



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

By

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2019 Statistics

Narrative Reports

Success Stories

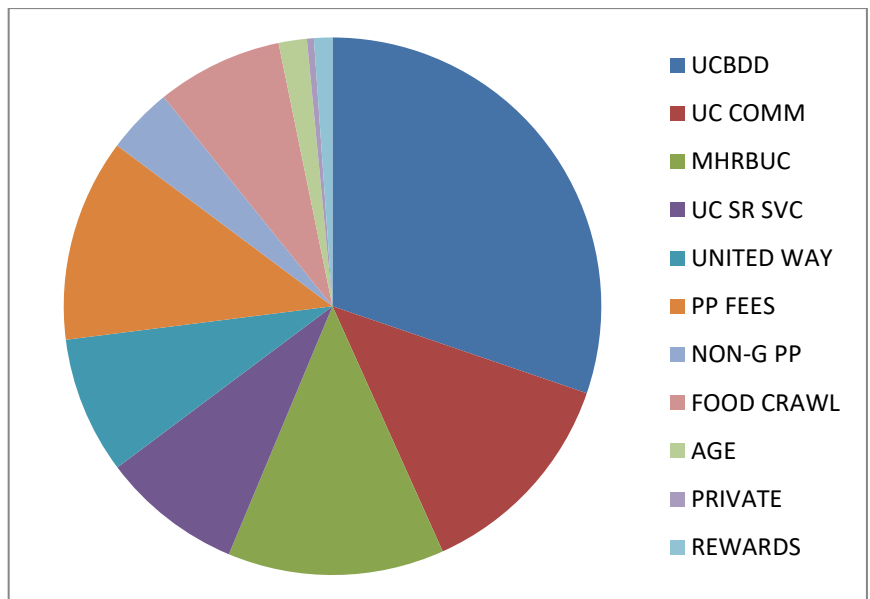
Union County Guardianship Services provides guardians for adults who have been deemed incompetent by the court, and who do not have family or friends to fulfill this role.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total wards	22	19	20	18	16
UCBDD	12	12	15	11	10
Seniors	4	3	3	4	3
Mental Health	6	4	3	3	3
Active 12/31/19	19	17	15	15	11
Non-guardian cases	1	2	3	1	3
Client-months	231	215	194	189	143
UCBDD	129	124	129	110	105
Seniors	39	30	33	43	28
Mental health	55	48	32	36	10
Non-guardian	8	13			
Total hours	1100	1230	1296	1459	1193
UCBDD	499	534	665	706	889
Seniors	414	398	338	345	216
Mental Health	141	230	253	408	88
Non-guardian	46	68			
Cost/Hour	\$52.88	\$50.61	\$45.39	\$48.11	\$57.07
Ave.hrs/mo/ward					
UCBDD	3.8	4.3	5.15	6.42	7.75
Seniors	10.6	13.2	8	8	7.7
Mental Health	2.6	4.8	10.5	10.5	8.8
Non-guardian	5.75	5.2	-	-	-

Client-Source	Client-Months	2019 Total Hours	Cost	Payment	% Caseload	% Income
UCBDD (12)	129	499	\$26,387	\$23,217	56%	30%
Seniors* (4)	39	414	\$21,892	\$13,708	17%	18%
Mental Health**(6)	55	141	\$7,456	\$10,204	24%	13%
Non-guardian (1)	8	46	\$2,432	\$2,551	3%	3%
TOTALS	231	1100	\$58,156	\$48,835	100%	64%

UCBDD	\$ 23,217.00
UC COMM	\$ 10,000.00
MHRBUC	\$ 10,000.00
UC SR SVC	\$ 6,500.00
UNITED WAY	\$ 6,328.00
PP FEES	\$ 9,360.00
NON-G PP	\$ 3,067.00
FOOD CRAWL	\$ 5,820.00
AGE	\$ 1,303.00
PRIVATE	\$ 319.00
REWARDS	\$ 849.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 76,763.00



NARRATIVE REPORT

FUNDING AND CASELOAD

The 2019 year end caseload increased by 2 clients, with a 10% increase in client-months. A total of 11 referrals were received, with three of those resulting in new guardianships for our agency.

Of the referrals that did not result in guardianship with our agency:

- In one case, family member decided to continue as guardian
- In three cases, the individual did not meet criteria for incompetence
- In one case the prospective ward passed away before the guardianship could be established
- In one case our agency was asked by the court to look into a complaint, which was determined to be unfounded
- In one case the guardianship was being considered due to family issues, which were resolved through other means
- In one case a POA was in effect and was determined to be a less-restrictive alternative to guardianship

The charts and pie graph on the previous page provide a financial snap-shot. Roughly two-thirds of our expenses are covered by payments by individuals or agencies on behalf of individuals. The remaining funds come from community organizations, individual donors and our private fund-raising efforts.

STAFFING

Kim Wilson resigned from her position in order to take a full-time position at UCBDD.

