



Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

**GOVERNOR
Pat Quinn**

**DIRECTOR
Dr. Mary L. Milano**

**CHAIRMAN
Saul J. Morse**

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Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

Mission Statement

The Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission safeguards the rights of persons with disabilities by providing public guardianship services, legal representation and a process to investigate alleged rights violations.

Vision

As a recognized leader in the human services area, the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission will ensure access to necessary guardianship and advocacy services for Illinois' citizens with disabilities. The agency will be defined by its commitment to quality service provision by well-trained professional staff, its dedication to increasing public awareness of disability issues and its active role in advocacy for legislation and processes that have a positive impact on the agency, its services and its clients.

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In a society which values self-reliance, economic indicators of personal success and the innate ability to conform to expectations, those who take on the State's responsibility to protect the rights, advocate for the possibilities and serve as the last resort of defense for those in our communities who are disabled and often devoid of resources, face constant challenges with little expectation of recognition.



In this, a year which has seen perhaps the worst and yet the most hopeful as well in government service, and our 29th year as an agency of the State of Illinois, I ask you to join me in thanking the countless number of staff, volunteers, Commissioners and others who perform and support the work of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission.

Our three programs, the Office of State Guardian, the Legal Advocacy Service, and the Human Rights Authority, provide valuable support and services to thousands of persons with disabilities each year. By supplying legal representation to those who have no other alternatives from our system, by assuming guardianship for adults with disabilities who are without family, means or options, and investigating allegations of human rights violations by those otherwise entrusted to provide care and services to the vulnerable, the Commission is a leader in serving Illinois through the services of its most at risk citizens.

The Commission's work takes it throughout the State, with its caseworkers serving and visiting clients in approximately two thousand different residential settings in almost every Illinois county. Its attorneys provide vigorous advocacy and legal services of a consistently high quality for persons facing civil commitment. Its Human Rights Authority volunteer members and supporting professional staff work to improve the lives of persons with disabilities, to preserve their rights and to interface with providers in a non-litigious context in virtually every care setting in Illinois.

Its staff also work vigorously and in concert with legislators, other governmental and not-for-profit agencies, and professional organizations to give voice to the needs and aspirations of those we serve and those who stand with them through the development and support of the sound public policy and best practices which are the goal of Illinois' government.

In these efforts we are particularly proud to point to the bi-partisan leadership of our legislator/Commissioners, Senators Don Harmon and Ira Silverstein, and Representatives Kathy Ryg and "Skip" Saviano.

The Commission has traditionally been a leader in educating Illinois citizens and consumers about critical matters that affect a population beyond those it may directly serve. It continues to fulfill this role as it educates people and communities about the need for carefully drawn health care directives, and the availability of alternative means of health decision-making such as the Health Care Surrogate Act. It further has played a key role in suggesting stronger and better mental health and guardianship laws and its staff's efforts have produced a wide body of case law used daily by legal practitioners. In so doing, it enhances the quality of life and its possibilities under the most difficult of circumstances for all the citizens of Illinois.

With the leadership provided by Governor Quinn and members of the General Assembly, Illinoisans should have every confidence that the Commission will continue to fulfill its mission on their behalf effectively, compassionately and with the passion for excellence for which it has become known throughout the country.

Dr. Mary L. Milano
Executive Director

About the Commission. . .

Created in 1979, the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission protects the rights and promotes the welfare of persons with disabilities. A board of eleven commissioners, who serve without compensation, govern the agency. Three program divisions in nine regions throughout the state carry out the responsibilities of the Commission:

The Office of State Guardian (OSG) Appointed by the courts as a guardian of last resort, the OSG provides case services and money management to more than 4,965 persons with disabilities.

The Legal Advocacy Service (LAS) LAS represents persons with disabilities at commitment hearings and makes counsel available to enforce the rights of those with disabilities under the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

The Human Rights Authority (HRA), with the assistance of a team of volunteers, conducts investigations of alleged rights violations by providers against people with disabilities. Additionally this program area works closely with providers to help resolve rights issues.

