

**ADULT PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW BOARD
OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Drumcastle Center
6401 York Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212**

On December 18, 2024, a virtual meeting was held by the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Davey, LCSW-C - Representative Local Department of Social Services
Barry Goldstein, Esquire - Attorney Representative
Marcella Watts - Lay Representative
Ms. Marsha Young - Local Non-Profit Organization Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Delores Ryland, R.N. - Nurse Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stacey Bland, Guardianship Program Manager, Public Guardianship, Department of Aging (DoA); Tameka Collins, LMSW, Guardianship Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS); Allison Engram, Public Guardianship, Baltimore County Department of Aging (DoA); Janet Fedder, Esquire, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service; Amy Fingles, Public Guardianship, Baltimore County Department of Aging (DoA); Melissa Golson, LCSW-C, Supervisor, Guardianship Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS); Meisha Grimes, Esquire, McGuire Grimes, LLC; Andy Hall, Esquire, King/Hall LLC; Kristie Hausner, LMSW, Guardianship Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS); Donna Lynn, Public Guardianship, Baltimore County Department of Aging (DoA); Carolyn Malinowski, Esquire, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service; Mary McMurrin, Public Guardianship, Baltimore County Department of Aging; Michelle Robinson, LCSW-C, Guardianship Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS); Jocelyn Vilchitski, LCSW-C, Adult Foster Care/Project Home Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS); Laura Walters, Esquire, Drechsler, Larkin & Walters PC; Jessica Williams, LMSW, Guardianship Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS) and Carie Woods, LMSW, Adult Foster Care/Project Home Unit, Baltimore County Department of Social Services (DSS)

Business Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am.

Roll Call – All introduced themselves and their position on the Board.

Mark Millspaugh, Director, Baltimore County Department of Social Services

Mr. Millspaugh acknowledged the passing of Dr. Donald Gabriel this month. He worked with him on other Boards and projects. He mentioned that Dr. Gabriel had a big heart and was a great contributor in working on behalf of his fellow Baltimore County residents.

Mr. Millspaugh attended the winter Maryland Association of Social Service Directors conference. There were also elected officials and several attorneys in attendance. One of the topics discussed was adult public guardianship and how complex it has become. It was stressed that there is no other legal process short of death that exists that is as restrictive as guardianship. Those on death row have more rights than those whose rights have been taken away in this manner. Mr. Millspaugh stated that there appears to be some interest in creating legislation regarding alternatives. In the past, this program has not received a lot of attention. Recently there was a legislative bill introduced regarding the structure of guardianship review boards and standardizing the process across jurisdictions.

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Mr. Millspaugh further stated that the Review Board's liaison, Faye Allard, alerted him to issues involving the system, including the number of cases reviewed each month and he has shared this information. He acknowledged the need to have important issues addressed as the numbers have risen substantially and that attention should be given to the fact that there are limited resources available to address these issues.

The Board was informed that although they don't have much contact with him as the legal guardian of person, he does read the reports and is very much involved. As director, he stated that it is the agency's policy to treat its clients like family.

Barry Goldstein, Attorney Representative, stated he appreciated Mark's attendance at this meeting and his acknowledging the Board's work. Mr. Goldstein praised Ms. Allard's role with the Board, her acclimation to the electronic dissemination of paperwork and her organization in preparing and conducting the hearings on the Zoom platform. Mr. Millspaugh also thanked Ms. Allard for her work. He stated he recognizes it's a lot for one person and that it is part-time position. He further stated that unfortunately he doesn't control the resources allotted to the program but only how they are managed.

Marsha Young, Chair, thanked Mr. Millspaugh for being with us this morning and for his updates. He stated he felt it was important to let the Board members know that their work as volunteers and Ms. Allard's work as the Board's liaison is appreciated. He informed the Board that the County has appointed a new director for the Department of Aging, Heang Tan. He is looking forward to having a conversation with her and will recommend she sit in on a meeting.

Minutes Approval – The Board voted to approve the December 18, 2024, Hearing Minutes

File Review Results – The Board unanimously agreed to continue 36 cases.

Hearing Minutes: 65 Cases/29 Reg./36 F.R.

The Board heard 29 cases as full reviews with social workers and court-appointed attorneys for the client in attendance presenting the case virtually.

The Board reviewed and voted on 36 cases as file reviews. This type of review requires the guardianship client to be medically stable and in their living arrangements for at least a year. The client's social worker and attorney are not required to be present unless a full review is requested either by the Board, the client, the social worker, or the court-appointed attorney.

NEXT MEETING

The Board will hold its next meeting **virtually on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.**

The meeting concluded at 10:00 am.

Submitted by,

Faye Allard

Adult Public Guardianship Review Board Liaison