

MAPA Legislative Committee

Committee Report 2020

June 10, 2020

Despite the COVID-19 virus discombobulating the Legislative session and preventing any direct visits with our Legislators in Jefferson City; your Legislative committee has continued to meet via phone conference and discuss legislative issues and goals. Unfortunately, due to the compressed timeline and irregular process this session, we were not able to move forward on any of our legislative priorities. We will pursue them vigorously in the next legislative session; including staffing/funding for Public Administrator offices & placement issues. It is also very important for all MAPA members to advise the committee on matters that may require a legislative modification & to be engaged with their legislators directly to assist with our advocacy efforts to make needed & beneficial changes to the state statutes.

The good news is that, with the capable assistance of the Penman Group & research firm Simply Strategy; along with the tremendous response of MAPA membership; we were able to complete a comprehensive survey of our guardianship system. This survey has been released to the members; we ask that you review it and offer your honest feedback. This Guardianship Report will be crucial to our ongoing efforts to address the systemic difficulties that we all deal with on a daily basis; and with seeking more cooperative relationships with legislators, stakeholders & decision makers. Many thanks to all of you who participated in this landmark study! With the dedication and hard work of our membership & the Penman Group, we will continue to make significant progress in addressing the pressing issues of serving & protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Farmer, Legislative Committee co-chair

Charli Ackerman, Legislative Committee co-chair