

Prepared for Board of County Commissioners



# Public Guardian

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M.A., MFT, CPM, NCG

Appointed in March 2019 for a  
term of 4 years

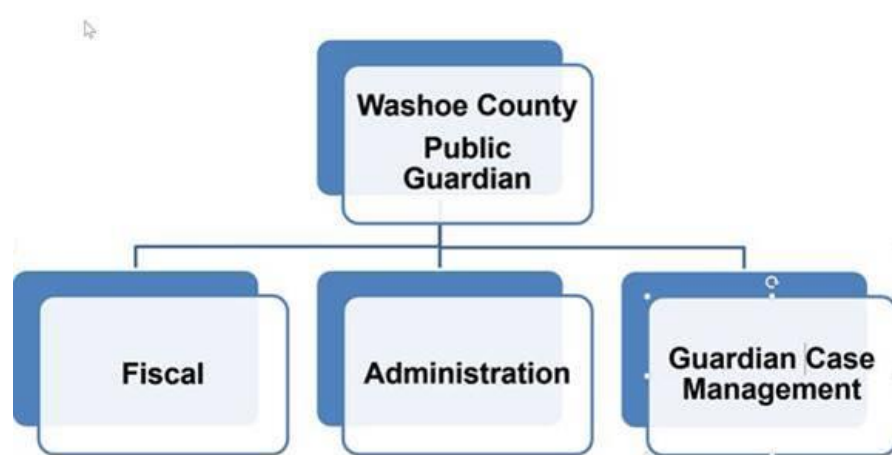
Reappointed March 2023





## Mission

The mission of the Washoe County Public Guardian's Office is to serve as guardian, by court appointment, for vulnerable individuals 18 and older who are unable to manage their personal and financial affairs, by coordinating provision of services, providing informed consents on their behalf, and protecting, preserving, and managing their assets.



20 FTE

1 Public Guardian

3 Fiscal Staff

3 Administrative Staff

11 Guardian Case Managers

2 Supervising Guardian Case Managers



## NRS 159 and NRS 253

- NRS 159 Describes the General Provisions of Adult Guardianships, Court Proceedings, Powers and Duties of the Guardian, Management of large and small estates, the Protected Person's Bill of Rights, duties of guardians to family and interested parties, and establishes the Guardianship Compliance Office.
- NRS 253 Describes the establishment of the Public Guardians, qualifications, powers and duties, and the ability for guardians to request an advance of county funds to assist in managing a protected person's estate.
- \*Many other statutes that grant guardians authority depending on circumstances.



