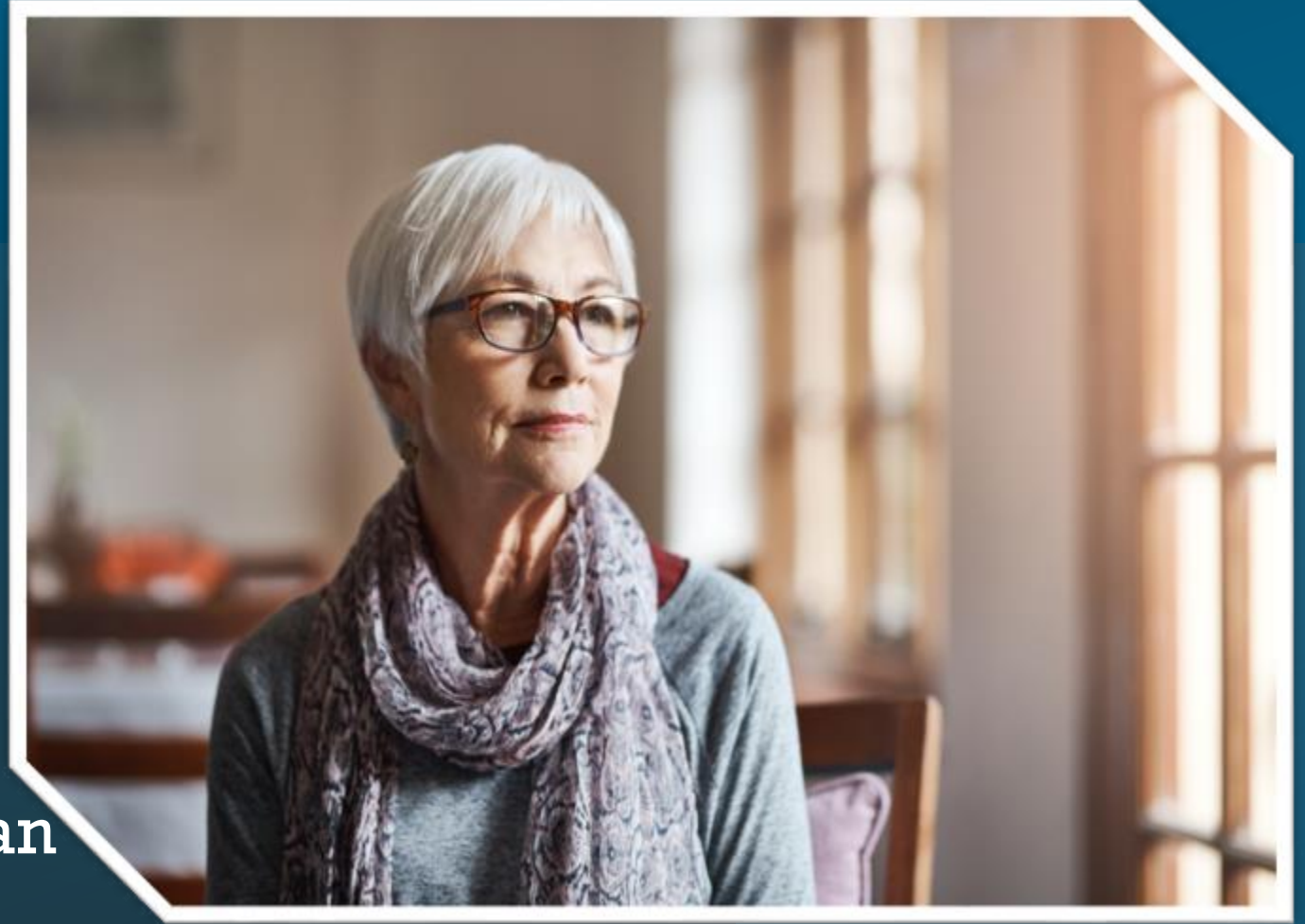




PUBLIC  
GUARDIAN



# Washoe County Public Guardian Annual Update

Tracey Bowles, M.A., MFT, CPM, NCG

## 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.



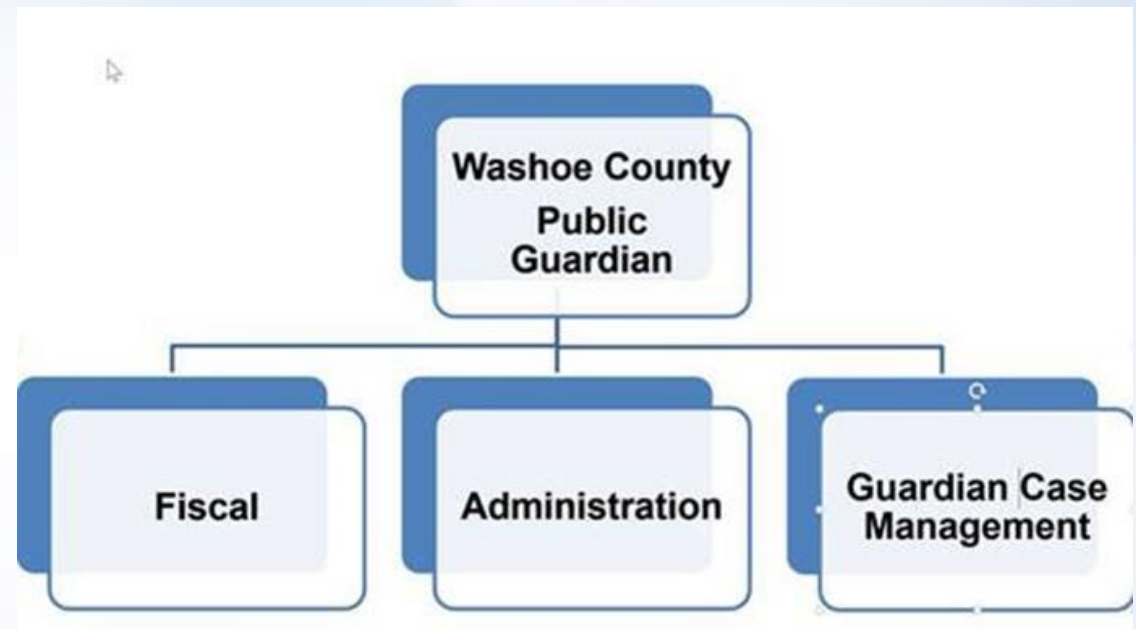
## Budget

**Expenses: \$3.09 Million**

**Revenues: \$150,000**

## 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.

# Standards and Ethics of Guardian



National Guardianship Association adopted a code of ethics in 1991 to help guide guardianship practice.



In 2000 NGA Developed 7 original standards.



In 2022, after 4 subsequent revisions, the NGA presented the current 25 standards we have today.



Includes Practical Standards and Aspirational Principles