General Overview

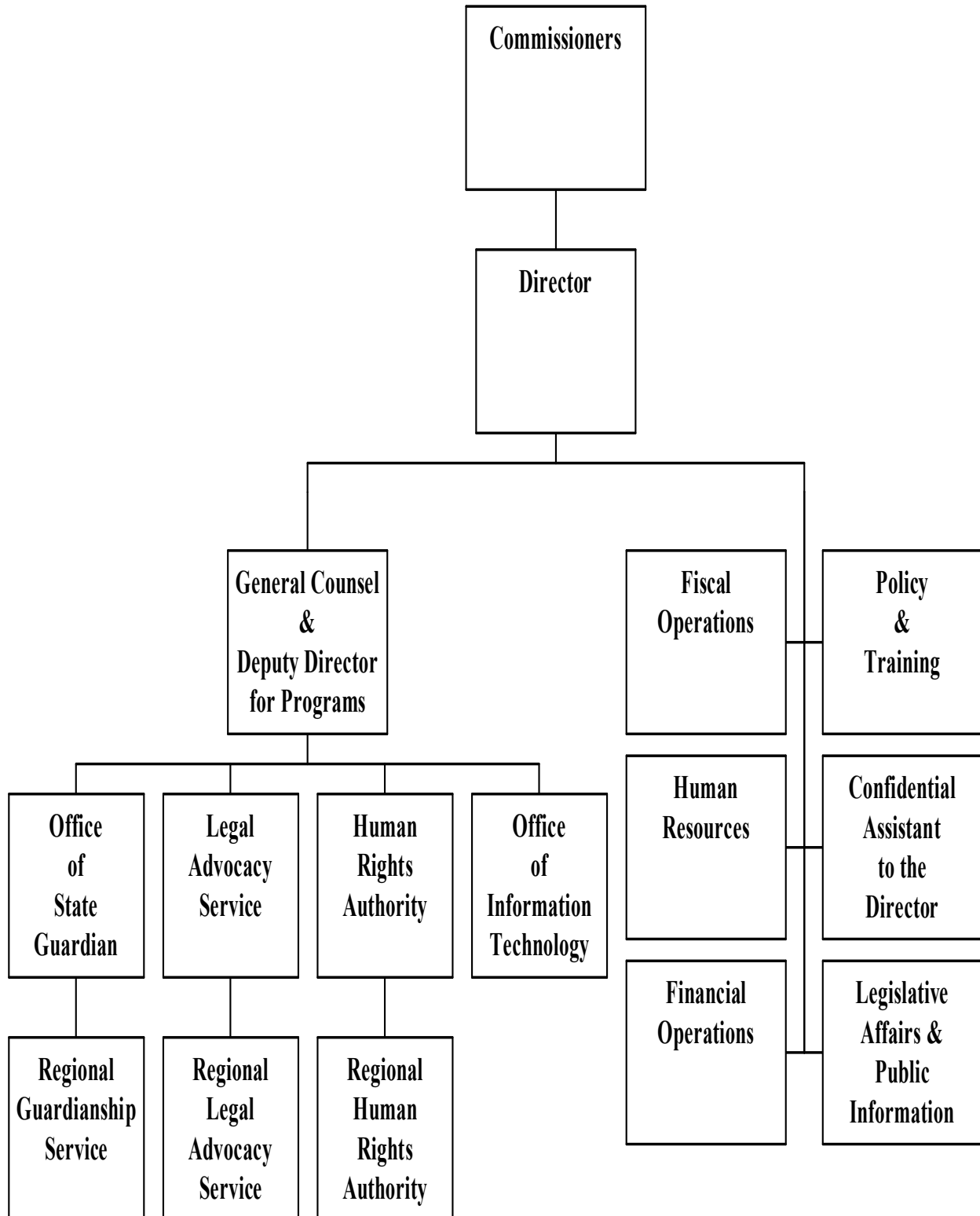
FUNDING:

General Revenue Fund	\$ 8,681,000
Guardianship and Advocacy Commission Fund	\$ 187,700
TOTAL:	\$ 8,868,700

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

- Served as guardian for **4,964** wards throughout Illinois. IGAC is the **largest** public guardianship agency of its kind in the nation.
- Handled over **5,377** inquiries through its Intake Unit, offering information regarding all program areas as well as referral
- Provided legal representation, general legal information and referrals to **8,412** clients
- Investigated **321** cases of alleged rights violations for persons with disabilities benefiting **22,187** persons. This is a result of **2,409** volunteer hours provided by members of the Human Rights Authority

Organization Chart



Meet our Commissioners. . .



Dr. Seymour Bryson

Seymour Bryson, Ph.D. is currently the Associate Chancellor (Diversity) and a Professor in the Rehabilitation Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is a three degree graduate from SIUC, where he received a Doctorate in Educational Psychology. He has served as a Governor's appointee to the Department of Rehabilitation Services Advisory Council and is currently a member of the State Use Commission.



Senator Don Harmon

Senator Harmon carries a BA from Knox College and a law degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago; he has been serving in the Senate since 2002. He has promoted a progressive agenda; advocating for better educational opportunities for children, greater access to affordable health care, meaningful assistance to seniors facing high prescription medicine cost and economic opportunities for all citizens of Illinois. He serves as the Vice Chair on the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a member of Senate Appropriations II. In 2003, the Illinois Association of Park Districts honored Harmon with their Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award.



Senator Ira Silverstein

Senator Silverstein is an attorney with degrees from Loyola University and John Marshall Law School. He is a current member of the Illinois Bar Association, the Estate Planning and Probate Committee of the Chicago Bar Association and Decalogue Society. His practice concentrates in areas of Probate and Guardianship. He has served as Guardian Ad Litem in the Probate Court since 1988. He is the past President of the North Town Community Council, and is a current board member of the Korean Senior Center. He is the Director of the Bernard Horwich JCC.

IGAC Commissioners. . .



Representative Kathleen Ryg

Representative Ryg, a second term legislator, holds a Masters in Public Administration and a Masters of Arts in Education from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of Science in Family Services from Northern Illinois University. She is also a graduate of the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development program. Representative, Ryg serves on the following House Committees: Disabilities Services Committee (Chair), Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education, Local Government, Mass Transit, Bio-Technology, Committee of the Whole, Driver's Education and Safety. She has served as Counselor and Administrator - Clearbrook Center (1974-1979), Counselor and Administrator - Northwest Mental Health Center (1982-1989), Village Clerk - Vernon Hills (1989-1996), Chief Deputy Recorder of Deeds - Lake County (1996-2002), Village Trustee - Vernon Hills (1999-2002).



Kenley R. Wade

Kenley Wade's consulting practice specializes in the management and programmatic practices of Human Service Organizations, Strategic Planning, Cultural Competence, and Leadership. He initiated his consulting practice after serving as a top-level Administrator in State Human Service Agencies in Illinois for over 28 years, including 13 years in Mental Health, 10 years in Child Welfare, and 4 years as Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action programs. He has a Masters Degree from Northwestern University's School of Management.

IGAC Commissioners. . .



Glenn Jackson

Glenn Jackson is the Executive Director of Southeastern Illinois Counseling Centers, Inc. He is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary with a Masters Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling. He is licensed as a Social Worker and a Clinical Professional Counselor in Illinois. Glenn has worked intensively as a consultant and trainer in the field of Disaster Mental Health.



