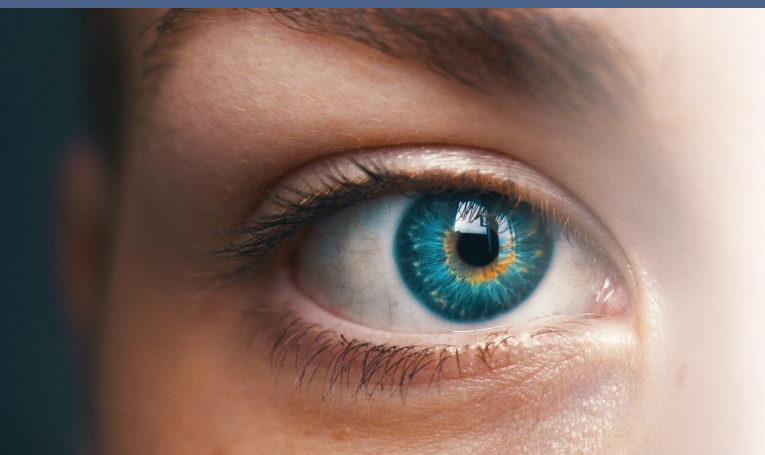


Office of Public Guardian 2025 Annual Report



Planning Ahead, Protecting with Purpose



STATE OF
NEBRASKA
JUDICIAL BRANCH
Office of Public
Guardian

A Letter from Our Director

Last year I wrote about a vision forward for the Office of Public Guardian (OPG). The vision included the unification of our team to ensure consistency and modeling of best practices in guardianship and conservatorship. The OPG is statutorily required to model best practice and each OPG team member embodies this in their actions every day. Outwardly, these actions impact private guardians and conservators, providers, communities, and most importantly, anyone subject to guardianship or conservatorship.

To continue the vision forward, the OPG has focused on what we do well to move towards putting a plan in action. The OPG performs the obvious function in serving directly as guardians and conservators of last resort when there is no one else available to do so. However, there is still work to be done. Knowing this, the OPG has implemented a pilot project to formulate a strategic plan. OPG staff, Advisory Council members, members of the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, and judges have come together to be a part of this important process.

Over the past year, the OPG has worked closely with two consultants to gather a variety of rich input and reflection from those mentioned above as well as other stakeholder groups: attorneys, private guardians/conservators, advocacy groups, and the like. The plan focuses on what OPG does well to identify how to build and expand upon support for private guardians and conservators and recruiting volunteers to serve as guardians and conservators.

The OPG has modeled best practices in guardianship and conservatorship for those we serve directly. It's now time to determine how to support others to do the same. Some of this work, we will be able to tackle through our workgroups that focus on outreach, internal research projects, and building resources for our own staff that may later be adapted for private guardians and conservators. Other work will require more resources to be able to provide the support private guardians and conservators deserve to best serve those for whom they make decisions.

We approached the strategic planning process by focusing on our Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results (SOAR). This approach allows us to identify what we do that works well and to be able to expand it into other areas, such as private guardian and conservator support as well as recruitment.

The OPG will also define a Vision and Mission statement to guide our work. Defining our work in such a manner will be helpful to our team but will also help stakeholders better understand what we do.

The energy spent building upon our success will allow us to continue to do top quality work while gathering data on what is needed to expand to better serve private guardians and recruit volunteers, so others may serve allowing OPG to truly be the last resort. Some of the data will show what resources OPG will need to do this work. Other data will show what is or continues to be beyond our scope and control, such as systemic issues of accessing needed services, etc. Guardianship through the OPG, like private guardians, is not a "magic wand" that makes people do things, stop doing things, or creates services that don't exist. However, such data is needed to ensure we are focusing on what we can change and providing information to others who have the power to change services and systems guardians navigate for those they serve.

Our team is excited to see where our vision and plan take us! We can't wait to share it with you and have our stakeholders continue to be a part of the process! Stay tuned!



Marla Fischer, JD
PUBLIC GUARDIAN

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Cover photos by Amanda Dalbjorn, Logan Weaver, CDC, SK, Nappy, and Nathan Anderson, - Unsplash.com.

Other photos Sweet Life, Georg Arthur Pflueger, and Centre for Aging Better - Unsplash.com.

Design by Traci Webber.