Tracey Monroe was hired to replace Kim Wilson. Tracey is social worker with experience in mental health counselling, including substance abuse. She has readily stepped into an active caseload and will have five or six cases by the end of January 2020.

Kathy Jamison has a current caseload of nine clients, two of whom are in the process of transfer due to moves to another county.

Linda Fisher has two current cases in addition to her administrative responsibilities. She held an additional guardianship of a terminally ill client who passed away just two weeks after her appointment.

Melinda Stice's only client has moved out of county and Melinda has retired from our agency.

Sharon McFarlane continues on a semi-retired basis with two cases.

In mid-2019, Linda Fisher announced that she would be postponing her retirement for one year, and now anticipates retirement at the end of 2020. The human resources committee will begin the process of seeking her replacement in late spring.

ADULT GUARDIAN EDUCATION

Fifty guardians of adults took one of three classes offered in fulfillment of the Supreme Court of Ohio's requirement for guardians to engage in training. Topics included the six hour "Fundamentals of Adult Guardianship", and three hour courses on Alzheimer's and Dementia, and Medical Advocacy. Staff guardians participated as part of the studio audience in the premiere of the class "Mental Illness and Guardianship" which was videotaped at the Supreme Court's Judicial College in the spring. Evaluation feedback indicates that participants find the classes informative and that they appreciate having the opportunity to participate in a classroom setting with a facilitator to answer questions as opposed to just taking the class as an on-line video presentation.

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 these who cannot protect themselves.

A 26 year old man with severe autism had been a client of our agency for the past six years. Over the time he had increasing difficulty managing his behaviors, resulting in safety issues for himself and his home provider staff. Due to the assertive advocacy by the guardian, a placement was arranged in an intermediate care facility where he receives both the peer modelling and staff support he needs to be successful. Since his admission to that facility this fall, his incidents of violent behaviour have virtually ceased. He is content and participates willingly in group activities.

A 29 year old man had a single-vehicle accident which resulted in catastrophic brain injury. He spent nine months at a hospital in an unresponsive state, and physicians assessed that he had virtually no chance of a meaningful recovery. The hospital was unable to identify a next-of-kin to make medical decisions for the individual, despite efforts by an investigator. He could not be moved, and no end-of-life decisions could be made. A guardian from our agency was appointed, who was then able to arrange discharge to a skilled nursing facility, where his needs were addressed without using hospital-level resources, as well as sign appropriate end-of-life care authorization. After his passing the guardian discovered information that he had a minor child out-of-wedlock, and was able to get a message to the mother of this child to ensure the child receives Social Security benefits from the deceased father's account.

A 26 year old man was referred to our agency by Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities when the man had a sudden-onset change of behaviors, withdrawing to his room and refusing to bathe or otherwise care for himself and leaving his job where he had been both content and productive. Involvement of a guardian resulted in the individual eventually being hospitalized for medical stabilization and medication adjustment, and he has returned to his normal level of activity, resumed his job, and is now exploring options for moving out of his family home into the community for an increased level of independence. If he continues to improve, our agency hopes to apply to have his guardianship lifted and restore him to competency to make his own decisions.

A 44 year old man with a long history of mental illness has been at a state psychiatric hospital for nearly two years. The guardian has been in constant communication with the hospital staff to keep them informed of his long history of psychiatric hospitalizations and his inability to function in the community. This advocacy has been crucial to the continuity of care for the individual and had been a "missing piece" in his multiple previous admissions under multiple previous guardians.

A 45 year old man with untreated mental illness and a history of alcohol abuse has been sober for nearly a year and has decreased his hoarding tendencies tremendously. He has gone from refusing to acknowledge his need for support to coming to his guardian and asking for assistance. He now has a warm and trusting relationship with his guardian and has made efforts to reach out to help some homeless men in the community during the cold weather. He is quite proud of his self-adopted role as a support person for others, and this new attitude has resulted in him becoming even more responsible in his own grooming, apartment care and behaviour. He told the guardian "I like it when you come to check on me, and I miss you when I don't see you."

BOARD COMPOSITION

2019 saw some turnover in our Board of Trustees, with some long-term members stepping down, and three new members stepping in. We appreciate the past service of those who are leaving, and are excited to welcome fresh faces to our table. The current Board composition is as follows:

CHAIR: Tomica Nickel, Union Co Board of Developmental Disabilities
VICE-CHAIR AND TREASURER: Jessica Estep, Business Analyst, Memorial Health

MEMBERS

Faye Cox, attorney, Shulze, Cox and Will
Delores Bills, retired psychiatric nurse and nursing instructor
Richard Crabtree, Deputy, Union Co Sheriff's Office
Kim Cutler, attorney, Bridges, Jillisky, Streng, Weller & Gullifer
Laura Zureich, retired superintendent, Champaign & Shelby Co BDD
Liz Seffren, Marketing Director, Brookdale Senior Living
Jill Olsen, retired VP for Operational Excellence, Applied Industrial Technologies