Andrea M. Schleifer

Andrea M. Schleifer is an attorney at law in her own practice, Andrea M. Schleifer & Associates, P.C., since 1979. Ms. Schleifer specializes in general civil litigation including: Divorce; Family Law; Adoptions; Contested Adoptions; Parentage; Child Custody; Visitation Rights; Child Support; Guardianship; Grandparents Visitation Rights; Residential Real Estate. She is the President of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers (2008-2009), and is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, The Decalogue Society of Jewish Lawyers and the Woman's Bar Association of Illinois. She has volunteered with the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services for 25 years and was elected to two terms on Board of Directors, 2003-2009.

Her past accomplishments include 6 years with the Center for Conflict Resolution, formerly the Neighborhood Justice of Chicago, as a mediator and member of the Board of Directors of this community based dispute resolution service. She was also active on the Illinois Task Force on Child Support and also the Gender Bias task force, which evaluated the effect of gender on the administration of justice in Illinois. She is a graduate of Indiana University and received her law degree from Loyola University of Chicago

IGAC Commissioners. . .



Inez Torres-Davis

As a facilitator of Open Space Technology, the Peter F. Drucker's Organizational Self Assessment and William Bridges and Associates Leading Organizational/Personal Transitions, Inez has provided strategic planning retreats for Lutheran and community organizations. Mrs. Davis served on the religious leaders' forum panel of President Clinton's Initiative on Race, "One America In The 21st Century" (1998) and the World Council of Churches consultation for Church Women's Response to Racism in Bangalore, India (2000). Mrs. Davis has served the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services board and on the In the City for Good Funding Team

Inez has worked professionally as an anti-racism educator since 1994, and anti-bias education since 1991. One part Chiricahua Apache and two parts Mexican American, Mrs. Davis has conducted cross-cultural immersion experiences on Reservations as well as in Appalachia. In addition to writing and gathering curriculum used in teaching hundreds of women about being anti racist organizers, Inez has also worked in areas of organizational development, cross-cultural education, commercial sexual exploitation, environmental safety and working with youth. Since 1997 she has consulted with various groups on issues related the full-inclusion of people living with disabilities and has written disability-related cross-cultural tips for the web.

Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano



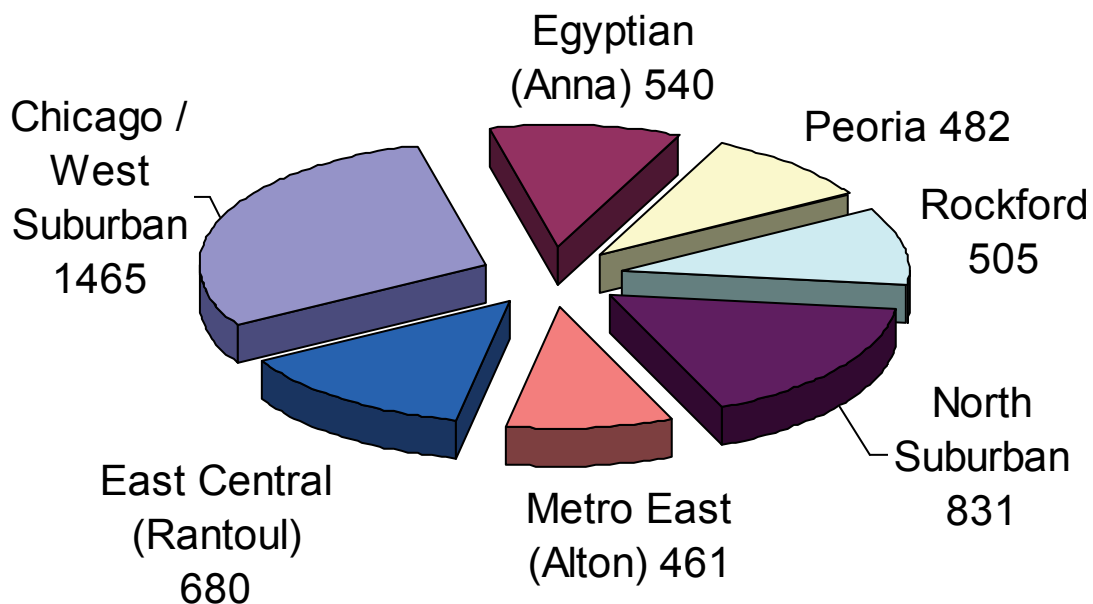
State Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano (R-Elmwood Park) represents the 77th District as a full-time state legislator; He was born May 20, 1958 in Chicago; He has a B.A. from DePaul University. He's married (wife, Julie), and has two children. He was first elected to the legislature in 1993. Since 1995, Representative Saviano has served as chairman of the Registration & Regulation Committee. He currently serves on the following legislative committees: Committee of the Whole; Public Utilities; Aging; Health & Healthcare Disparities; Gaming; Executive, and Appropriations for Public Safety.

Office of State Guardian (OSG)

As the guardian of last resort in Illinois, the Office of State Guardian (OSG) provides guardianship services for adults with disabilities by court appointment when alternatives to guardianship have been exhausted, when the appointment of a guardian is necessary, or when family or friends are unavailable to serve as guardian. The purpose of adult guardianship is to provide substitute decision making for medical treatment, residential placement, money management and direct care planning. The OSG monitors and advocates for appropriate medical and other services for each ward and provides guardianship information, advice and assistance to families of persons with disabilities. The OSG is the largest public guardian in the United States, serving 4,964 adults. The average caseload of an OSG Guardianship Representative is 123 cases. Most OSG wards are Medicaid recipients and indigent, but the office does serve persons with estates valued at \$25,000 or less.