Our Team



Marla Fischer, JD
Public Guardian



Lisa Meyer, JD
Deputy Public Guardian



Michelle Moore*
Financial Operations
Manager



Erin Wiesen
Education and Outreach
Coordinator



Jeff Heineman, JD
Legal Counsel



Cassandra Kostal, JD
Legal Counsel



Erin Woitaszewski
Business Manager



Grace Johnson
Administrative
Assistant



Jacey Gale
Administrative
Assistant - Intake



Sarah Herrera
Administrative
Assistant - Case Aide



Shelly Ging
Administrative Assistant
- Case Aide



Stacy
Associate Public
Guardian



Jana*
Associate Public
Guardian



Glenda
Associate Public
Guardian



Marissa
Associate Public
Guardian



Martin
Associate Public
Guardian



Lisa*
Associate Public
Guardian



Missy
Associate Public
Guardian



Joe
Associate Public
Guardian



Jena
Associate Public
Guardian



Angela
Associate Public
Guardian



Ali
Associate Public
Guardian



Allen
Associate Public
Guardian



Emily
Associate Public
Guardian



Tracey
Associate Public
Guardian



Nancy
Associate Public
Guardian



Michelle
Associate Public
Guardian



Susan
Associate Public
Guardian



Rosemarie
Associate Public
Guardian



Selene
Associate Public
Guardian



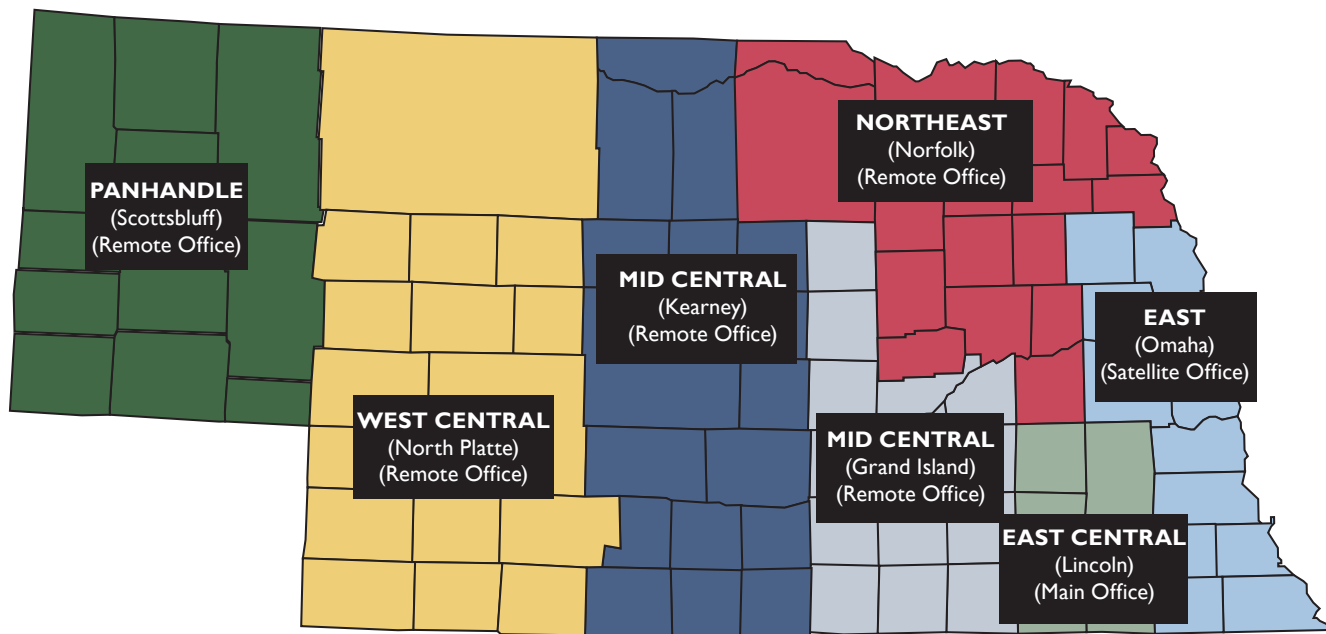
Julie
Associate Public
Guardian

The Office of Public Guardian (OPG) provides high quality public guardianship and conservatorship services to all individuals as a last resort.ⁱ The OPG models the highest standards of practice for guardians and conservators to improve the performance of all guardians and conservators in the state. Staff have extensive backgrounds in law, healthcare, social work, education, business, accounting, administration, geriatrics, psychology, and other relevant specialties.ⁱⁱ

OPG staff receive extensive initial and ongoing training, are members of the National Guardianship Association (NGA), and are eligible to seek national certification after two years of employment. Staff who attend the NGA's annual conference provide information to the entire team during monthly All-Staff meetings, enriching the working knowledge of all employees.ⁱⁱⁱ

*Three OPG staff members are National Certified Guardians (NCG) through the Center for Guardianship Certification.

Where We Are



The Office of Public Guardian's main office is located in Lincoln, with a satellite office location in Omaha. The remaining service areas are supported by staff who work from remote offices. Associate Public Guardians have assigned service areas that cover all of Nebraska's 93 counties.

PANHANDLE	
Banner	Box Butte
Cheyenne	Dawes
Deuel	Garden
Kimball	Morrill
Scotts Bluff	Sheridan
Sioux	
(1 Associate Public Guardian)	

MID CENTRAL	
Blaine	Brown
Buffalo	Custer
Dawson	Franklin
Furnas	Garfield
Gosper	Harlan
Kearney	Keya Paha
Loup	Phelps
Rock	Sherman
Valley	
(1 Associate Public Guardian)	

NORTHEAST	
Antelope	Boone
Boyd	Butler
Cedar	Colfax
Dixon	Holt
Knox	Madison
Pierce	Platte
Stanton	Thurston
Wayne	
(1 Associate Public Guardian)	

EAST	
Burt	Cass
Cuming	Dakota
Dodge	Douglas
Johnson	Nemaha
Otoe	Pawnee
Richardson	Sarpy
Saunders	Washington
(9 Associate Public Guardians)	

WEST CENTRAL	
Arthur	Chase
Cherry	Dundy
Frontier	Grant
Hayes	Hitchcock
Hooker	Keith
Lincoln	Logan
McPherson	Perkins
Red Willow	Thomas
(1 Associate Public Guardian)	

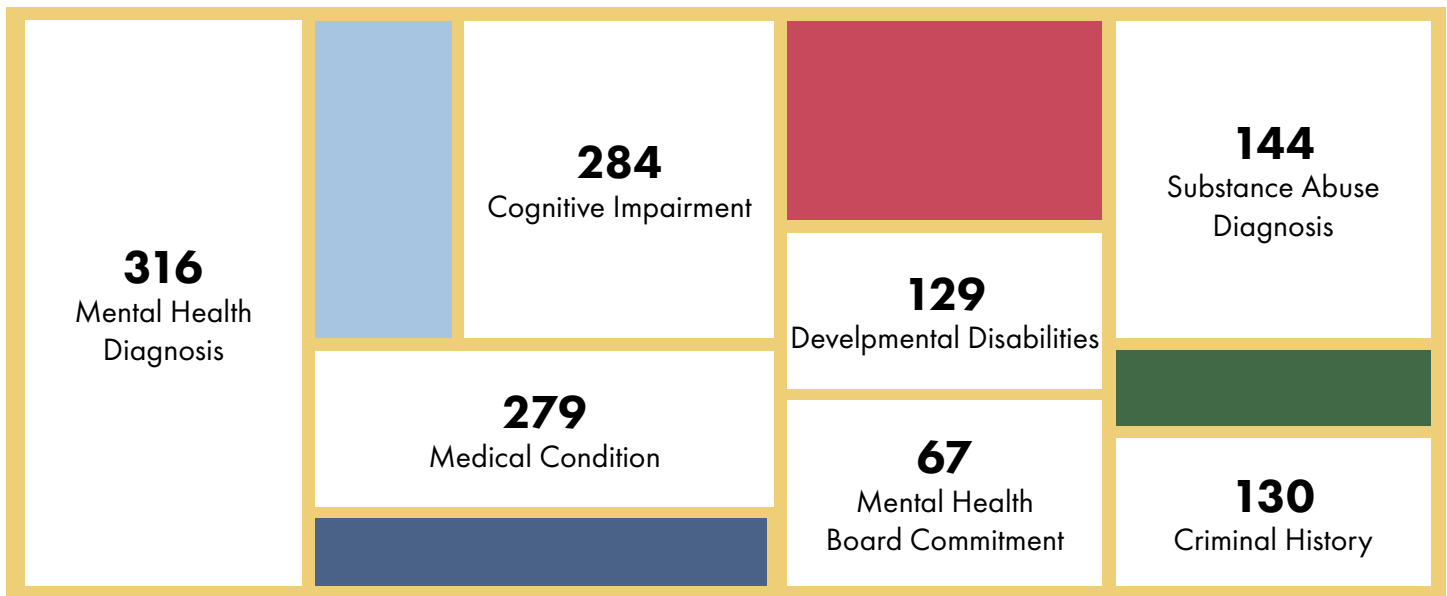
MID CENTRAL	
Adams	Clay
Fillmore	Greeley
Hall	Hamilton
Howard	Merrick
Nance	Nuckolls
Polk	Thayer
Webster	Wheeler
York	
(2 Associate Public Guardians)	

EAST CENTRAL	
Gage	Jefferson
Lancaster	Saline
Seward	
(5 Associate Public Guardians)	

What We Do

As the guardian and/or conservator of last resort, the Office of Public Guardian has a statutory obligation to model the highest standard of practice in guardianship^{iv} and strives to demonstrate how caring, effective, and responsible guardianships should be administered in Nebraska. Associate Public Guardians serve as the guardian and/or conservator for approximately 20 individuals each, providing ongoing case management that includes monthly in-person visits, regular communication with direct service providers, prudent financial case management, and response to emergency needs including consents for medical treatment or discharge to appropriate placement.

