



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

By

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Narrative

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NARRATIVE REPORT

PROGRAMMING

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to gradually return to some semblance of "normal" operations, although with some adaptations that will most likely become "standard procedure" now that we have mastered remote meetings and monitoring of our wards. Our caseload has increased slightly, while our cost of business has decreased slightly in cost per hour of service as we continue to find ways to work more efficiently and effectively.

A big impact as 2021 drew to a close is the change in Ohio guardianship law, which now allows a non-profit agency that has been certified by the local probate court to hold guardianship instead of the former requirement for an individual to be named as guardian. We have completed the certification requirements set by our local court, and are in the process of changing over all of our wards from individual guardians to the agency. This will make continuity of care much simpler in the case of staff turnover, vacations or absence due to illness.

As part of this transition, and our desire to work more efficiently and effectively, staff training was held to transition our documentation to Google Suites. This allows all staff members to have access to documentation so that if one is called upon to cover a case normally handled by another staff member, the documentation is easily accessible. Google Suites also provides automatic back-up for all of our documentation, and is HIPPA compliant for privacy and security.

In addition to actual guardianship cases, this agency continues to provide information and resources to community members who need guidance as they consider guardianship for a family member. We fielded 19 referrals from the community, three of which are pending becoming participants in our program.

STAFFING

Executive Director Linda Fisher hopes to retire sometime in 2022 after serving more than seven years. In preparation for that transition, she is preparing "how-to" lists and outlines for her successor, as well as finishing up the applications and court hearings involved in transitioning cases from individual staff members to the agency. The shift to agency guardianship makes it possible for the executive director to handle the administrative needs of each client such as benefit applications and renewals, which means an adjustment in the job description and responsibilities.

Our three staff members are moving to a "case manager" model as they continue to serve as the "boots on the ground" with the closest contact with, and understanding of the needs of, our clients.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

We were quite sorry to see two of our more recent Board additions and one long-term member leave us (for very good reasons). They had all served enthusiastically and will be missed. We do have three new candidates who have shown themselves already to be equally enthusiastic about our mission. A "Board Member Expectation" policies have been revised and this has helped oncoming Board members become quickly integrated into the work.

ADULT GUARDIAN EDUCATION

We were able to hold an in-person, locally produced class on "Communicating with the Court" with the collaboration of our newly elected Probate Court Judge Rick Rodger in October. Those who attended expressed their appreciation for having an in-person session with opportunity to ask questions and interact with the presenters.

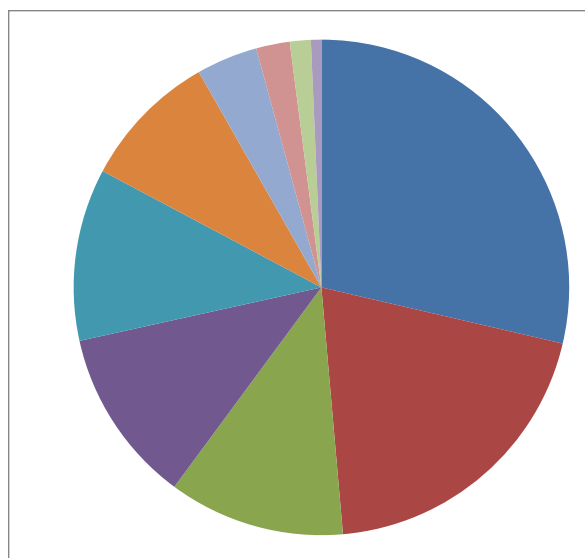
Union County Guardianship Services provides guardians for adults who have been deemed incompetent by the court, and who do not have family or friends to fulfill this role.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total wards	23	30	22	19	20	18	16
UCBDD	11	16	12	12	15	11	10
Seniors	7	9	4	3	3	4	3
Mental Health	5	5	6	4	3	3	3
Active 12/31	22	20	19	17	15	15	11
Client-months	254	238	231	215	194	189	143
UCBDD	132	133	129	124	129	110	105
Seniors	73	43	39	30	33	43	28
Mental health	49	52	55	48	32	36	10
Total hours	860.5	795.5	1100	1230	1296	1459	1193
UCBDD	312.75	318.25	499	534	665	706	889
Seniors	309.25	342	414	398	338	345	216
Mental Health	238.5	135.25	141	230	253	408	88
Cost/Hour	\$54.57	\$56.47	\$52.88	\$50.61	\$45.39	\$48.11	\$57.07
Ave.hrs/mo/ward							
UCBDD	2.4	2.4	3.8	4.3	5.15	6.42	7.75
Seniors	4.2	6.5	10.6	13.2	8	8	7.7
Mental Health	4.8	2.6	2.6	4.8	10.5	10.5	8.8

Client-Source	Client-Months	2021 Total Hours	Cost	Payment	% Caseload (hours)	% Income
UCBDD (11)	132	312.75	\$17,067	\$14,340	36%	30.5%
Seniors* (7)	73	309.25	\$16,876	\$9,348	36%	20%
Mental Health**(5)	49	238.5	\$13,015	\$2,152	28%	4.5%
TOTALS	254	860.5	\$46,961	\$25,840	100%	55%

UCBDD	\$ 14,340.00
UC COMM	\$ 10,000.00
SR SVCS	\$ 5,760.00
FOOD CRAWL	\$ 5,720.00
PP FEES	\$ 5,628.00
UNITED WAY	\$ 4,500.00
MHRBUC	\$ 2,000.00
PRIVATE DONORS	\$ 1,100.00
REWARDS	\$ 683.00
AGE	\$ 340.00



OUR SUCCESSES

In every case, our goal is to optimize the quality of life of the individuals we serve. We work in close cooperation and collaboration with the Probate Court and community agencies such as Senior Services, the Board of Developmental Disabilities, and the Mental Health and Recovery Board. We appreciate the generosity and compassion of these agencies and our community at large as we seek to protect the rights and best interests of those who cannot protect themselves.

- A 22 year old man with developmental disabilities had been living with his mother in a very unsafe and unsanitary home, and had been extremely limited in what he was able to do outside of the home due to the mother's inability to take him places or arrange for his participation in programs such as Special Olympics. He was moved to an apartment with another individual and a provider company, is now working and enjoying a wide variety of recreational activities both at home and in the community. He has expressed that he is very happy with the change.
- Adult Protective Services contacted our office regarding a man who was living in an apartment but not caring for himself. He had a very devoted daughter, but she felt she would not be able to serve effectively as guardian since he resisted her attempts to help him. On the intake visit, he was found to be very ill, and our staff called the life squad. He was transported to the hospital and treated for pneumonia, then discharged to a nursing home under hospice care. It was determined that a guardianship was no longer needed as the daughter was able to make medical decisions for him, and he accepted the need to be in the nursing home.
- A 46 year old man was released from a three-year psychiatric hospitalization. The guardian worked extensively with the Mental Health and Recovery Board to form a support network for him to return to the community, and continues to work to keep him healthy, safe and happy. The guardian coordinates his living arrangements, medical appointments, psychiatric follow up, benefits, and helps him access community resources such as job coaching and transportation for shopping and errands.

Each of these stories may well have had a very different ending without the involvement of Union County Guardianship Services.

We appreciate the ongoing support of these partner agencies



LIVE UNITED

United Way
of Union County