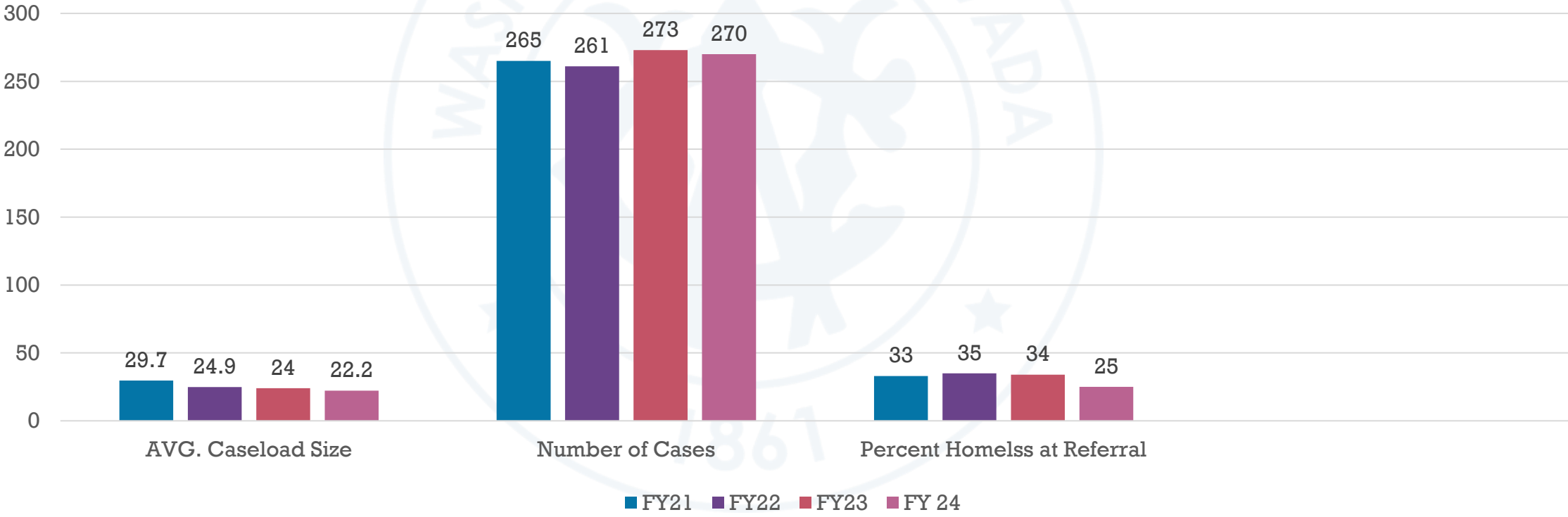
## Decisions Guardians Make

~ Where you live ~ What medication you take or don't take ~ What food you eat ~ What you wear ~ Who visits you ~ Who your medical provider is ~ What medical treatment or procedures you have – including surgeries and amputations ~ Marshall your income and assets ~ Determine how your assets will be spent ~ Inventory your personal belongings ~ Decide what will be saved and sold and what will be tossed or given to your family ~ Sell your home ~ Use those funds for your care regardless of the preferences in your will or trust ~ Apply for State or Federal benefits you may be eligible for ~ Maintain your eligibility for those programs ~ Determine how your quality of life will be enhanced ~ What happens to your pets ~ Your contact with your loved ones ~ Choose your final disposition ~



# Caseload

Chart Title

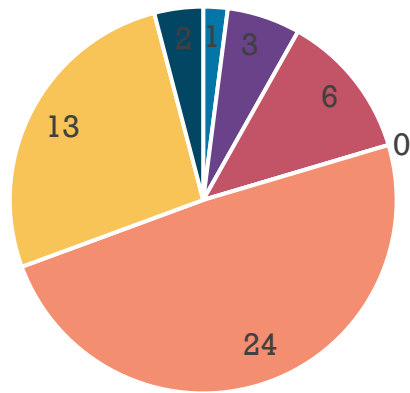




# Referrals

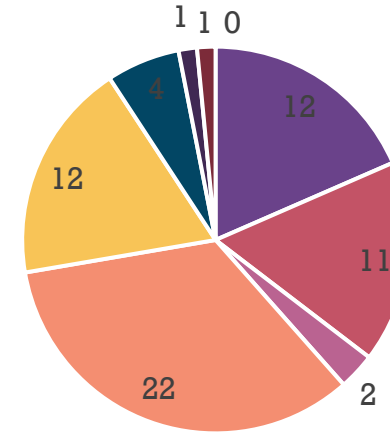
Why is this interesting?

Referral Sources FY 22



- Attorney
- APS
- Family
- Group Home
- Hospital
- District Court
- Nursing Home

