



## **2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

By  
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**2016 Statistics and Reports**

**Success Stories**

*Union County Guardianship Services provides guardians for adults who have been deemed incompetent by the court, and who do not have family or friends to fulfil this role.*

## 2016 YTD CASELOAD

**18 total wards** during 2016 (up from 13 in 2015)

Two deceased over the course of the year  
One moved out of county

**15 active wards 12/31/2016** (up from 11 in 2015)

10 funded through UCBDD  
2 no funding/mental health  
3 no funding/seniors

**Average 7.03 hours per month per ward** (down from 9 hours in 2015)

*Average varies widely depending on ward and whether ward is in crisis*

*Average per DD ward: 6.42*

*Average per Senior ward: 8.03*

*Average per mental health ward: 10.55*

**Actual cost per hour of service \$48.11** (down from \$57.07 in 2015)

*If UCGS did not exist, attorneys would be appointed as guardians through the court's indigent ward program, at a cost of \$75/hour.*

## FUNDING VS COSTS BY CATEGORY

	Cost	Payment	2016 Hours	% Caseload	% Time	% Income	Client- Months
UCBDD (58%)	\$33,888	\$40,488	706	58	48	53.35	110
Seniors (23%)	\$16,560	\$15,909	345	23	23	21	43
Mental Health (19%)	\$19,584	\$8,940	408	19	27	12	36
			1459			86.35	

As this table demonstrates, our clients with disabilities "pay as they go" with a fee-for-service rate of \$45/hour, funded by UCBDD.

Our seniors account for 23% of our caseload, and utilize a little over 25% of our time, but only generate 21% of our income. (\$15,000 UC funding 2016+\$909 sliding-scale private pay)

Those with mental health issues comprise 19% of our clients, but utilize 27% of our time, and generate just 12% of our income. (\$5,000 MHRB funding 2016+\$3,940 sliding-scale private pay)

Approximately 15% of our 2016 budget had to be covered by outside funding: grants, donations and fund-raisers.

## ADULT GUARDIAN EDUCATION

- Four sessions of the six-hour "Fundamentals of Adult Guardianship" (required by the Supreme Court of Ohio) were offered with total attendance of 47 guardians.
- Three different 3-hour continuing education classes were offered with 54 guardians participating. Topics included "Local Resources", "Guardian of the Estate" and "Developmental Disabilities".



## OUR SUCCESSES

**A 22 year old man with severe autism** has been living in the community with 24 hour caregivers. He experienced frequent, violent outbursts including property damage, self-injury and occasional aggression against his caregivers. Due to this behavior, he could not have a roommate and his living expenses were heavily subsidized by UCBDD. His caregiving staff was unresponsive to the repeated requests from the guardian to try to engage him in activities to ward off boredom and frustration. He refused to leave his home, and missed important appointments with his doctor and psychiatrist.

The guardian changed caregiver companies to a more pro-active team. His new staff engages him in a variety of activities including crafts, outings, walks outdoors and cooking. Since the change, the ward's outbursts have decreased dramatically in terms of both frequency and intensity. He readily leaves the house, spends time on his patio and goes willingly to doctor's appointments and shopping trips. His verbalization has increased significantly and he is upbeat and cheerful most of the time as opposed to the morose and angry attitude which were his usual state before the change. He now has an appropriate roommate with whom to share the expenses of his community-based home, saving the UCBDD money. Most importantly, his quality of life has been improved.

**A 42 year old man with mental illness** had been living with his mother, but his behaviors, including hoarding, forced her to initiate eviction proceedings to remove him from the home. An emergency guardianship was established by the court to help the ward locate suitable housing. The ward has been established in an apartment he can afford, and the guardian monitors his safety and well-being. His mother and sister continue to be involved in his life, but with healthier boundaries due to him not living with them.

**A 68 year old gentleman with limited cognitive abilities** was held in jail for three months on minor charges that were dismissed once his case was heard in court. During his time in jail, he lost his living arrangements, and upon the court's freeing him, he literally had no one to call and nowhere to go. A case manager from his home health care provider contacted us, and a guardian from our program was appointed by the court. The guardian has secured appropriate, affordable housing, established a payee to manage his funds, arranged for clothing and furniture, obtained Mobile Meal services, and coordinated a myriad of health care services to address his multiple acute and chronic conditions. The ward is now contently living at Richwood Greene where he enjoys going out to watch children playing softball on the nearby fields, participates in community meals, has social contact with other residents and staff and is safe and secure in his living environment.

**A 25 year old woman with cognitive impairments and mental health diagnosis** has been under our guardianship for three years. She recently left town with a man she met on the internet, with the stated intention of marrying him so that he could gain control of her funds. Working with the probate judges of our county and the neighboring county, we prevented a marriage license from being issued. The guardian arranged regular "well being checks" with law enforcement in the neighboring town. After a few days, the man realized he would not be successful in his attempts to gain control of the ward's funds, and he dropped the ward off at a homeless shelter. Our efforts to prevent her exploitation were successful and she was returned safely to her apartment in Marysville.

**The Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities** found that a 23 year old man served by UCBDD was not being properly cared for by his family-member guardian. Our agency was asked by the court to provide an emergency guardian, who worked with the young man, UCBDD and the man's extended family to identify another family member who was willing and able to become his permanent guardian. During the 30 days of the emergency guardianship, we were able to get some much-needed medical attention for the young man, arrange his participation in a day program he wanted to attend, and engage a provider to help with respite care in the evenings and weekend, giving the new guardian the support needed to enable her to assume the responsibility of becoming his guardian.

**LOOKING AHEAD: 2017** will find us again dealing with budget concerns as the Union County Commissioners did not grant our full funding request of \$15,000, leaving us with a \$5,000 shortfall to address. Our caseload has dropped to 13\* due to deaths and transfers to other counties. We will be reviewing our strategic plan and making adjustments based on the needs of the wards and guardians we serve. We will continue to refine our fund-raising activities and pursue grants and gifts from community and private supporters. Our goal continues to be optimizing quality of life for the wards we serve.

\*As of 4/20/2017, two additional cases are pending, bringing caseload to 15.