The Office of Fiduciary Services provides assistance with processing deposits and payments for wards of the Office of State Guardian. Last fiscal year, the Fiduciary Unit processed more than 12,724 separate financial transactions totaling more than \$5,506,340. This unit also prepares state and federal tax returns for wards and assists state guardians and wards in basic financial management.

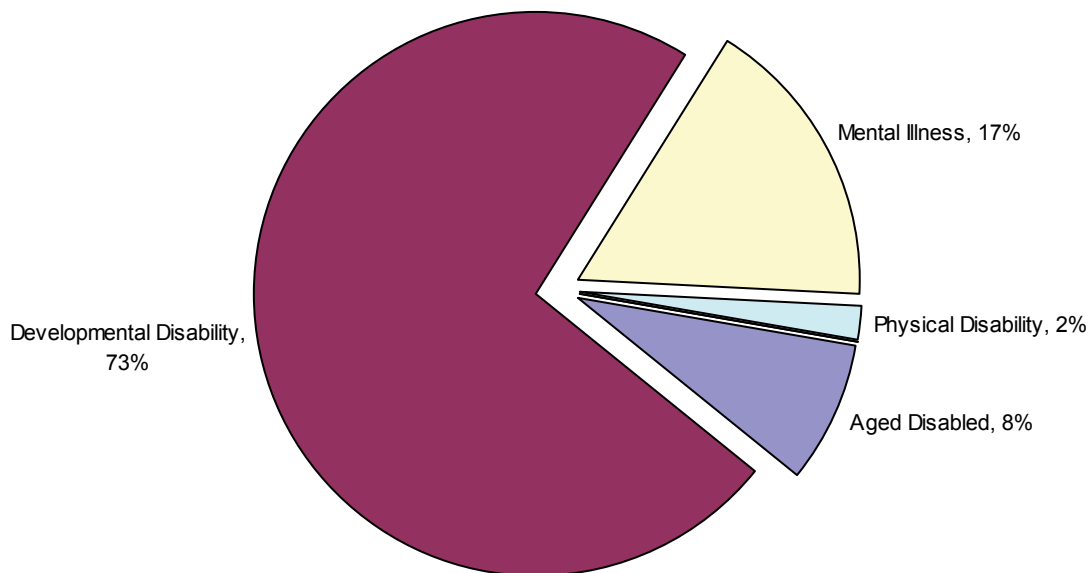
OSG Wards by Region



OSG Statistics for Fiscal Year 2008

• Documented visits to wards	17,882
• Medical consent activities	11,361
• After hours calls regarding services for wards	8,615
• New temporary guardianships	232
• New plenary guardianships	349
• Rights restored to wards (no longer in need of guardianship)	13
• Successor guardian appointed	34

OSG Ward Profiles



Medicaid Reimbursement

OSG entered into an interagency agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Aid that allows for administrative case management services provided by OSG to be billed on a quarterly basis to Medicaid. Billings have been submitted for services from the period of October 1, 1998 through June 30, 2008. All reimbursement for the Medicaid Billings is deposited into the General Revenue Fund. Total billings submitted through June 30, 2008 were \$15,536,605. In FY '08 Medicaid billings totaled \$1,670,000.

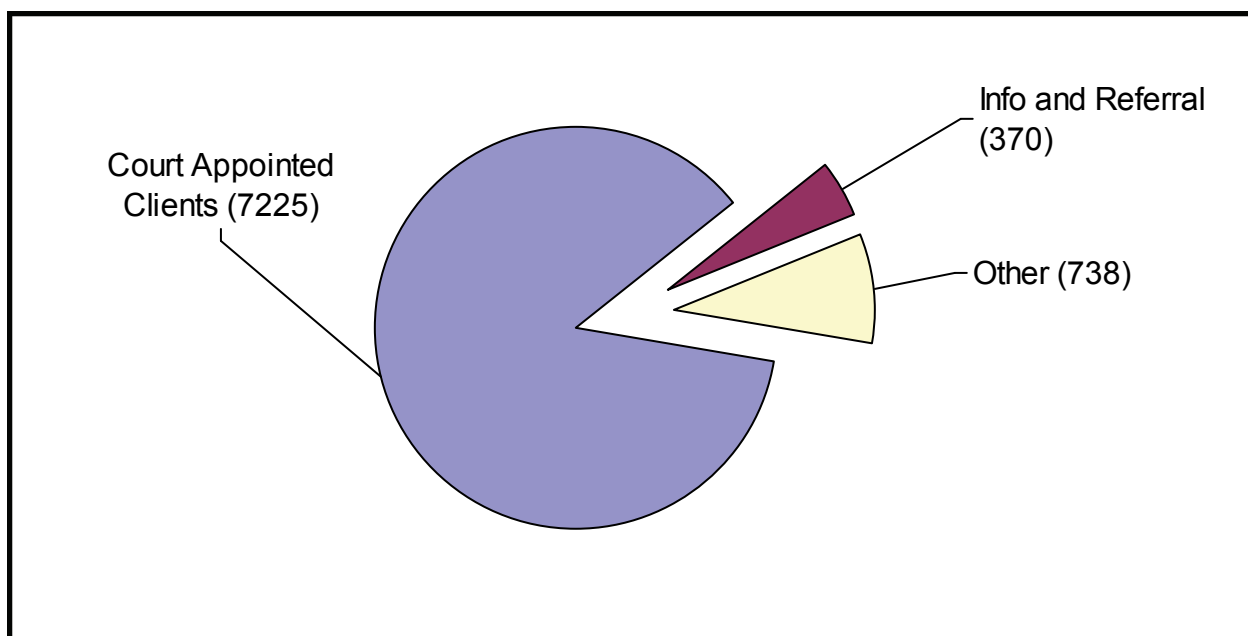
Legal Advocacy Service (LAS)

The Legal Advocacy Service (LAS) provides independent legal counsel to persons of all ages with disabilities in judicial proceedings arising out of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code; and advocacy services to persons with disabilities under related state and federal laws. Clients include residents of nursing homes, mental health centers, residential facilities, community placements and those living independently.