Intentional language to imply duties, create discretion in authority, recognize mandates and prohibitions, and highlight rights of individuals.





# How to Spot A Good Guardian

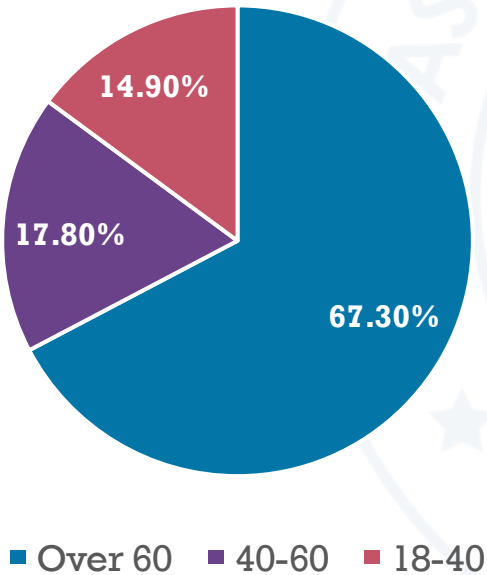
## A Good Guardian:

- Treats the person under guardianship with dignity
- Involves the person in all decision making, to the greatest extent possible
- Places the least restrictive options on the person's freedoms and rights
- Maximizes the self reliance, dignity, and independence of the person
- Respects that the money and property that is being managed belong to the person
- Adheres to the highest professional standards and ethical principles defined by the State and the National Guardianship Association