Referral Sources FY 24

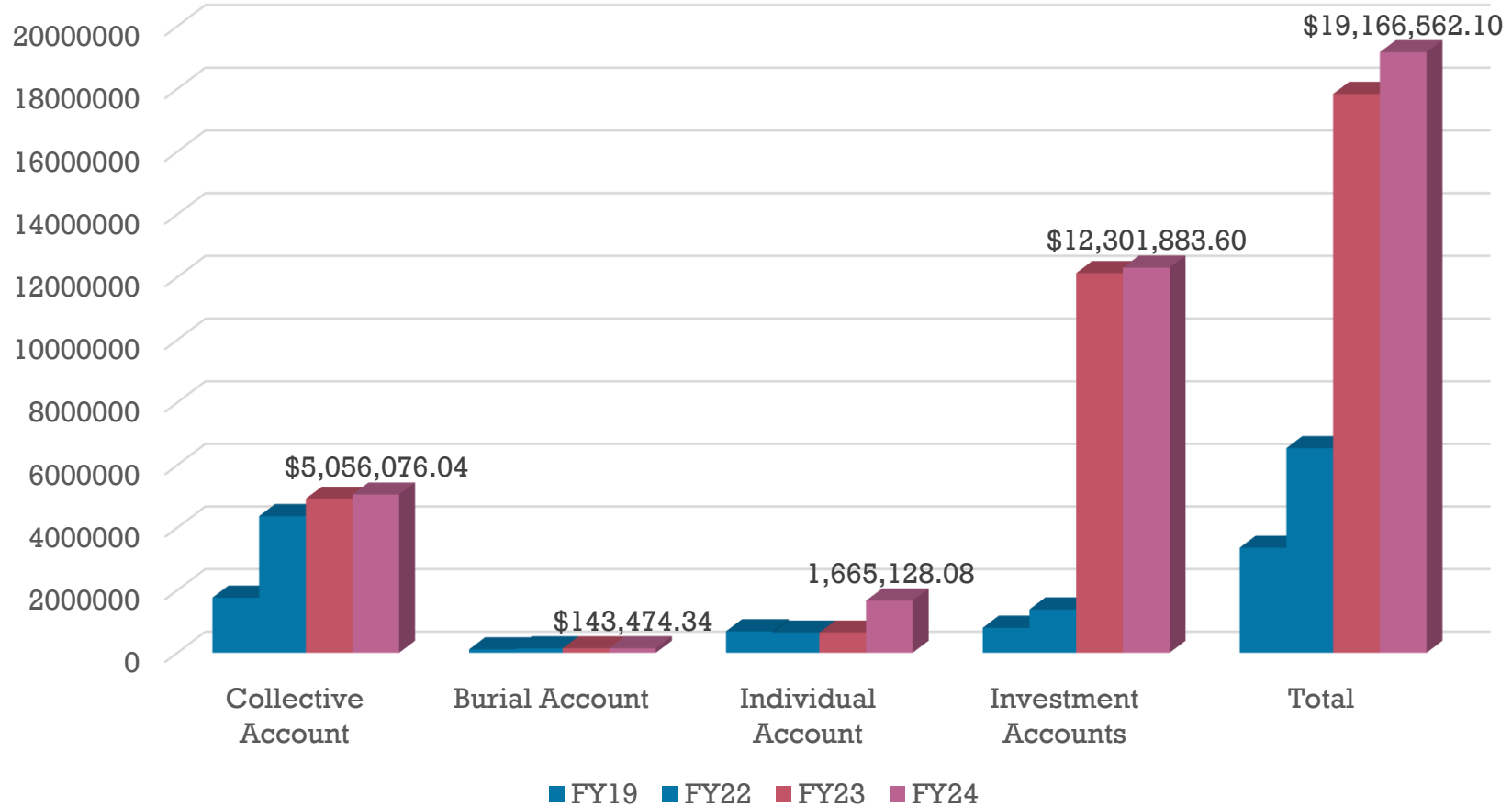


- Attorney
- APS
- Family
- Group Home
- Hospital
- District Court
- Nursing Home
- CPS
- Insurance



# Estate Management

Funds Managed for Protected Persons







# Work With Protected Persons

- Rehabilitating a home so a protected person could leave a nursing home, where the hospital placed her, and return to her home with home health in place.
- Working to find a placement for a protected person where her pet could move with her.
- Stepping into a family guardianship, navigating language and system barriers to obtain housing, employment, and services for a family.
- Discovering what brings joy to a protected person and ensuring their funds are used for that purpose, from concerts, to movies, dining out, or season passes to Wild Island
- Finding and connecting family members who have become estranged
- Investigating and referring fraud and exploitation cases to proper authorities and recouping protected persons funds when able.
- Advocating for or against medical interventions that improve the quality of a person's life.
- Finding placements where language needs are supported like ASL



# Work With The Community

- Assisting the public in understanding and navigating the world of guardianship
- Provide education about guardianship to community partners and stakeholders
- Participate in Multi-Disciplinary Teams to problem solve challenging cases in our community
- Participate in state-wide Senior Issues Response Team meeting which evaluates things like fraud, abuse, neglect, improper discharges from hospitals
- Participate in statewide improvements for court case management and education for family and friend guardianships
- Coordinate with other state and local partners on issues for vulnerable populations including isolated and unsupported seniors, people with mental illness and unhoused persons.



# Work In The Profession of Guardianship

- Added 4 Nationally Certified Guardians to our staff in the last two years
  - Reinvigorated our Internship Opportunities with UNR
- Attended, organized, hosted, and presented at the National Guardianship Association's conference
- Participate in Public Guardian Special Interest Group elevating the model we have here in Washoe County.
- Nominated and Appointed to the Board of the National Guardianship Association
  - Offers speaking opportunities
  - Advocacy on professional effective public guardianship
  - Influence national direction of guardianship



# Looking to the Future

- Strengthen Protections Against Elder Abuse
  - Support the Investigation and Prosecution of Elder Abuse Cases
  - Support cross-disciplinary training on Elder Abuse Awareness through
  - Develop a Broad-Based Public Awareness Campaign to increase awareness and understanding of elder abuse in the community.
- Housing
  - Increase supply of accessible, affordable, adaptable housing
  - Consider housing initiatives that target divorced, separated, widowed, and disabled seniors living alone. Consider housing initiatives that offer supportive housing in the 55-65 demographic.
- Advocate for the re-invigoration of the Guardianship Commission with the Supreme Court of Nevada

# Questions

Thank you!