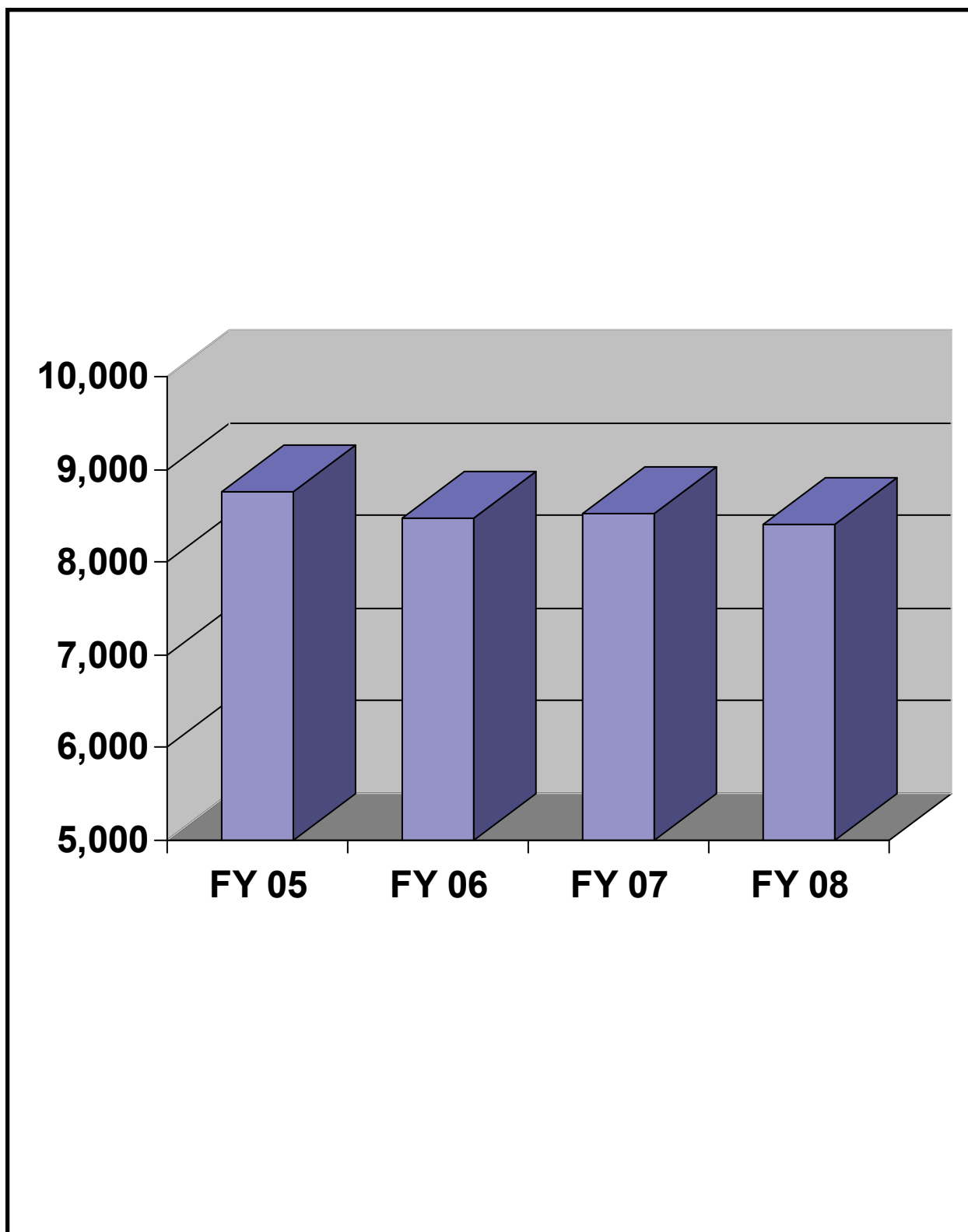
In most cases, the Illinois circuit and appellate courts appoint LAS attorneys to represent people facing involuntary hospitalization and treatment, or who have been determined in need of such services. LAS attorneys interview clients and research individual situations in order to prepare the best possible defense, or enforce the client's request to receive services voluntarily. If the court finds a client in need of involuntary treatment, LAS attorneys monitor the client's treatment and progress, provide advice on appellate options, and may be appointed to represent the client in the appellate court. Additionally, pursuant to a final agreed order entered by the Cook County Circuit Court, LAS attorneys serve as appointed advocates for Cook County wards of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services upon admission to a mental health facility or a facility for the developmentally disabled anywhere in Illinois. On a time available basis, LAS serves children with special education needs, social security applicants and other Illinois citizens with disabilities.

A total of 8,412 clients were represented, provided with information or given referrals by LAS in Fiscal Year 2008.

LAS Activities for Fiscal Year 2008



Number of LAS Clients Served



Human Rights Authority (HRA)

The Human Rights Authority is mandated to investigate allegations of rights violations committed against both children and adults with disabilities by service providing agencies. Every year, the Authority receives hundreds of complaints of alleged disability rights violations. The allegations involve a range of service providers, including mental health service providers, agencies that serve persons with developmental disabilities, and public education programs that work with children who have disabilities. Examples of rights violations investigated include confidentiality issues, treatment or programming concerns, inappropriate use of medication, restraint or seclusion complaints and issues related to abuse or neglect.