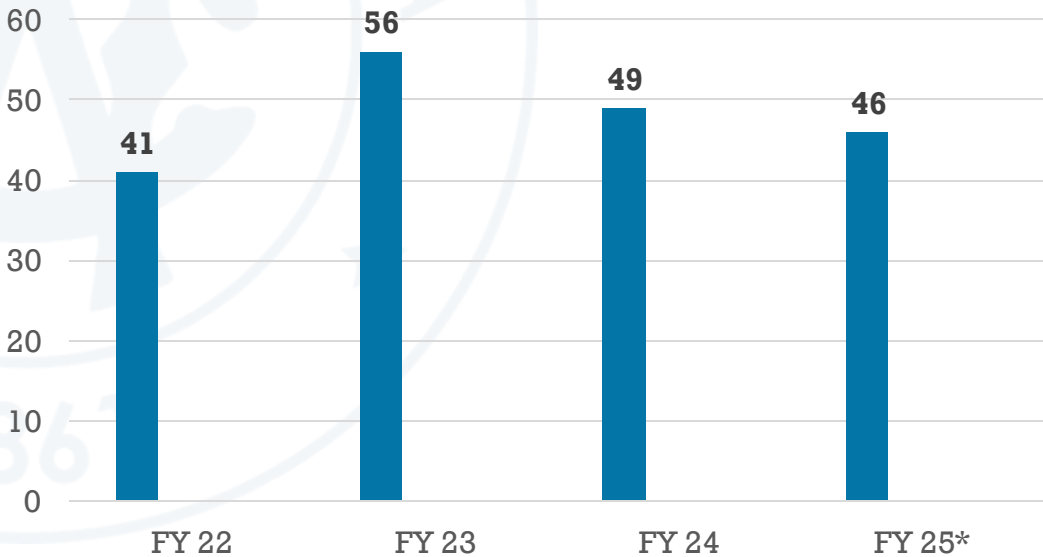
# Fun Facts

Ages of Clients

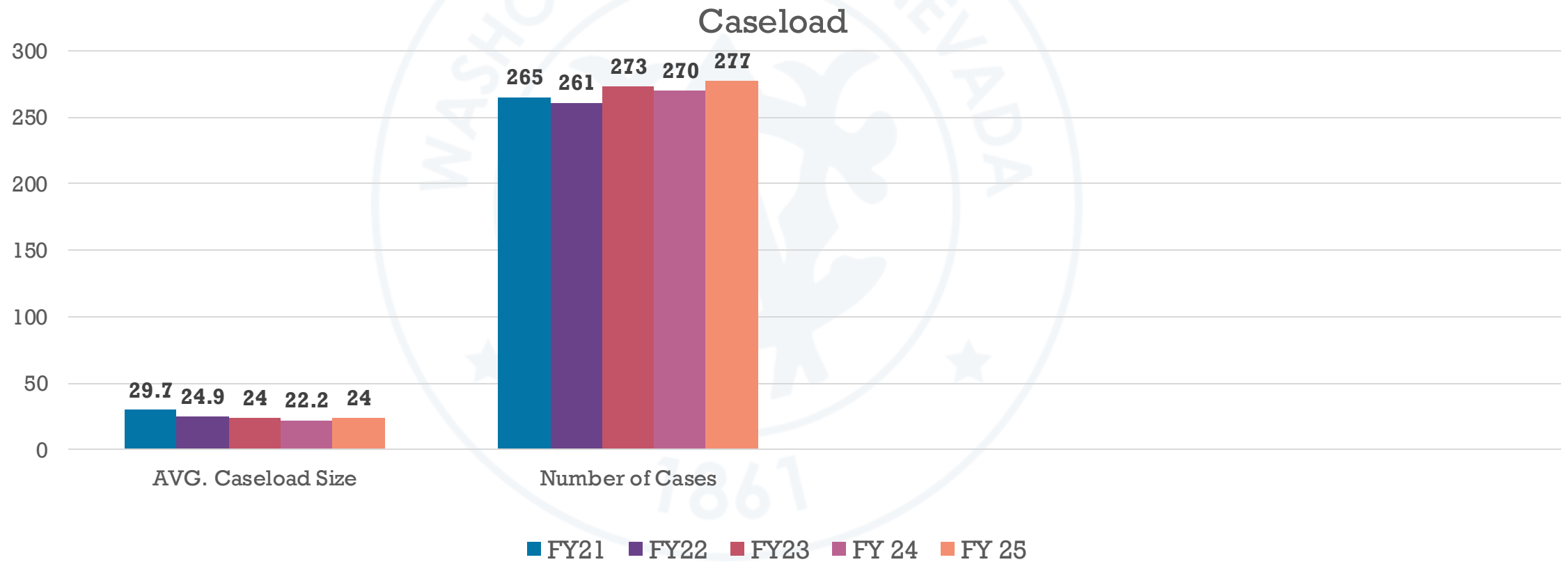


Average Length of an Active Guardianship