

# Public Guardian

Kiran Phagura – Public Guardian

Public Guardian	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
<b>101-4100</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	\$381,005	\$405,251	\$24,246
Services and Supplies	\$93,915	\$74,712	(\$19,203)
Other Charges	\$108,268	\$108,268	\$0
Fixed Assets			\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$583,188</b>	<b>\$588,231</b>	<b>\$5,043</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Fed/State			\$0
Grant			\$0
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc	\$236,862	\$417,817	\$180,955
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$236,862</b>	<b>\$417,817</b>	<b>\$180,955</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>			<b>\$0</b>
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	<b>\$346,326</b>	<b>\$170,414</b>	<b>(\$175,912)</b>

## 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 that cannot 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.” The Public Guardian program administers services with the highest ethical regard, while advocating and protecting personal liberties and Conservatee rights.

At the time of writing this reporter there were 81 Conservatees, 43 Lanterman Petris Short (LPS), and 38 Probate. There were also 3 pending referrals, 2 LPS, and 1 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 2022-2023

- Completed trainings by California Association for Public Guardians/Conservators/Administrators to maintain compliance of continuing education requirements.
- Public Guardian and Deputy Public Guardian remain up to date and fully certified by the Association.
- Reclassified Office Assistant position to Accounting Technician.
- Successful Social Security Audit with zero findings for April 2021-March 2022. Public Guardian is fulfilling representative payee duties.
- Created real estate forms/reports for pending properties.
- Added key performance indicator for estate administration during final accountings of decedents.
- Successfully maintained resource limit for conservatees to ensure no loss in benefits or medical insurance.
- Researched and applied for Conservatee unclaimed property.
- Secured assets for Conservatee real property sold.
- Worked with Public Guardian software Panosoft to update and correct accounting process.
- Implemented policy and procedure for financial oversight.
- Thorough analysis of policies and procedures in order to effectively meet needs of department.
- Maintained strong partnerships with local community organizations.
- Monthly meetings with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health and case management.
- Quarterly meetings with community partners for Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) court.
- Adhered to County's Strategic Plan.

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## Performance Measures FY 2022-2023

YEAR	TOTAL REFERRALS	REFERRALS BY CASE TYPE		CASES ACCEPTED		REFERRING AGENCIES					
		PRO	LPS	PRO	LPS	HOSP	APS	COURT	MH	MD	OTHER
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
2022	31	20	11	8	6	14	2	5	5	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>

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

**Abbreviations:**

PRO – Probate

LPS – Lanterman-Petris Short

HOSP – Hospital

APS – Adult Protective Services

MH – Mental Health (Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health)

MD – Medical Doctor

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## Goals and Objectives

### FY 2023-2024

- Continue attending training to meet PA/PG/PC requirements.
- Advocate, assist and support conservatees in returning to least restrictive level of care.
- Avoid long-term institutionalization by evaluating placement appropriateness with placement reviews set by Superior Court.
- Meet with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health.
- Meet with Rideout Adventist Hospital to ensure referral process is followed to reduce delays in paperwork.
- Establish a complete referral packet that can be accessed on County website.
- Establish County Facebook page for department.
- Add Deputy Public Guardian position to meet growing needs of community and referrals.
- Reimbursement for costs related to Conservatee personal property storage.
- Educate the community concerning Public Guardian role in the protection of vulnerable adults.

## Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

### FY 2023-2024

- Governor Newsom CARE court proposal and implementation.