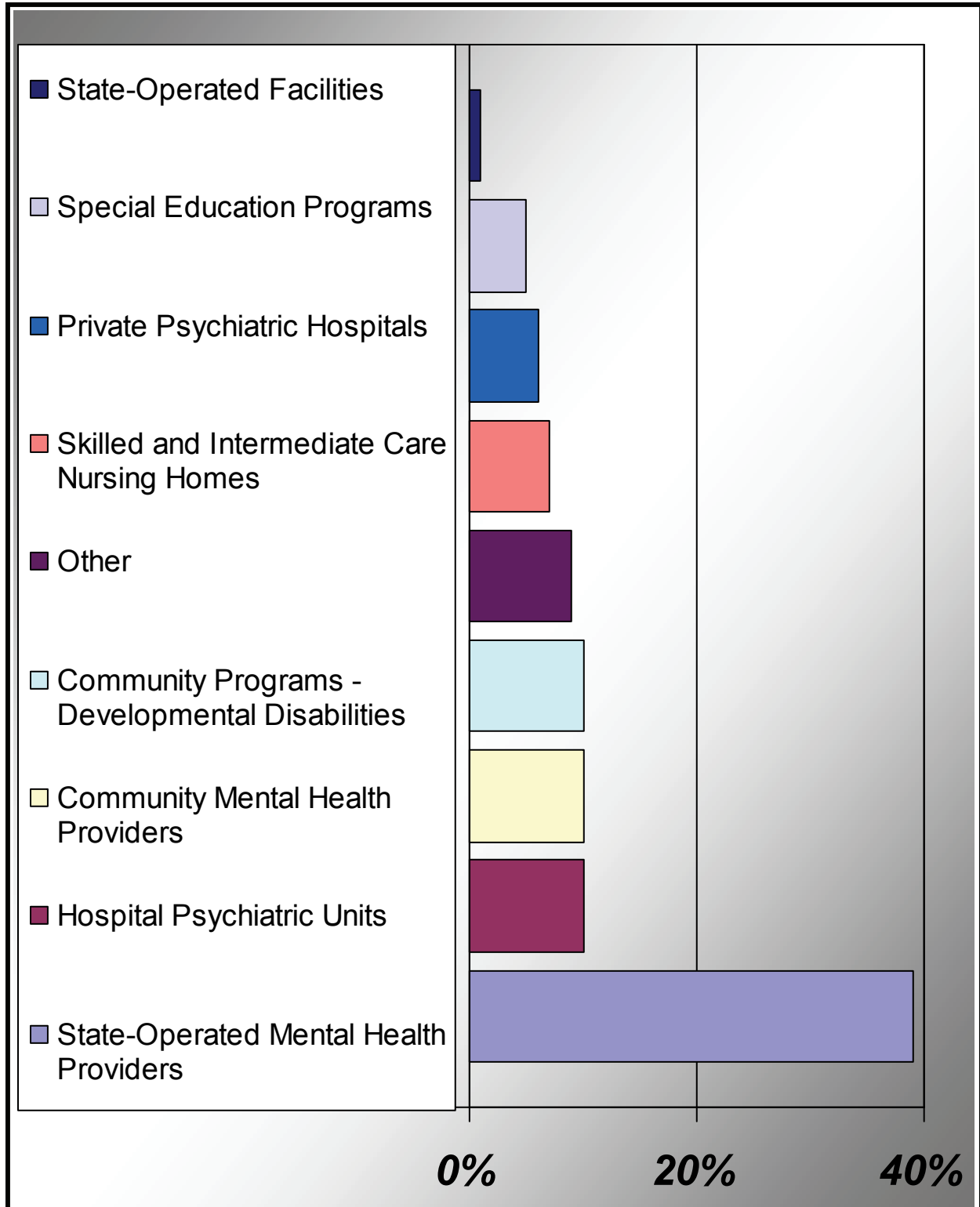
The Authority is comprised of nine regional Authorities located across the State of Illinois; each regional panel consists of nine volunteer HRA members for a total of 81 volunteers who conduct the rights investigations. The HRA members are appointed by the Commission and have expertise and experience in disability related issues; three of the nine regional HRA members are service provider representatives, and the remaining six members are either consumers of disability services, family members of consumers or concerned citizens.

The Authority conducts investigations of reported complaints and issues findings. Included in the findings are recommendations for improved rights protections. The ultimate goal of the Authority's work is to negotiate with providers for systemic changes to agency policies, procedures and practices that will promote rights protections for both current and future recipients of services. During Fiscal Year 2008, 97% of Human Rights Authority recommendations were accepted and implemented by service providers investigated, and those recommendations had an impact on more than 22,187 persons with disabilities. The Authority's reports are available to the public and are posted on the Commission's web site at <http://gac.state.il.us>