Public guardians and/or conservators are the only guardians in Nebraska statutorily required to visit their wards / protected persons in person on a monthly basis.^v Meeting the specific, distinct needs of 20 individuals requires a great deal of time, attention to detail, and faithful dedication. The OPG's staff embody those qualities, with Associate Public Guardians spending an average of 2.5 hours per individual served per week and financial and administrative support staff averaging 1.5 hours per individual served per week. Members of the multidisciplinary team provide support to Associate Public Guardians in areas of resource development, financial case management, and clerical support.^{vi}



Who We Serve

During this reporting period, the Office of Public Guardian served **369** individuals experiencing **1,349** complex medical issues and/or social conditions, an average of **4** conditions per person. Mental health diagnoses impacted **86%** of people served by the OPG. The lack of appropriate community based mental health services, specifically residential services, remains a concerning issue that makes placement and follow up care difficult to obtain.

The lack of appropriate community based mental health care is the number one cause of hospital discharge delays in the United States.^{vii} The OPG navigates these systems issues on a daily basis. The lack of individualized, goal-driven treatment in community-based settings coupled with the lack of ongoing, intensive case management across the entire continuum of care means that people are not getting the care that they need, thus reducing their chances of stability and recovery. Americans in rural areas are less likely to say that mental health services are accessible, with some traveling more than 1 hour roundtrip to access care.^{viii} Most of Nebraska's residential services, for example, are located in the eastern part of the state, thus necessitating some to move hundreds of miles to get the support they need rather than being served in their home communities.

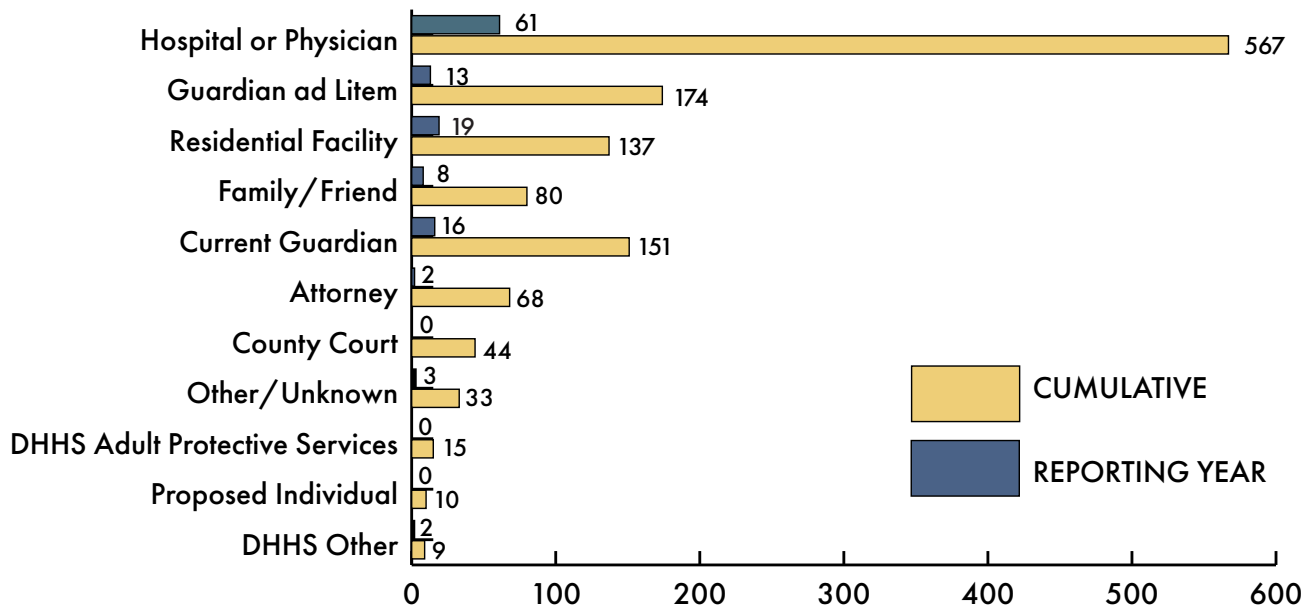
Nominations

124

nominations this reporting
year

1,278 nominations since 2015

Referral Sources



The Office of Public Guardian was nominated **124** times this reporting year. Nominations accompany a petition for guardianship alleging that an individual is incapacitated and thus nominations do not mean that guardianship with OPG is the necessary or appropriate intervention. In order for the OPG to be appointed, the court must find the guardianship to be the necessary and appropriate intervention for an individual, and that the OPG is the last resort.

During this reporting year, **50%** of nominations came from hospitals or physicians. Nominations from physicians and hospitals continue to be the highest nomination source, by far, for OPG. Well-intentioned physicians and hospitals seeking discharge to a lower level of care are likely unaware of the long-term impact this may have on a person's life to achieve the short-term hospital goal of facilitating the person's discharge.^{ix}

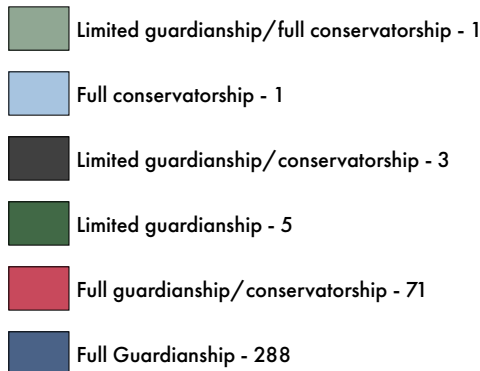
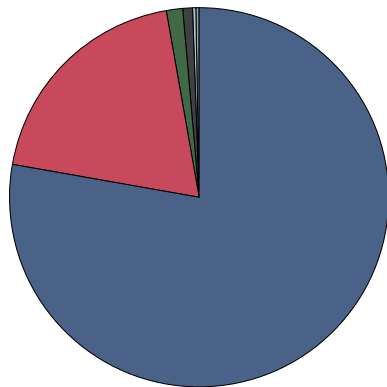
Guardianship and conservatorship impose complete control over an individual's medical care, financial affairs, and property management.^x Full guardianship should be pursued only as a last resort, with clear evidence that less restrictive options have failed or are unsuitable to meet the person's needs.^{xi} Guardianship and conservatorship should be limited in scope to meet the person's needs in the least restrictive manner possible.^{xii} Some less restrictive options are available to avoid guardianships such as powers of attorney and advance directives including mental health advance directives.^{xiii} Advance planning can avoid the need for most guardianship and/or conservatorships but requires individuals to make plans while they have capacity.^{xiv}