Case: 8 years, 11 months

New Cases Per Year

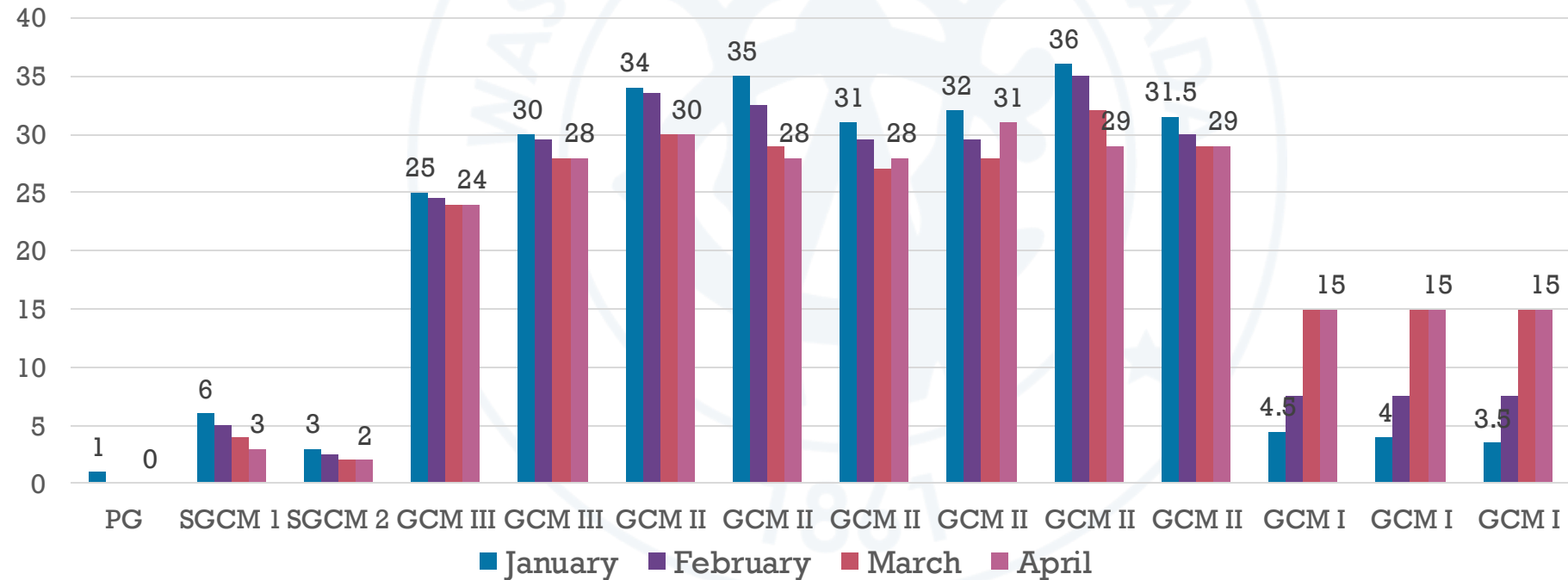


# Caseload 1:24 Ratio\* Recommended 1:20