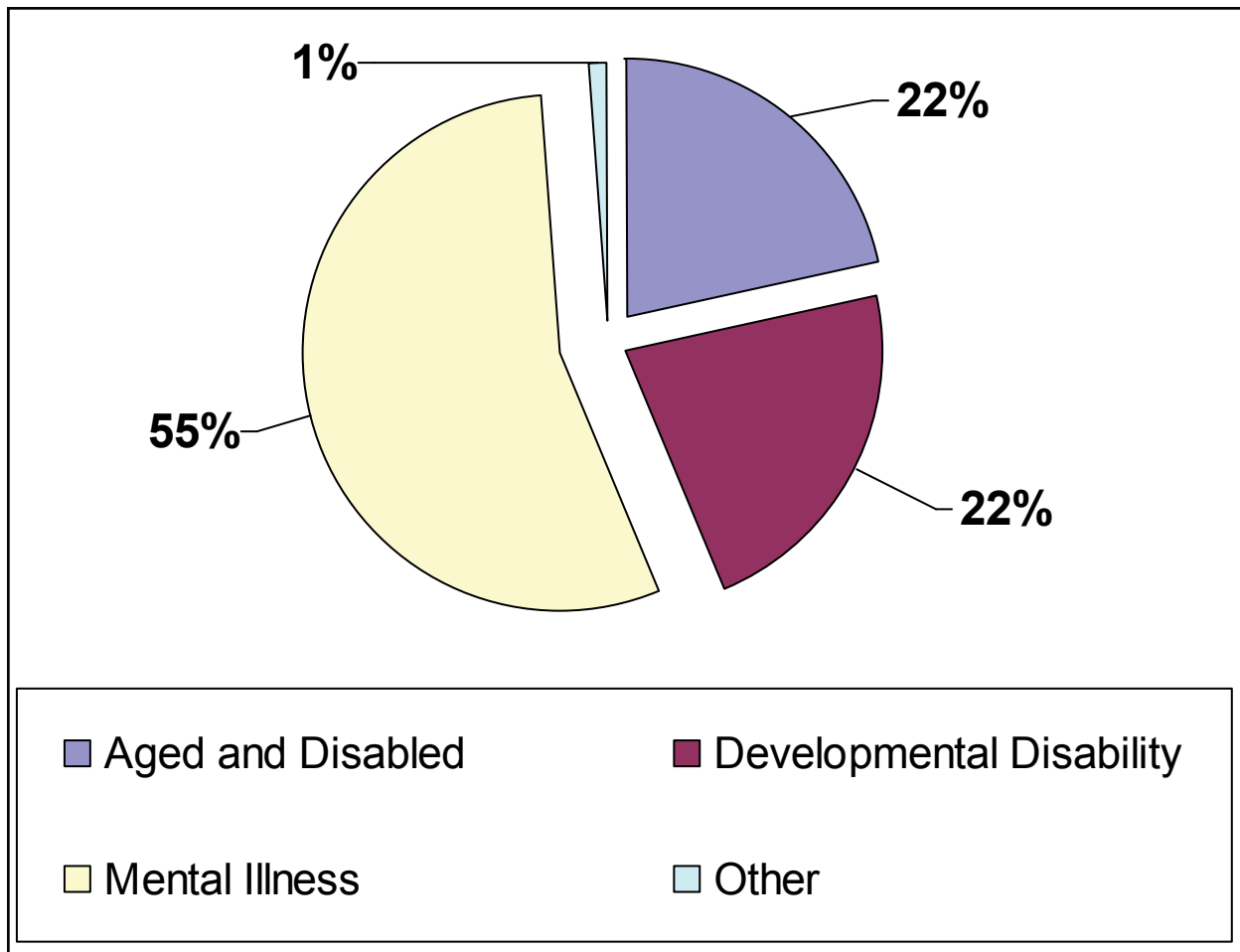
HRA STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Total number of cases handled	321
Percentage of recommendations accepted and implemented	97%
Number of volunteer hours	2,409
Number of persons with disabilities benefiting from HRA recommendations	22,187

Types of Service Providers Represented in New HRA cases



Recipients of HRA Services



With all the stress and tension in the world, the United States and especially in the State of Illinois, it is most essential that HRA be diligent and alert in order that the people we serve are receiving the best efforts that we are able to provide in the most challenging and demanding times."

Alphonso Farmer (Egyptian HRA)

HRA Member List 2008

Chicago Region

Ellen Holden Clark
Katherine Dunford
Danielle Garland
Patricia Mencinkas
Paul Mencinkas
Deanne Medina
Lana Y. Peck
Ray Hemphill
Jill Quinto
Elizabeth Anne Vitell

East Central Region

Lianne Anderson
Marlys D. Buelow
Nancy Curran
Bruce Berry
Mary Auth
Diana Krandel
Karen Scrogam
Robin L. Spalding
Bruce Berry
George Roth
Thomas Larison Phillips

Springfield Region

JoAnn Brown
Rodney P. Lefever
Jan Little
Kay Maier
Linda O'Rourke
Mary Ann Schadow
Janet Shelton
Sharon K. Steil
Debbie Weiner
Susan Luckey

North Suburban Region

Daniel Haligas
John Barrett
Patricia Getchell
Sumner Garte
Jeanette Rossetti, Ph.D.
Donald Judson
Kori L. Larson
Louise M. Miller
Arthur A. Savage

South Suburban Region

M. Marva Allison
Michelle Arthur
Theresa Buell
Carol Genutis
Lauren Pell
Paula Phillips
Judith Rauls

Metro East Region

Thomas B. Cannady
Robert Clipper, Ph.D.
Anthony Rothert
Kathy Gregus
Karen Kelly
Robert Louis Kingston Schmid
Marguerite Riley
Jonathan Sorenson
Emil E. Wilson
Leo Willis
Beverly Sweatman

Peoria Region

Jeremy McNamara
Donald Rulis
Schrean Fawcett
Barbara Runyan
James Runyon
Dean Steiner
Steven Watts
Susan White
Carolynsue Wolf

Egyptian Region

Karen S. Choate
Sue Taylor Barfield
Alphonso Farmer
Brad L. Friend
Sharon Mumford
Mary McMahan
Larry W. Mizell
Pamela O'Conner
Kathy Rambeau
George C. Welborn

Northwest Region

Kathleen Gustafson
Jean McNulty
Kirk Osborne
David R. Retzlaff
Erin Wade, Ph.D.
Erich Hagenlocher
Gail Stickle

