

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Contact: Mary Shortall

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Public Guardian, under court authority, manages care for impoverished, mentally incapable adults who cannot ward off physical, sexual and financial abuse. 85% of new clients lack housing and reliable food, and 60% are experiencing current abuse from someone else. Court-ordered responsibility enables intervention when the County cannot find any other approach that will work. The client alternative is premature, often violent death.

Program Description

ADS Public Guardian/Conservator (PG/C) works with County protective services and law enforcement to educate professionals and families, and to intervene early to resolve fraud and abuse of extremely vulnerable adults. Staff diverts 150 cases annually to other services and client, family or private resources.

New clients all have at least two of the following: treatment-resistant mental illness, IQ below 70, Alzheimer's/dementia, brain injury, very complex medical problems and no income source. Program staff obtains and maintains court authority to make medical, care and financial decisions as appointed guardians. Program staff works with the County Attorney and Probate Court to obtain court appointment for selected cases when no other resource exists.

After appointment, PG/C staff stabilizes clients, directs plans to resolve violence and victimization, addresses chronic and urgent basic care needs, provides access to care and move towards stability. Program staff use court authority to assure housing, food, and medical care on behalf of clients, and drive extremely complex care plans to maintain clients in the least restrictive setting, avoiding relapse, and prevent repeated crisis-related costs.

Program Justification

For less than 1% of substantiated adult abuse cases, involuntary, court-authorized decision-making is the only known way to resolve complex abuse/ exploitation without continued fruitless use of County resources, including hospital bed holds, involuntary commitment and protective services resources. Department systems and staff divert most guardianship requests to less costly resources and PG/C requests are heavily screened to assure all other options have been considered, focusing public funds on the citizens at highest risk without other resources.

After initial client stabilization, Guardians work with existing systems and resources to obtain/oversee permanent housing, income flow, medical care, and medications, to prevent relapse into homelessness, unnecessary psychiatric or medical hospital use, and inappropriate use of jails.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of clients served with G/C, unduplicated annual	162	165	165	165
Outcome	Referrals appropriately diverted to less costly resources - New	0	0	150	150
Quality	Urgent housing, food, medical needs addressed 5 days after appointment - New	0%	0%	90%	90%
Quality	Consultation services rated as helpful or very helpful - New	0%	0%	0%	80%

Performance Measure - Description

The program is maintaining stable caseloads despite a 2005 position loss in business services. 2006 measures reflect a continued effort to closely target resources without losing intake capacity for the highest risk clients.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

The decision to provide the service is in County ordinance. Under ORS, if the County chooses to reduce the service, it remains obligated to current clients, but can halt further intake if the BCC makes a finding that the program is no longer needed.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$771,435	\$0	\$834,168	\$0
Contracts	\$15,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$12,000
Materials & Supplies	\$10,279	\$1,500	\$18,612	\$0
Internal Services	\$132,144	\$9,500	\$77,369	\$28,000
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$928,858	\$13,000	\$930,149	\$40,000
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$57,888	\$1,349
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$107,185	\$884
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$165,073	\$2,233
Total GF/non-GF:	\$928,858	\$13,000	\$1,095,222	\$42,233
Program Total:	\$941,858		\$1,137,455	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	9.90	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$40,000
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,233
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$42,233

Explanation of Revenues

Fee revenues, although small, doubled this year due to changes in Medicaid rules and the estate collection law.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25008A, ADS Public Guardian/Conservator Reduced Service Level

The program reduced one FTE in 2005, but is maintaining current caseload levels through somewhat reduced financial services to clients.