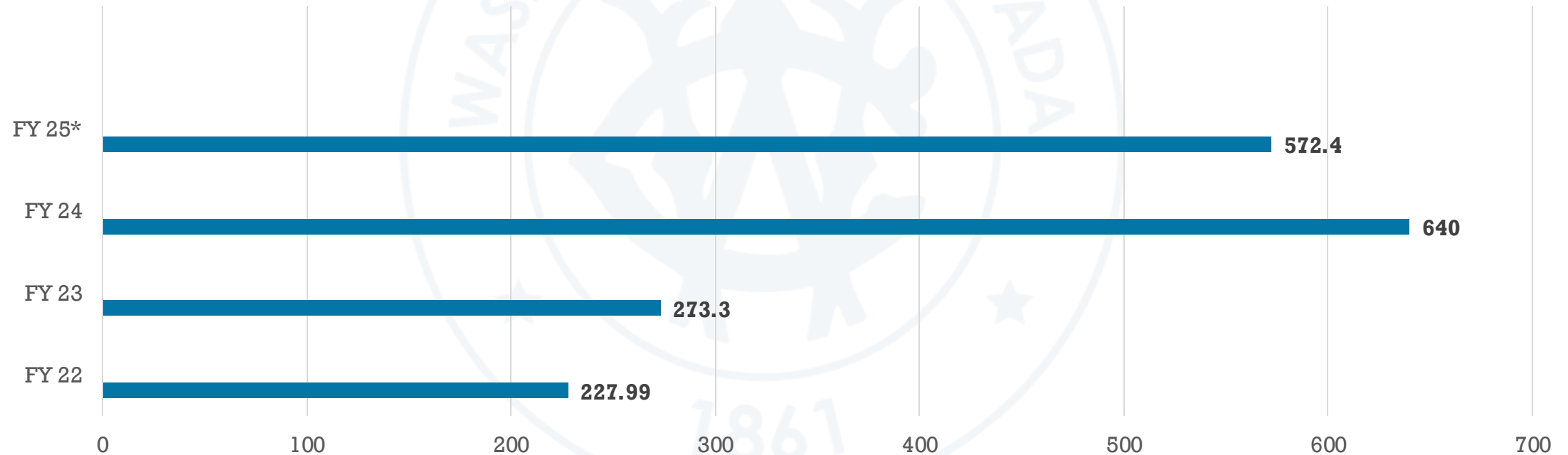


## Caseload Numbers 2025



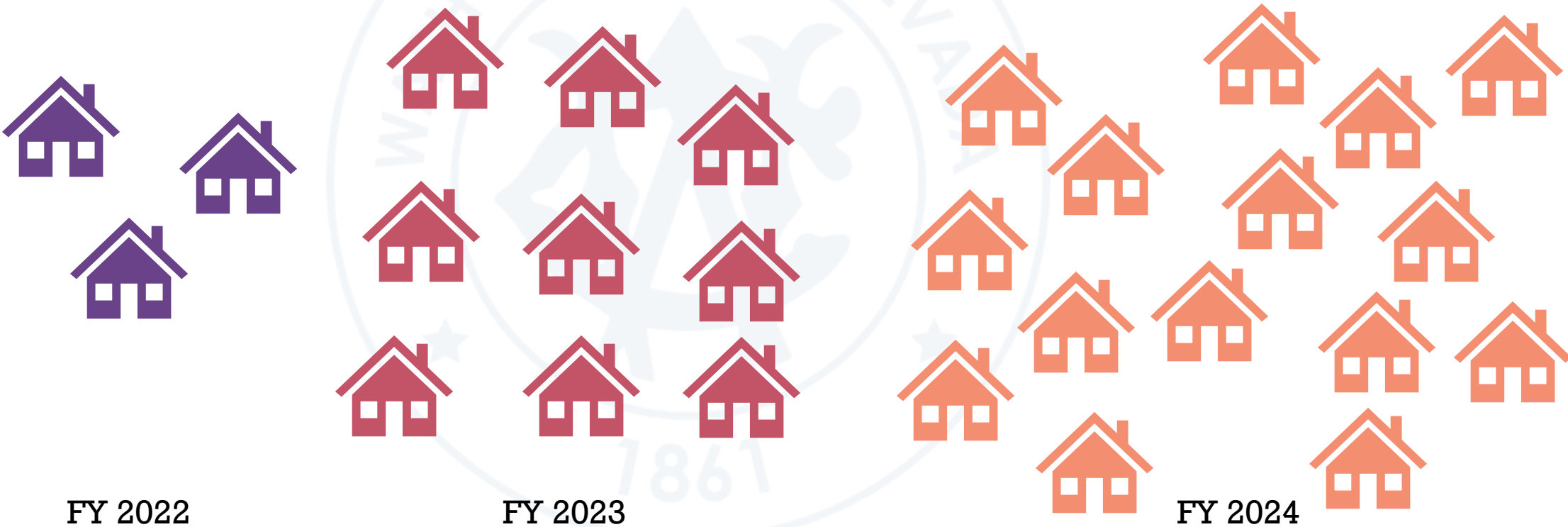
# Time Spent Managing Personal and Real Property

