

Public Guardian

Kiran Phagura – Public Guardian

Public Guardian	FY 21/22 Adopted	FY 22/23 CAO	
101-4100	Budget	Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	\$355,146	\$364,090	\$8,944
Services and Supplies	\$38,387	\$81,183	\$42,796
Other Charges	\$0	\$108,268	\$108,268
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$393,533	\$553,541	\$160,008
REVENUE			
Fed/State			\$0
Grant			\$0
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc	\$236,862	\$236,862	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$236,862	\$236,862	\$0
FUND BALANCE			\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$156,671	\$316,679	\$160,008

Program Description

Under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, the Yuba County Public Guardian/Conservator provides mandated conservatorship and estate services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities within the community, as specified by the Probate and Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Public Guardian is legally appointed for the person and estate of individuals unable to meet their basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing due to a severe mental illness, neurocognitive disorder, resist undue influence or deemed to be gravely disabled. Conservatorship is an action of “last resort.” Public Guardian program administers services with the highest ethical regard, while advocating and protecting personal liberties and Conservatee rights.

Currently there are 79 conservatees, 41 Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) and 38 Probate. There are 6 pending referrals, 2 LPS and 4 Probate.

Public Guardian has 3 dedicated staff committed to improving the lives of our community’s vulnerable population and managing their affairs.

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Accomplishments

FY 2021-2022

- Efficient transition of new Public Guardian
- Enrolled in virtual trainings by California Association for Public Guardians/Conservators/Administrators to maintain compliance of continuing education requirements
- Developed and implemented new policy and procedures for financial oversight
- Conducted thorough analysis of policies and procedures in order to more effectively manage and measure performance of department
- Streamlined an efficient process and form to inventory Conservatee personal clothing and items
- Collaboration with Public Defender’s Office/Superior Court/Sutter-Yuba Mental Health/County Counsel to follow a process that Conservatee remain in least restrictive placement
- Monthly meetings with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health Medical Director and case management
- Secured real property for LPS Conservatee(s)
- Worked with Panosoft Software to update Public Guardian financial system
- Maintained strong partnerships with local community organizations
- Adhered to County’s Strategic Plan

Performance Measures

FY 2021-2022

YEAR	TOTAL REFERRALS	REFERRALS BY CASE TYPE		CASES ACCEPTED		REFERRING AGENCIES					
		PRO	LPS	PRO	LPS	HOSP	APS	COURT	MH	MD	OTHER
2017	15	14	1	4	1	8	3	0	1	2	1
2018	16	11	5	4	5	6	0	2	6	1	1
2019	18	10	8	0	5	2	1	4	5	0	6
2020	11	9	2	3	1	3	1	2	2	0	3
2021	31	27	4	10	4	15	3	2	4	2	5
TOTAL	91	71	20	21	16	34	8	10	18	5	16

COMMENTS: Other referring agencies include care homes, VA, State Hospital, and Jail.

Abbreviations:

PRO – Probate

LPS – Lanterman-Petris Short

HOSP – Hospital

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APS – Adult Protective Services

MH – Mental Health (Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health)

MD – Medical Doctor

Goals and Objectives

FY 2022-2023

- Cost-benefit analysis of fee for service payee program for non-conserved clients through Social Security
- Maintain partnerships with community organizations and businesses
- Provide adequate training and support to enhance Public Guardian program success
- Safeguard the rights of individuals by supporting least restrictive manner possible and conservatorship as a last resort
- Maintain face-to-face visits with conservatees, care teams, and facilities
- Continue meeting CAPAGPC certification requirements
- Reimbursement for costs related to personal property storage
- Establish a Deputy Public Guardian position to meet the needs of referrals and conservatees
- Educate the general public concerning the role of Public Guardian in the protection of vulnerable adults
- Evaluate new resources for the sale of real property, including online auction sites
- Department to utilize technological advances such as laptops and advanced cell phones to enable staff to operate more efficiently

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

FY 2022-2023

- Governor Newsom Care Court Proposal Impact on Public Guardian Department