Case Distribution

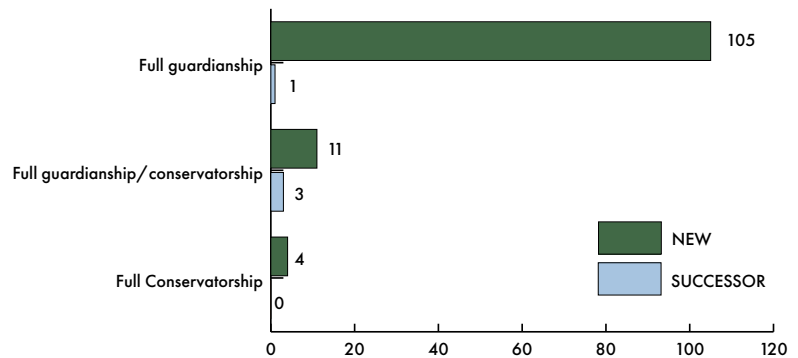
The Office of Public Guardian is statutorily required to safeguard the rights of individuals by exploring all options for less restrictive alternatives and to model the highest standards of practice.^{xv} In recognition of the deprivation of rights resulting from full guardianships, state law requires that less restrictive alternatives be explored.^{xvi} Limited guardianship and/or conservatorship powers have been ordered in just **9** of the OPG's 369 cases. For the third year in a row, **none** of this year's nominations sought a limited guardianship and/or conservatorship as a less restrictive option.

The National Guardianship Association's Standards of Practice require guardians to seek termination or restoration when less restrictive alternatives exist.^{xvii} Accordingly, Associate Public Guardians review cases on a continuous basis, and pursue less restrictive alternatives where indicated. *See page 11's Restoration of Rights section for information on OPG cases that moved away from full guardianship this reporting year.*

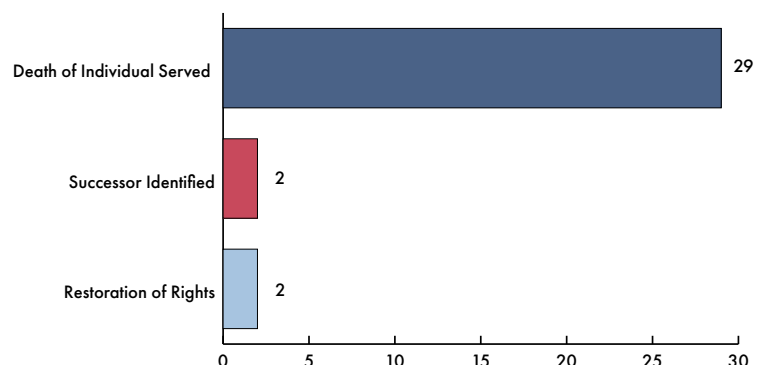
Case Types



Nominations - New or Successor



Terminations



Case Disposition

As identified in the Nominations section on page 6, the Office of Public Guardian was nominated **124** times during this reporting year. The Office of Public Guardian accepted **2** cases from the initial nomination process. *See page 9 for waiting list information including the number of cases accepted from the waiting list. The disposition of accepted cases by the end of this reporting year are as follows:*

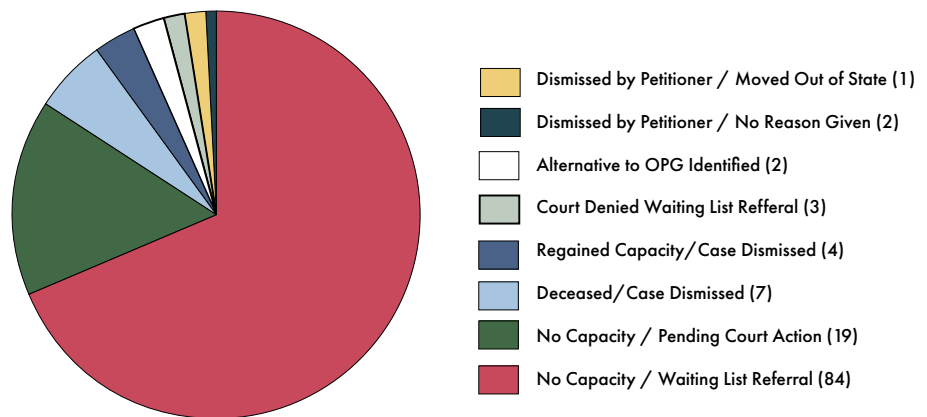
Accepted Cases

2

Alternative to OPG
Identified; OPG Not
Appointed

Of the **124** total nominations, the OPG did not accept **122** cases for the following reasons:

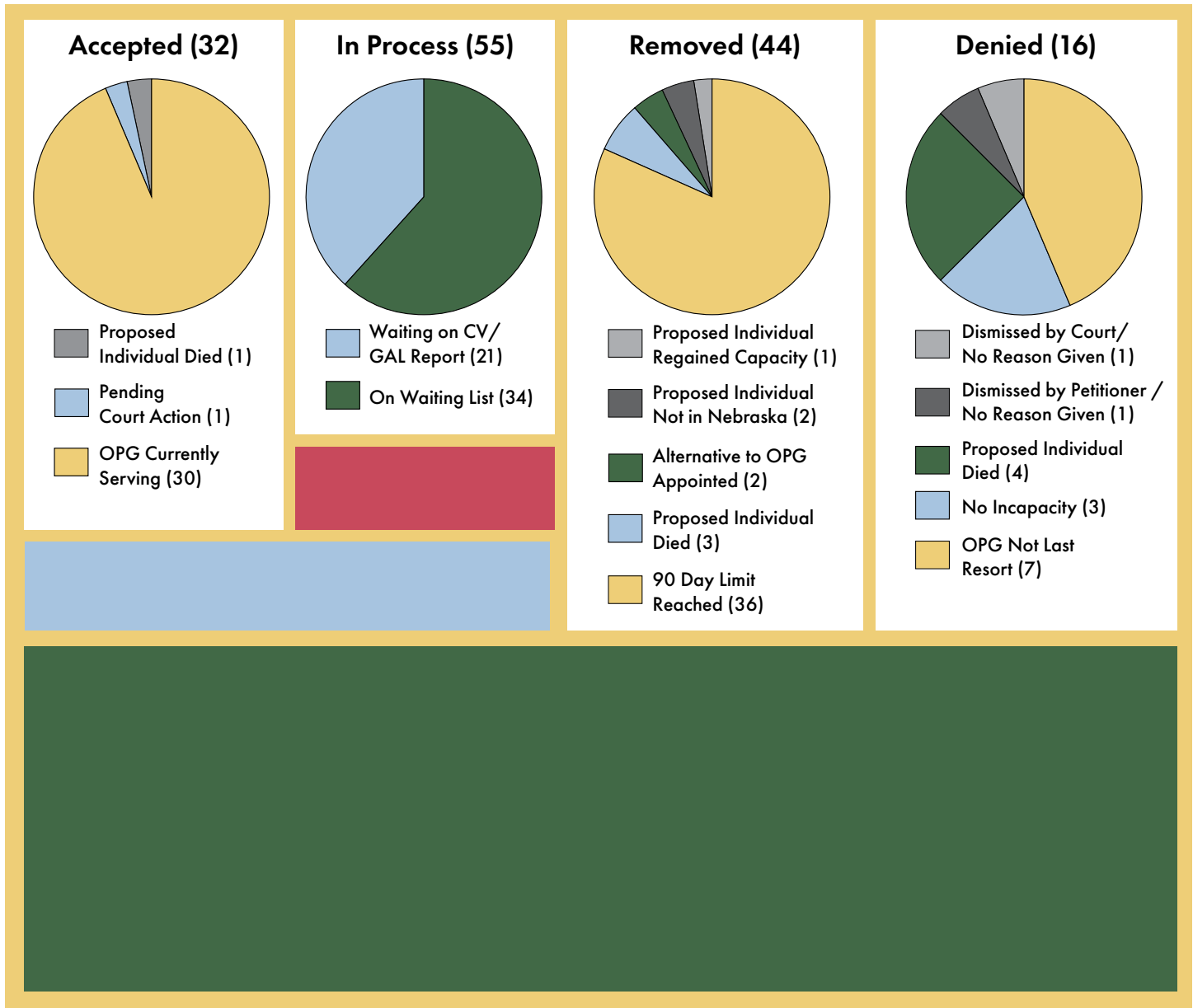
Unaccepted Cases



As described in the Nominations section, a nomination does not automatically demonstrate that guardianship is appropriate or necessary for the individual, nor does it mean the services of the OPG are necessary and/or of last resort. The Office of Public Guardian remains committed to providing high quality guardianship and conservatorship services to all individuals, accepting cases whenever capacity occurs.^{xviii}

Case terminations continue to occur at lower rates than the number of nominations coming in, leading to the OPG's inability to take more cases due to full caseloads. Staff vacancies and leaves of absence also contribute to capacity issues, requiring Associate Public Guardians to provide temporary case coverage to ensure continuity of high-quality service and care. This reporting year's staffing challenges included the resignation and replacement of 3 Associate Public Guardians and several members of staff requiring prolonged coverage for medical and/or parental leaves. Despite this year's challenges in staffing and coverage, the OPG was able to accept cases from the waiting list whenever capacity occurred.

Waiting List



The OPG accepted **32** cases from the waiting list during this reporting year. The Office of Public Guardian may accept appointments not to exceed an average ratio of 20 cases per multidisciplinary team member.^{xix} When the average ratio is reached, the OPG shall not accept further appointments.^{xx}

The OPG received **121** referrals to the waiting list (**94** new referrals and **27** re-referrals) during this reporting year. The waiting list is dynamic and evolves on a regular basis. The data shown above is representative of the entire waiting list and is not based solely on the number of referrals received during the reporting year.

When the OPG receives a Waiting list referral, it is approved or denied based on the Court Visitor/Guardian ad Litem (CV/GAL) report and other factors. For cases that are re-referred to the waiting list, the OPG continues to have difficulty obtaining updated, accurate GAL reports. Reports that contain a minimal amount of substantive information regarding the individual's current functional abilities as well as their personal, financial, and living situation, create difficulties in extracting the necessity of OPG's services and the need for guardianship as a whole. Updated GAL reports directly inform the OPG's ability to identify individuals with the most need, including their immediate and long-term needs.

Court Visitor / Guardian ad Litem

Court rules require the appointment of a Court Visitor or Guardian ad Litem (CV/ GAL) to cases in which OPG has been nominated to serve.^{xxi} The CV/GAL appointment is required to investigate the claims of the petition and to present a report to the court, demonstrating whether the person requires guardianship, whether less restrictive alternatives are appropriate, and whether anyone other than the OPG is available to serve.

The OPG provides outreach to appointed Court Visitors and/or Guardians ad Litem including the materials required for OPG nominations and waiting list referrals. The materials include training on OPG-specific court forms, blank copies of all forms, and examples of best practices.

Individuals wait longer for OPG's services when CV/GAL reports are missing crucial information necessary for OPG appointments, as noted in the Waiting list section on page 9. Detailed and thorough CV/GAL reports assist with determining who has the greatest need when an opening occurs and are crucial to the waiting list process. Thorough CV/GAL reports are also crucial "starting blocks" for Associate Public Guardians who have no prior knowledge of the individual, their situation, or their immediate needs. Becoming an individual's guardian is a labor-intensive process and requires thorough due diligence. Comprehensive CV/GAL reports are one of the main sources of initial information upon acceptance of a new case.