Time Charges in Hours



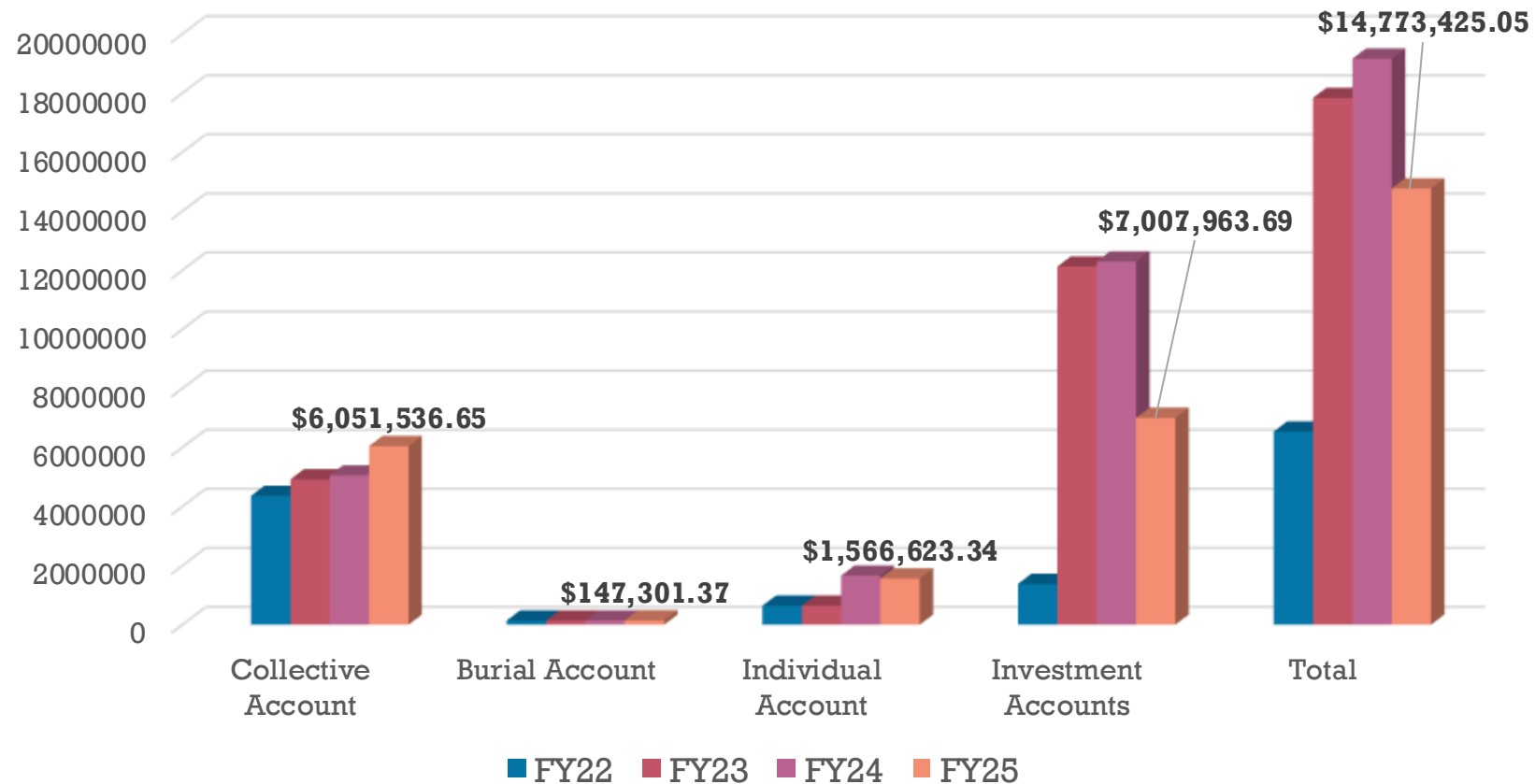


# Referred to Guardianship with Homes



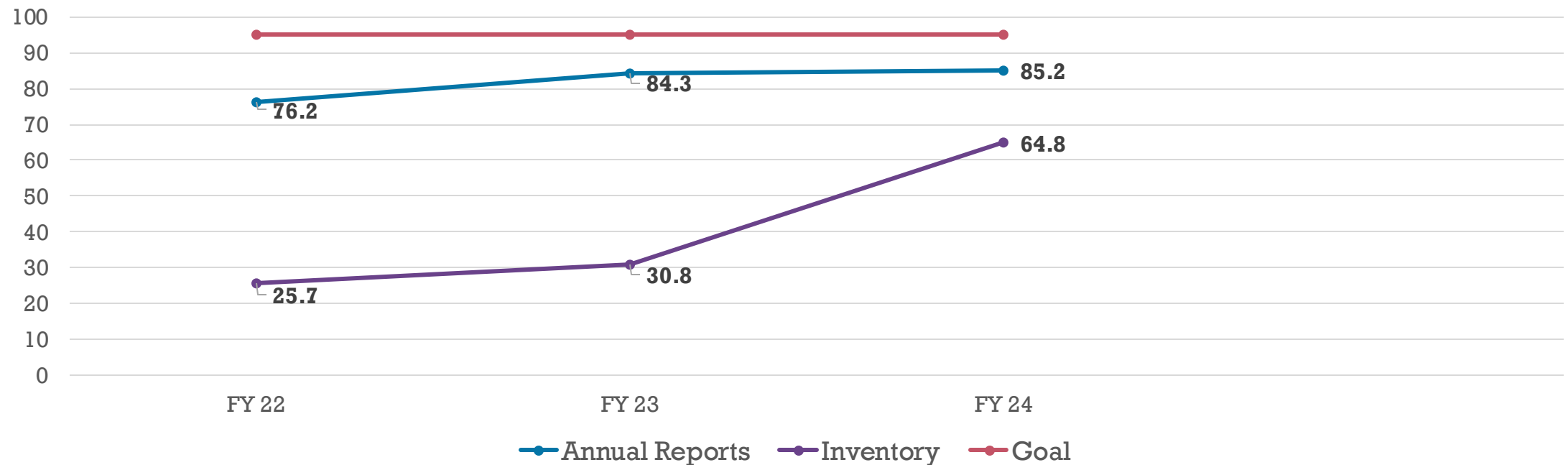
## Estate Management

### Funds Managed for Protected Persons

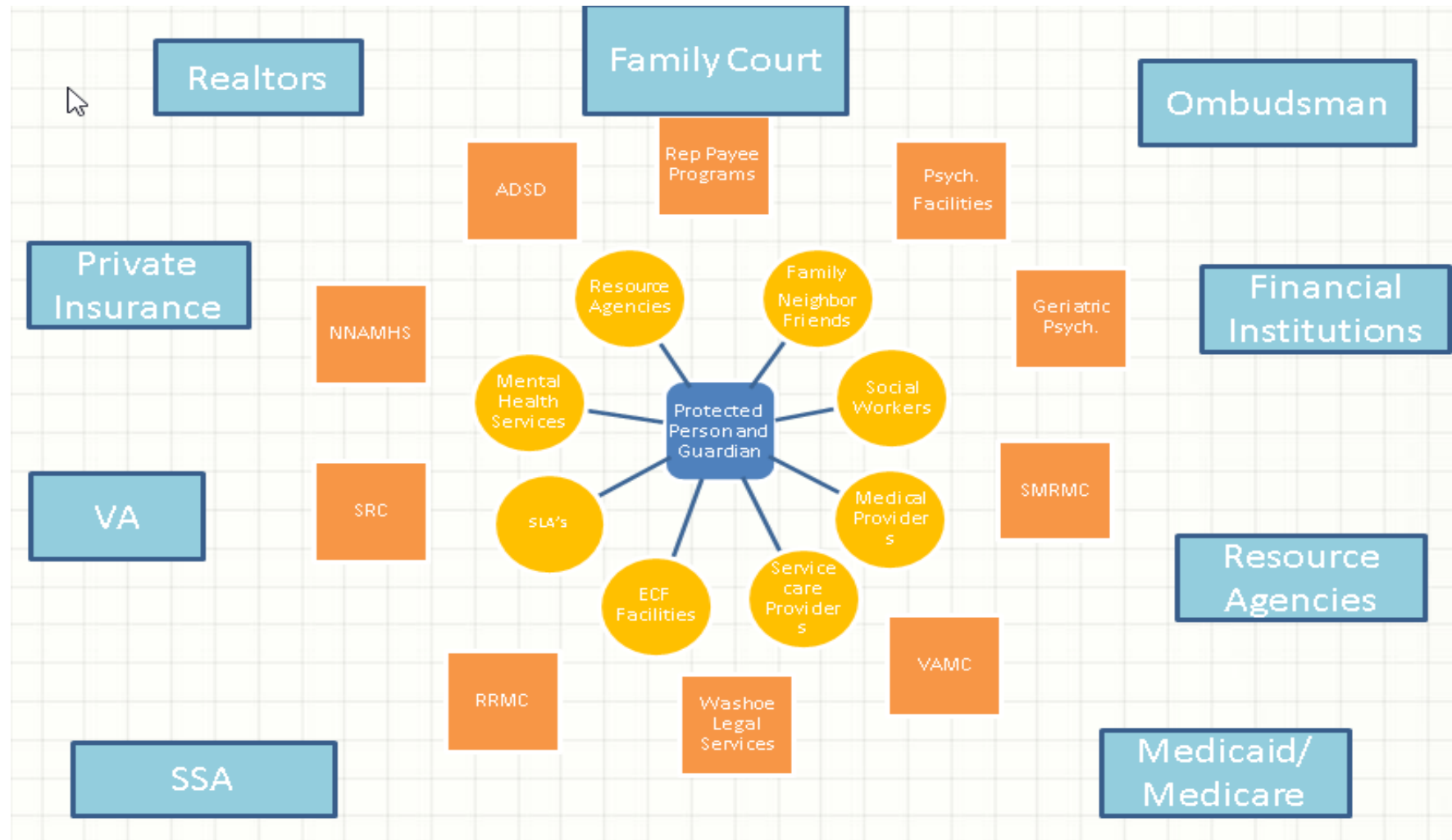


# Mandatory Reports

## On time Reporting



# Impact of Guardianship





## Collaborations

National  
Guardianship  
Association

State of Nevada  
Guardianship  
Commission

State Seniors Issues  
Response Team

Washoe County  
Multi-Disciplinary  
Team Meeting

Second Judicial  
Court Bench Bar  
Meeting

Nevada Hospital  
Association  
Discharge Planning  
Workgroup

Local Washoe  
County and State  
Agencies

Area Hospitals

REMSA (coming  
Summer 2025)

# Intern Program with University of Nevada School of Social Work



## Internal Training Academy



# Continuing Support Given Budgetary Considerations

Streamlining reporting  
and paperwork burdens  
by employing  
technological solutions  
and enhancements

Actively working cases  
toward terminations  
where applicable

Engaging private  
providers and family  
members to take over  
guardianships

Simplifying policy and  
procedures to improve  
expectations and  
increase autonomy

Support and foster  
teamwork to capitalize  
on the strengths of our  
diverse team

# 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

- Working with our city and private partners to 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.

# Questions?

Thank you!

