



IOWA DEPARTMENT ON AGING

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VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

October 31, 2018

W. Charles Smithson
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Carmine Boal
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Office of Public Guardian annual report

Dear Mr. Smithson and Ms. Boal:

The Office of Public Guardian (formerly the Office of Substitute Decision Maker) submits this report for state fiscal year 2018 pursuant to Iowa Code §231E.4(3)(i).

Local Offices of Public Guardian

Iowa Code §231E.4(3)(a) requires the Office of Public Guardian to establish local offices of public guardian.¹ As of November 20, 2017 the Office of Public Guardian contracted with Corridor Care Management, LLC to serve as Local Office of Public Guardian for the southeastern portion of the state. In May of 2018, the contract was amended to cover all 99 Iowa counties. The Office of Public Guardian will continue efforts to expand the capacity of professional guardianship providers, especially in the western part of the state.

In FY2018, the Local Office of Public Guardian served 49 consumers. Of these, 13 cases were transferred to the local office that had previously been served directly by the state office. The Office of Public Guardian accepted appointments in an additional 36 cases during FY2018. Five cases were closed during FY2018: four consumers being served by the office passed away, and one consumer became financially able to pay the fees for a private, professional guardianship and conservatorship provider. Additional statistics regarding the individuals served by the Office of Public Guardian in FY2018 are attached.

Office of Public Guardian Appointments

Currently the Office of Public Guardian is serving as guardian and/or conservator for 48 individuals. An additional three cases have been accepted, but petitions have not yet been filed in those cases.

¹ Iowa's Office of Public Guardian is modeled on the Florida Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG). According to the Florida OPPG's 2017 annual report, they had 17 public guardian programs throughout the state serving 3,728 wards. In addition to providing public guardianship services, the Florida OPPG also maintains a registry of professional guardians, developed standards of practice for professional guardians, and investigates complaints against professional guardians. For SFY2016-2017, the Florida OPPG had a budget of \$7,327,575. http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/SPGO/pubs/OPPG_AR_2017.pdf

As of October 9, 2018 the Office of Public Guardian has suspended accepting appointments in most cases because the office is currently at capacity for the number of individuals that can be provided with ongoing services under the FY2019 appropriation. Funds have been reserved to ensure that a limited number of appointments can still be accepted for cases that meet the priority criteria under Iowa Administrative Code 17-22.7(2). Other cases that meet the general criteria for appointment under Iowa Administrative Code 17-22.7(1) but do not meet the priority criteria are being placed on a waiting list until such time as resources are available.

Education and Training for Guardians and Conservators

The Office of Public Guardian has contracted with modjul, LLC to develop a series of web-based training videos to help educate guardians and conservators about their fiduciary responsibilities. It is anticipated that these training videos will be complete by the end of FY2019.

Education of the Public about Substitute Decision Making

The Office of Public Guardian is increasing outreach efforts throughout the state to educate the public about guardianship, conservatorship, and less restrictive alternatives for supporting individuals who need assistance with decision making. In FY2019 the Office of Public Guardian has presented to nine groups with a combined total of 335 attendees.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Public Guardian at (515) 975-5084 or via email at jennifer.donovan@iowa.gov.

Sincerely



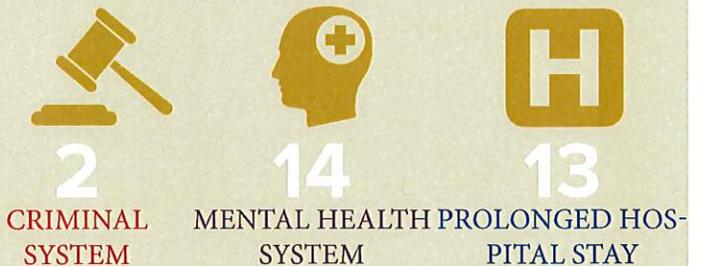
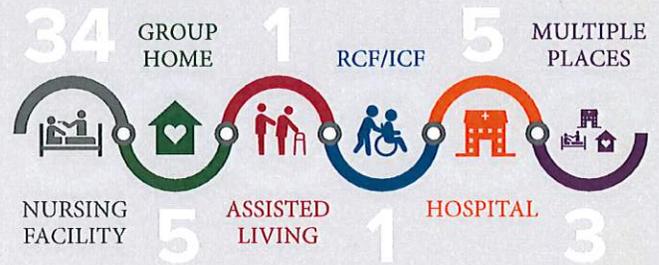
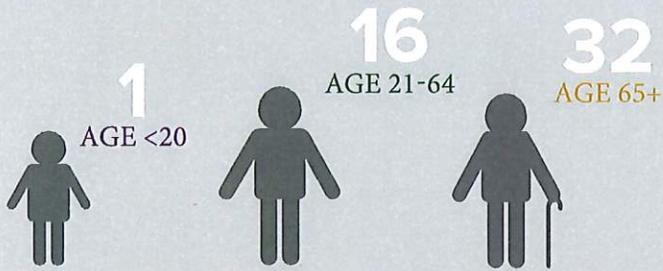
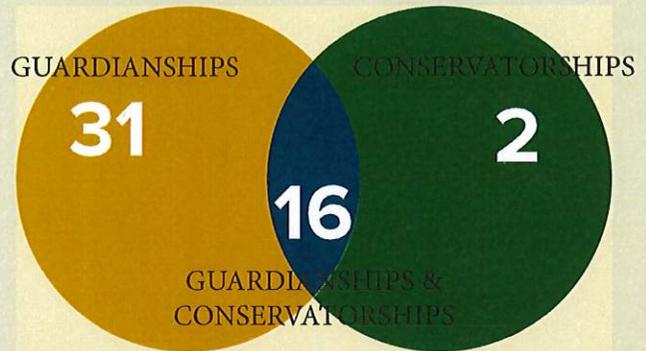
Jennifer Donovan, Public Guardian
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Office of Public Guardian Program Impact

CASES APPOINTED IN SFY 2018



IOWA JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

