We are supportive of the proposal to develop a WINGS group in Texas and commit to actively participating in such a group. We will also participate in the project if it is funded by the National Guardianship Network and continue that participation after the end of the project.

We appreciate your consideration of Texas' proposal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Anderson

Special Counsel for System Support

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
(HHSC)

4900 North Lamar

Austin, TX 78752

(512) 424-6599 (Phone)

(512) 424-6586 (Fax)

kathleen.anderson@hhsc.state.tx.us



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

(512) 437-5432
(800) 262-0334
Fax (512) 437-5434

6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741-7509
E-Mail: TCDD@tcdd.state.tx.us
Internet: <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us>

Mary Durham, Chair
John C. Morris, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

January 25, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is pleased to offer this letter of support for the proposal submitted by the Supreme Court of Texas through the Office of Court Administration for a \$7,000 incentive grant and technical assistance to establish a WINGS group in Texas. Although TCDD was unable to attend the recent meeting to discuss this initiative, we are very supportive of the effort and pleased to collaborate with the Office of Court Administration and other guardianship stakeholder agencies and organizations.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities has had a long involvement in encouraging the state to proactively develop options to assist individuals with decision-making in a responsible manner, and to use guardianship in a limited manner when truly needed. TCDD is currently funding a 3-year project with the Arc of San Angelo that is developing a "volunteer supported decision-making for individuals with cognitive impairments" pilot, an effort coordinated jointly with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services in response to HB 1454 adopted by the 81st Texas Legislature in 2009. We look forward to sharing information learned from this effort and others as part of the WINGS Texas initiative.

TCDD supports the proposal to develop a WINGS Texas group and welcomes the opportunity to actively participate in such a group to discuss issues and concerns and collaboratively develop appropriate solutions. We also look forward to actively participating in the project if it is funded by the National Guardianship Network and to continue that participation after project funding concludes.

We appreciate your consideration of Texas' proposal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Webb
Executive Director



TEXAS GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 24037 φ Waco, Texas φ 76702-4037 φ Phone 254.399.9115 φ Fax 254.399.9599
website: www.texasguardianship.org

January 28, 2013

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

I am writing in support of the Supreme Court of Texas through the Office of Court Administration and its intent to submit a proposal for the \$7,000 incentive grant and technical assistance to establish a WINGS group in Texas. On behalf of The Texas Guardianship Association, I went to Austin recently to participate in a meeting to discuss the effort, and I am very supportive of this project. The Texas Guardianship Association plays a key role in Texas in adult guardianships by helping educate family and professional guardians and bringing guardianship stakeholders together to share best practices and resources. The Texas Guardianship Association produces a statewide guardianship conference each year and makes available over training and educational opportunities throughout the year.

We are supportive of the proposal to develop a WINGS group in Texas and commit to actively participating in such a group. We will participate in the project if it is funded by the National Guardianship Network and continue that participation after the end of the project.

We appreciate your consideration of Texas' proposal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct line is 254.399.9115

Sincerely,

Inez Russell, Executive Director

ELISEO "AL" CANTU, JR.
Major, US Army (Retired)
Chairman

JAMES H. SCOTT
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Vice Chair

THE REV. RICHARD A. McLEON, IV
US Army Veteran
Secretary



DANIEL P. MORAN
Captain, USMC (Retired)
Member

J.K. "JAKE" ELLZEY
Commander, US Navy (Retired)
Member

THOMAS P. PALLADINO
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Executive Director

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

January 28, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

National Guardianship Network
Attention: Erica Wood
1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220
Vienna, Virginia 22182
Via email: Erica.wood@americanbar.org

Dear Ms. Wood:

We at the Texas Veterans Commission are aware of the intent of the Supreme Court of Texas, through the Office of Court Administration, to submit a proposal for a \$7,000 incentive grant and technical assistance to establish a WINGS group in Texas. Our agency was a participant in a recent meeting to discuss the effort, and we are supportive of the project. The Texas Veterans Commission plays a key role in providing services to Texas veterans, and we are interested in participating in any discussions that directly impact our veterans.

We are supportive of the proposal to develop a WINGS group in Texas and commit to actively join this group to the extent that this project involves veterans. We will also participate in the project if it is funded by the National Guardianship Network and continue that participation after the end of the project.

We appreciate your consideration of Texas' proposal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Palladino", followed by a horizontal line.

Thomas P. Palladino
Executive Director