89

Outreach emails sent to CV/GALs

9

Alternatives to
Guardianship/OPG
Identified through CV/
GAL Process

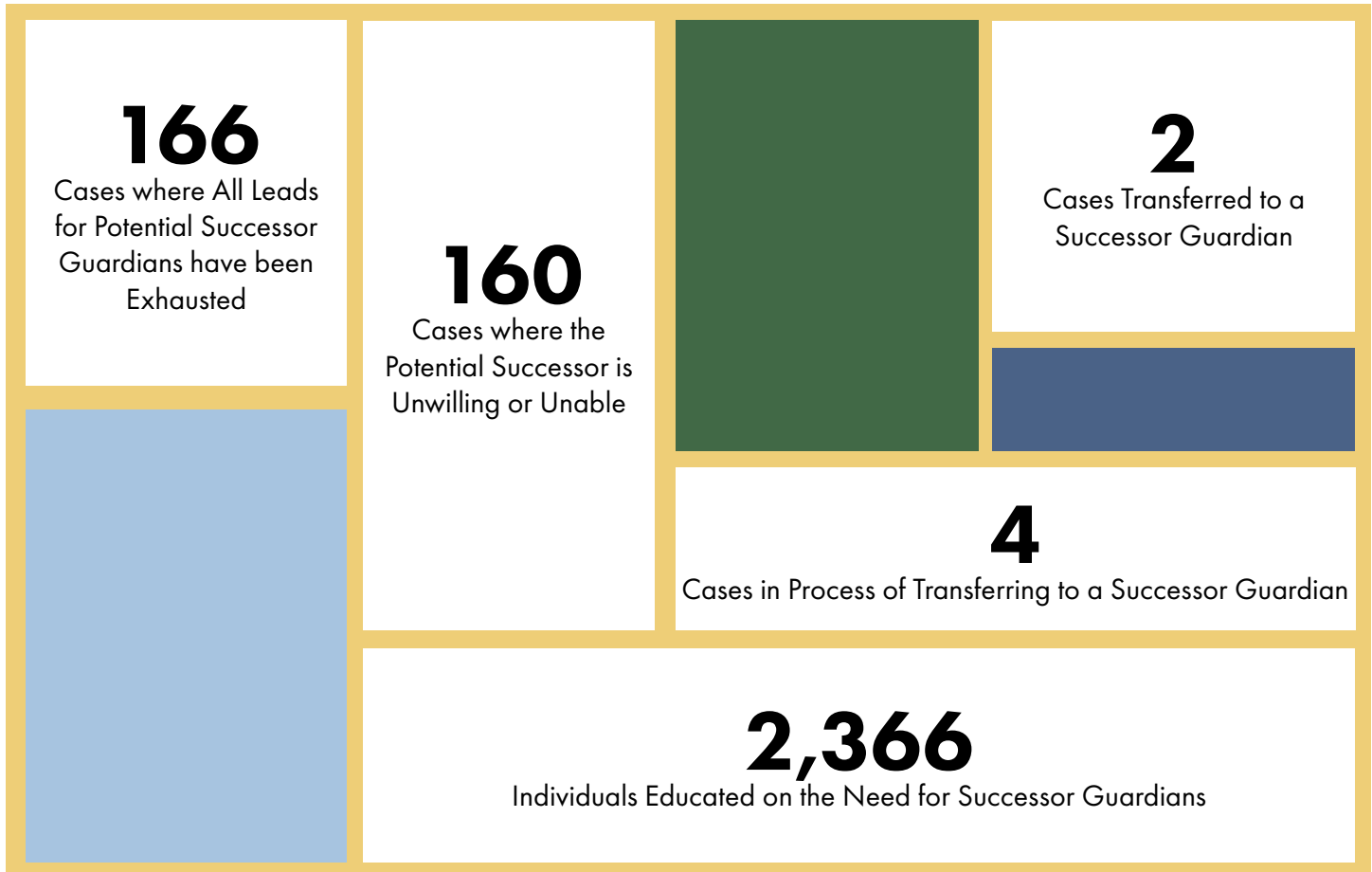
58

CV/GALs trained from 2015 to Present



Successor Guardian Efforts

The Office of Public Guardian is statutorily required to make reasonable efforts to locate a successor guardian for all individuals served.^{xxii} Providing guardianship services requires a high level of responsibility for complex decision-making including medical, legal, and financial case management decisions. The Office of Public Guardian transferred **two** cases to successor guardians this reporting year.



Restoration of Rights

Adult guardianships are often permanent, lifelong appointments.^{xxiii} While Nebraska law outlines clear procedures for the appointment of a guardian, the process of limiting a guardian's authority or restoring the individual's rights is not widely understood or utilized. Guardians should continuously evaluate less restrictive options and petition the court to restore the person's rights when possible. This practice aligns with the National Guardianship Association's Standards of Practice.^{xxiv} The Office of Public Guardian was discharged from **2** cases where a full restoration of rights was appropriate.

In addition to case management practices that pay diligent attention to situations in which a restoration of rights may be appropriate, the OPG also provides regular public outreach and training to agencies, providers, families, advocates, and other stakeholders. This free training includes the importance of limited guardianships and restoration of rights, as no one's rights should be restricted without ongoing need for such intervention.

Complex Systems Navigation

Mark

The Office of Public Guardian was appointed as guardian for Mark in 2019. Mark's health and safety needs are complex, requiring intricate coordination of care between services and systems to meet his needs.

Mark has shown remarkable resilience as he navigated significant medical, cognitive, and social challenges over the past few years. After experiencing homelessness in 2023 and managing the complex demands of Type 1 diabetes and a cognitive impairment, Mark was admitted to the hospital in severe diabetic ketoacidosis, requiring intensive care. Due to the complexity of his medical needs, including insulin-dependent diabetes, as well as a history of substance use, arranging a safe and appropriate discharge proved extremely difficult. Mark ultimately spent 677 days in the hospital, during which time he worked with a multidisciplinary team to stabilize his health, and plan for reintegration into the community. At the time of discharge, even basic needs—such as obtaining clothing, shoes, hygiene products, and essential home items—posed significant challenges and required coordinated support.

Transitioning from long-term hospitalization, Mark continues to demonstrate determination as he moves into a safer, more structured environment that includes on-site nursing capable of monitoring his diabetes and supporting his day-to-day care needs. Securing an engaging day program with nursing oversight has been another critical step in ensuring his ongoing stability and quality of life. Mark's journey highlights not only his personal strength but also the importance of comprehensive, compassionate care systems working together to support individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs.

Mark's story demonstrates that while guardianship is not a magic wand capable of creating resources and services that don't exist,^{xxv} the OPG's involvement in Mark's life provides the structure and advocacy necessary to navigate complex systems.



*Mark's name has been changed to protect the individual's identity.

Guardian Support Needs

The Office of Public Guardian provides ongoing support to private guardians/conservators through outreach and 1:1 support. The OPG cannot provide legal advice but can provide legal information and resource connections along with generalized support. Private guardians seeking legal advice are directed to contact an attorney for assistance.

The most common support needs are summarized as follows:

- Court forms and filing logistics for initial, annual, and final accountings
- Court forms and filing logistics for changes of address, notice of newly discovered assets, and other situations requiring court notification and/or approval
- Information on successor and standby guardianship processes
- Guardianship subsidy information through DHHS for minor children
- Adult Protective Services information on financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect
- Resource connections for traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Resource connections for substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness
- Information on mental health boards, protection orders, and emergency protective custody
- Support and respite resources for caregivers/family members



Legal Counsel

The Office of Public Guardian has two Legal Counsel on staff who represent the office in guardianship and conservatorship cases in accordance with the Public Guardianship Act. Legal Counsel maintain regular communication with attorneys, Guardians ad Litem, Court Visitors, court staff, and interested parties. Legal Counsel often act as an intermediary between Associate Public Guardians (APGs) and financial institutions, service providers, facilities, etc., to explain and promote proper application of guardianship laws, standards of practice, and OPG policies. Legal Counsel also monitor policy and regulation issues affecting individuals served by the OPG and conduct legal research as necessary for specific circumstances.

OPG Legal Counsel draft petitions, applications, motions, objections, and other documents for filing with the court. Legal Counsel also review all initial court forms, after-letters forms, annual reports, and final reports prepared by Associate Public Guardians. Legal Counsel attend most court hearings involving individuals served by or nominated to be served by the OPG.

The OPG retains outside counsel as necessary to represent individuals served by the OPG in a variety of matters external to the guardianship proceedings including divorce actions, child support enforcement, criminal charges, real estate transactions, personal injury, etc.

