

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 25026B

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Contact: Mary Shortall

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Public Guardian, under court authority, makes life decisions for 162 extremely mentally incapable impoverished adults victimized by physical, sexual and financial abuse. Legal authority enables intervention when no other approach resolves abuse, and ensures access to housing, food, and medical care. Without this option client outcomes are predictably poor.

Program Description

New ADS Public Guardian/Conservator (PG/C) 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, no income source, no housing.

Program staff work with adult protective services and law enforcement to educate professionals and families, and to intervene early to resolve fraud and abuse of extremely vulnerable adults, diverting 150 cases annually to other services and client, family or private guardianship resources. Staff work with the County Attorney and Probate Court to obtain guardianship for selected cases when no other resource exists to resolve exists.

PG/C staff make basic life decisions for 162 court-appointed clients, directing plans to resolve violence and victimization, addressing chronic and urgent basic care needs, obtaining an income source and basic care, and moving clients towards stability. Program staff use court authority to create and oversee extremely complex care plans designed to maintain clients in the least restrictive setting, avoid 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, public guardian staff 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. This offer links to County Basic Needs strategies to provide intervention and coordination of services that meet basic needs, ensure care for vulnerable community members, assist in obtaining permanent liveable housing, and provide access to income and food to every community member.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Clients served with guardianship and/or conservatorship, unduplicated annual	166	165	162	162
Outcome	Referrals appropriately diverted to less costly resources ¹	0	150	153	160
Quality	Urgent housing, food, medical needs addressed 5 days after appointment ¹	0.0%	90.0%	88.0%	90.0%
Quality	Consultation services rated as helpful or very helpful ¹	0.0%	80.0%	88.0%	85.0%

Performance Measure - Description

¹New in FY07.

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	2007	2007	2008	2008
Personnel	\$824,773	\$0	\$862,316	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$18,612	\$0	\$19,403	\$0
Internal Services	\$77,369	\$28,000	\$121,675	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$920,754	\$40,000	\$1,015,394	\$0
Administration	\$57,888	\$1,349	\$40,386	\$0
Program Support	\$107,185	\$884	\$119,039	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$165,073	\$2,233	\$159,425	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,085,827	\$42,233	\$1,174,819	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,128,060		\$1,174,819	
Program FTE	9.90	0.00	9.90	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$2,233	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$42,233	\$40,000	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund and Fee revenue. Fee collections, although small, doubled last year due to changes in Medicaid rules and the estate collection law. Fee collections are small because clients are Medicaid eligible. If any funds remain after death and payment of outstanding expenses the Public Guardian has the first claim on these funds to offset previous unpaid fees.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25026, ADS Public Guardian/Conservator

Overall County General Fund request for ADS programs is reduced by \$443,735 due to increases in the Governor's proposed budget.