

Rethinking Guardianship: Strengths and Weaknesses (July 2015)

Identified Strengths

- Flexibility of NC Statute 35A in terms of scope and purpose,
- Supported Decision Making, gains across US; 1st in Families Grant
- Guardianship options better understood by work group
- Advocacy efforts underway
- Diverse & broad expertise on work group

Weaknesses of the System

- Limited oversight and accountability,
- Inconsistent practice among Clerks and GALs- no formal training,
- Limited information on alternatives and rights to legal counsel,
- Inconsistent/Insufficient data, and
- Education and training of guardians, families and facilities (frontline staff) needed.

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