321

hearings attended by OPG Legal Counsel

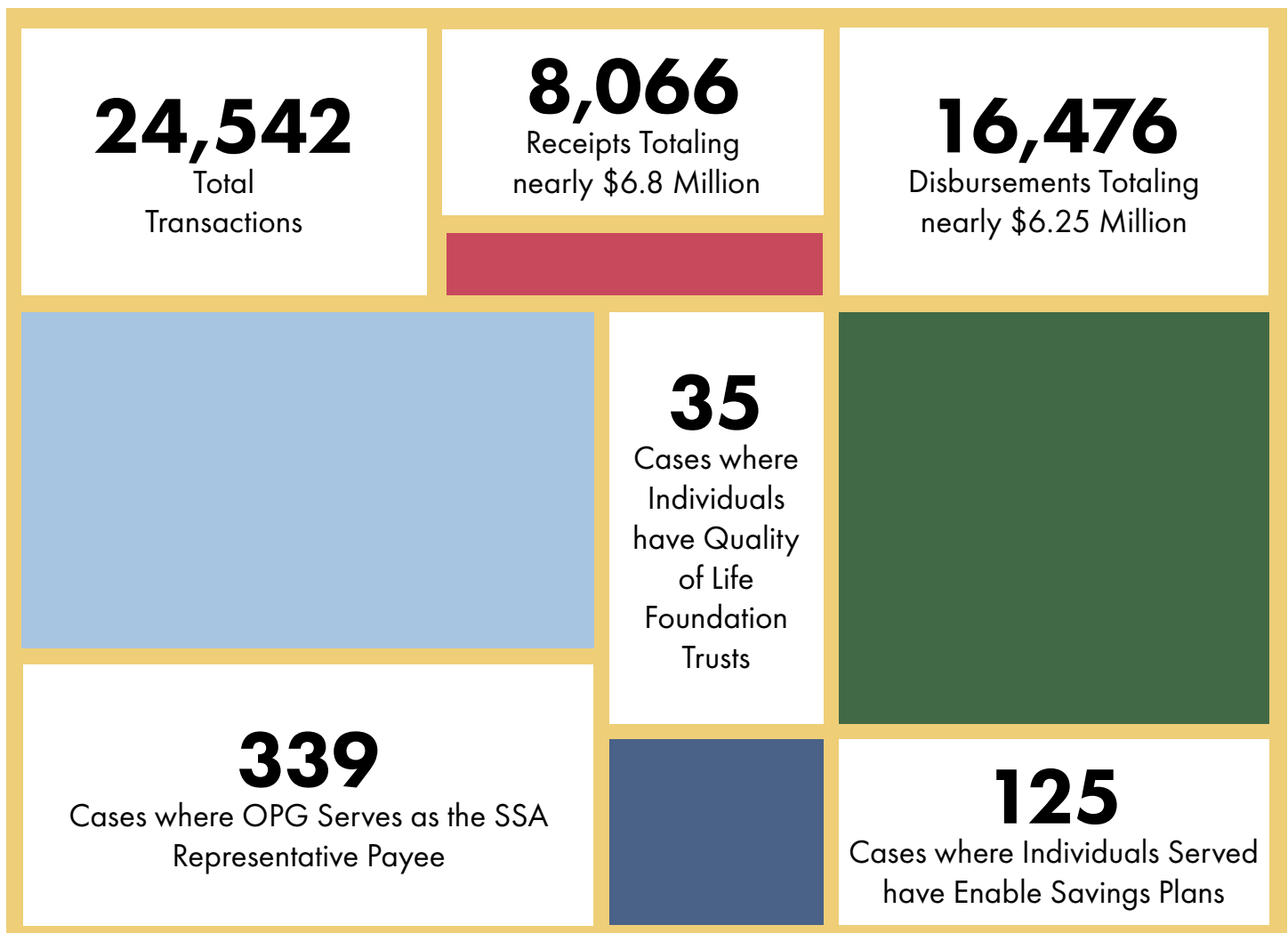


Financial Operations

The Office of Public Guardian's Financial Operations team is responsible for the oversight and management of all assets and property owned by individuals served. An individual's income, assets, property, and benefits come from a variety of sources, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans benefits, state benefits, and wages. An individual's monthly bills are paid timely and accurately through the OPG's budgeting process. The Financial Operations team is staffed by a Financial Operations Manager and a Business Manager, who collaborate with Associate Public Guardians and other members of the OPG's multidisciplinary team. The web-based case management system, EMS, continues to support the OPG in managing the finances of individuals served including receipts, disbursements, and records maintenance for each person served.

Associate Public Guardians and the Financial Operations Manager continue to spend significant amounts of time attempting to identify, secure, and appropriately control assets from banks and other financial institutions who, despite being presented with certified Letters of Guardianship and/or Conservatorship, refuse to provide statements or transact business. The Office of Public Guardian has a fiduciary responsibility to the people it serves, and banks who refuse to cooperate with court orders place individuals subject to guardianship at risk of not having their bills paid. These ongoing access issues have been highlighted in each of OPG's Annual Reports from 2017 to present.^{xxvi} The OPG continues to attempt to work towards solutions with these entities for the best outcome for the people it serves.

The Public Guardianship Act and related court rules require the use of a sliding fee scale for payment of guardianship fees with court approval. If the individual does not meet criteria, or if they would experience a hardship because of guardianship fees, no fee is charged. The Office of Public Guardian collected fees from 141 individuals this reporting period, totaling \$63,695.00.



Private Guardian Education and Support

Education

The Office of Public Guardian (OPG) provides training and support to new guardians and/or conservators in Nebraska. During this annual reporting year, the OPG provided education to **1,485** people serving as guardians and/or conservators for children and incapacitated adults.

The migration to a new online platform in 2023 has streamlined and improved the user experience. Significant improvements include a drastic reduction of payment processing time, immediate access to the course, immediate access to the certificate upon completion of the course, and the ability to use any internet connected device. What used to take a minimum of 10 business days to achieve can now be completed in just over 3 hours at a cost of \$20 per person (a savings of \$15 per person).

96%

of guardians are serving
without compensation

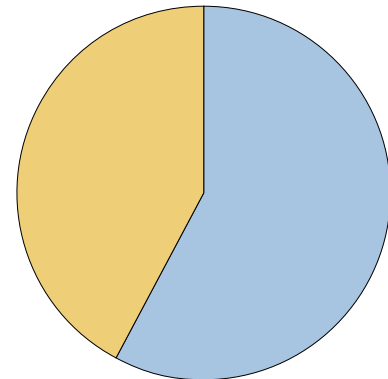
65%

of guardians
are women

94%

of guardians felt prepared to
serve after completing G/C
Education coursework

Private Guardian Case Distribution (based on post-course survey)



Guardians of Minor Children (42%)
Guardians of Incapacitated Adults (58%)

Support

The Office of Public Guardian provides ongoing support to private guardians/conservators upon request outside of the initial training process. The OPG assists with general resource connections, court forms, and other information. OPG staff continued to provide 1:1 support and information to private guardians via phone and email, with **132** documented instances of support provided throughout the reporting year. In addition to the documented instances, the Office of Public Guardian fields multiple calls on a daily basis seeking basic information and resources. *See page 13 for a summary of the most common support needs relayed to OPG staff.*

Outreach efforts also continued this year with regular speaking engagements, support calls with provider agencies, and support calls with private guardians. Training sessions were provided at the agency and community group levels in Lincoln and Omaha.



Scan for OPG
Facebook Page



Scan for OPG
Webinars

Pilot Project Updates

The Office of Public Guardian is statutorily required to support private guardians and conservators and to recruit private guardians and conservators.^{xxvii} While the OPG has been able to do this on a smaller scale, the OPG has limited staffing, time, and resources that prevent these areas from being implemented on a larger scale.

Initial Reports

Last reporting year, the OPG's Guardian Support pilot provided an initial report to the OPG and State Court Administrator on the needs of Nebraska guardians and recommendations for executable actions to move towards greater private guardian/conservator support. The OPG's Guardian Recruitment pilot was in the process of providing its initial report, finalized in February of 2025.

The OPG continues to work with two independent contractors on these pilot projects. Key work during this reporting year includes the finalization of survey reports on the status of guardianship in Nebraska, and a survey of volunteer recruitment practices related to guardianship. Both reports recommended further study of the issues including a survey of Nebraska's guardianship landscape from all stakeholders.

Survey and Focus Groups

The OPG's pilot contractors developed a stakeholder survey and distributed it to private guardians/conservators, judges, attorneys, community service providers, advocacy organizations, and other parties that interact with the guardianship and conservatorship system in Nebraska. The contractors then led focus groups to obtain more detailed information from stakeholders. Feedback from survey participants and focus group attendees aligned with the OPG's timeline to engage in a strategic planning process.

Strategic Planning

As anticipated and reported in last year's Annual Report, the outcome of both pilot reports and the survey/focus group process led to the initial stages of a strategic planning process. The OPG continued to work with both contractors through the end of this reporting period on planning a retreat for OPG staff, Advisory Council members, County Court Judges, and several members of staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. The retreat was held in early November 2025 and the strategic plan shall be finalized by the end of calendar year 2025 with a goal to implement by the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2026.

Advisory Council

The Office of Public Guardian's Advisory Council meets quarterly to assist the Public Guardian in carrying out the Public Guardianship Act.^{xxviii} The OPG Advisory Council consists of professionals from a variety of disciplines, including law, social work, mental health, aging, developmental disabilities, and other related fields.

Members of the Advisory Council are appointed by the State Court Administrator and serve three-year terms.^{xxix} New members appointed during this reporting year include Lorie Thomas, a behavioral health professional from Omaha, Kristen Larsen, a developmental disabilities' professional from Lincoln, and Laura Tobiassen, a Clerk Magistrate from Minden.



Corey Steel
State Court
Administrator



Dianne DeLair, JD
Attorney
(Council Co-Chair)



Lisa Line, JD
Attorney
(Council Co-Chair)



Hon. Todd Hutton
County Court
Judge



Julie Masters, PhD
Professor of
Gerontology



Gina Mack
Adult Protective
Services



Julianne M. Spatz
Attorney



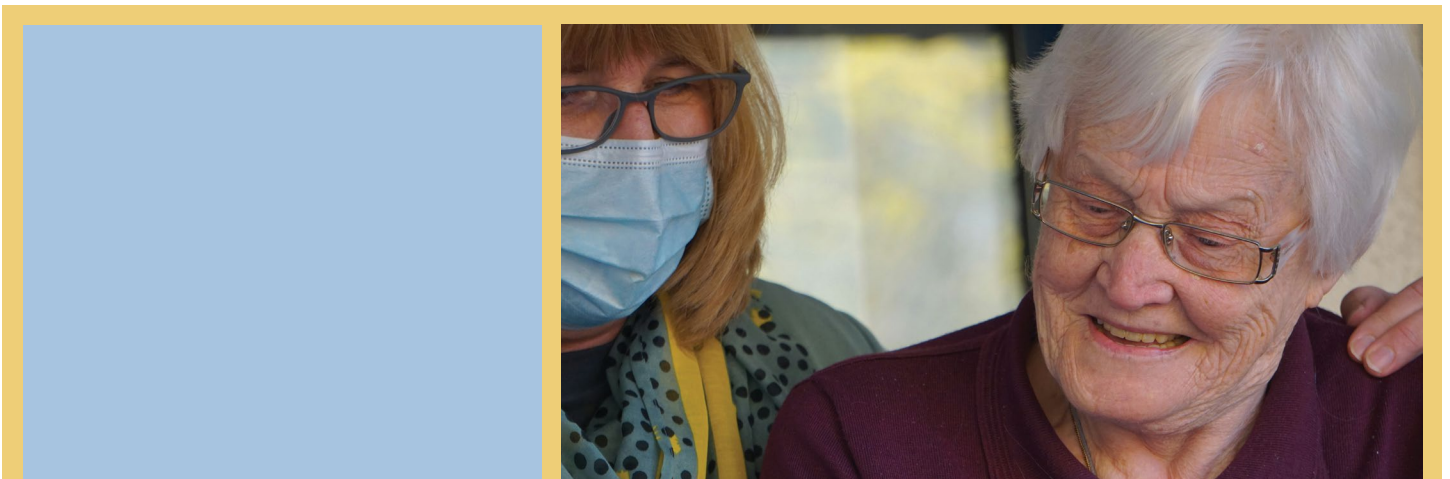
Lorie Thomas
Region 6
Behavioral
Healthcare



Kristen Larsen
Nebraska Council
on Developmental
Disabilities

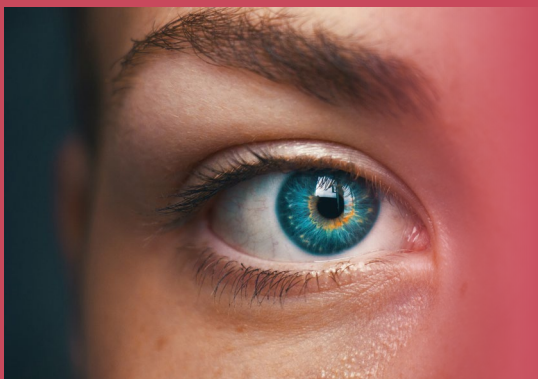


Laura Tobiassen
Clerk Magistrate



Endnotes

- i Neb. Rev. Stat. [§§ 30-4105\(8\), 30-4115\(1\)\(b\)](#).
- ii Neb. Rev. Stat. [§ 30-4104\(2\)](#).
- iii [National Guardianship Association, Standards of Practice \(2022\)](#).
- iv Neb. Rev. Stat. [§ 30-4105\(8\)](#).
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STATE OF
NEBRASKA
JUDICIAL BRANCH

Office of Public
Guardian

Office of Public Guardian
1540 S. 70th St. Ste. 202, Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: 402.471.2862 | Fax: 402.471.2878
Email: nsc.publicguardian@nejudicial.gov