Fiscal Summary

Guardianship and Advocacy 2008

Cost Center	Enacted Appropriations	Appropriations After Transfers	Expenditures
Personal Services	\$ 6,596,500.00	\$ 6,661,158.00	\$ 6,660,923.00
Retirement Pickup	\$	\$	\$
Retirement	\$ 1,092,446.0	\$ 1,104,569.0	\$ 1,104,568.0
Social Security	\$ 504,632.00	\$ 493,255.00	\$ 493,254.00
Contractual Services	\$ 258,000.00	\$ 241,934.00	\$ 241,917.00
Travel	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 161,872.00	\$ 161,435.00
Commodities	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 6,529.00	\$ 6,529.00
Printing	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,765.00
Equipment	\$ 7,900.00	\$ -	\$ -
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 21,400.00	\$ 20,261.00	\$ 20,261.00
Auto Operations	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 13,300.00	\$ 13,300.00
Telecommunications	\$ 241,200.00	\$ 196,200.00	\$ 196,181.00
Shared Services Funding	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
GAC Fund	\$ 187,700.00	\$ 187,700.00	\$ 110,227.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,296,778.00	\$ 9,296,778.00	\$ 9,218,360.00

Human Rights Authority - Case Summary

The complaint in this case alleged that a private hospital did not follow Mental Health Code procedures when it detained, restrained, and administered psychotropic medication to a recipient.

The recipient was brought by petition to the hospital emergency department, however it was unclear from the record if she was admonished of her rights, either in the emergency department or on the behavioral medicine unit, where she was later stabilized. The recipient's rights paperwork was not signed and did not indicate that the recipient refused or was unable to sign it.

The hospital staff reported that the recipient had not been restrained either in the emergency department or on the behavioral medicine unit, however there was a statement within the crisis worker's notes that the recipient had to be placed in restraints and the same writer referred to a statement made by the recipient indicating that she had been placed in restraints. If the recipient had been placed in restraints, then the necessary restraint paperwork mandated by the Mental Health Code and hospital policy was missing from the record. Had the recipient not been placed in restraints, then the HRA felt that the statements made by the crisis worker should have been investigated and clarified by the hospital.

The recipient was administered injected emergency psychotropic medication 5 times throughout her hospitalization. The justifications for the injections that were administered on the behavioral medicine unit did not appear to rise to the level of potential dangerousness that the HRA felt would be necessary to override the recipient's right to refuse treatment. Although the staff stated that the injections were not refused, there were no consents for this treatment in the record, and the record contained no emergency treatment preferences. Also, the HRA did not feel that it was reasonable to believe that a recipient who had refused all other treatment, would willingly accept an injection, including one injection that necessitated security assistance. Additionally, there was no Restrictions of Rights paperwork in the record.

The HRA substantiated the stated complaint and issued 5 recommendations. These recommendations centered on staff reeducation of recipients' rights, particularly the admonishment of rights at admission, the right to refuse treatment, the rights regarding the administration of medication, and the rights of the recipient with regard to restraint.

The HRA issued the report and then received the hospital's plan for improvement. The hospital concurred with the HRA's recommendations and initiated immediate
(continued on page 21)

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corrective actions including a review and in-service of all behavioral medicine and emergency department personnel on the hospital policy for restraint, Mental Health Code procedure for petitions and certificates, and patients' rights as recipients. Additionally, the hospital amended its medication administration policy to include and outline steps to be initiated with the administration of forced psychotropic medication, and included amendments to include steps to be initiated when the recipient refuses medication. Additionally, the hospital provided in-service and education for emergency department and behavioral medicine personnel on the documentation of recipients' emergency treatment preferences. Also, the hospital provided in-service on the rights of the patient with regard to physical or chemical restraint.

After a review of the record the hospital agreed with the HRA finding that the recipient had been placed in restraints while in the emergency department and included in its corrective plan an in-service for all staff on the proper rights associated with restraint and their documentation within the record.



South Suburban HRA



Egyptian HRA



Participating on the HRA has allowed me to broaden my own knowledge of rights issues and how people with disabilities may be affected. In turn, this helps me better serve the people within the agency I work for and also guides me in providing better training to our employees.

Kimberlee Brewerton

(South Suburban HRA)

HRA . . . Case Summary

The HRA received a complaint that a state-operated facility failed to follow a service recipient's wishes with regard to end of life measures. Specifically, staff at the facility administered Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) when a recipient who had a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order was found unresponsive. The recipient was an adult who retained his legal rights at the time of the incident. To investigate the complaint, an HRA Investigation Team met with facility administrators, interviewed an administrator of an area nursing home where the recipient previously resided, reviewed records, examined facility policies and reviewed pertinent statutes.

The facility reported that it had determined that the DNR Order that accompanied the recipient to the facility was invalid because it lacked witness signatures; however, the facility had not attempted to clarify the recipient's end-of-life wishes upon admission. The facility also reported that it administers CPR whenever a recipient is found unresponsive and regardless of the existence of a DNR although there was no written policy to support this practice and no information about this practice was shared with recipients or their representatives at admission. While the HRA acknowledged that the recipient's DNR lacked witness signatures and there was a question of its validity, the HRA found that the facility failed to follow internal and Department of Human Services' advanced directive policies specific to providing recipients and their representatives with information about advanced directives upon admission. In addition, the HRA found that the facility failed to clarify an existing advanced directive upon admission.

The HRA made several recommendations, including the following: 1) provide staff with additional training on advanced directives; 2) clarify recipient end of life preferences upon admission; and, 3) ensure that policies and practices are consistent with the provisions of the Illinois Health Care Surrogate Act. The facility concurred with and implemented the HRA's recommendations.



It is a privilege to serve on a committee with a group of people who are so passionate about their work. The different perspectives make committee discussions interesting and informative. This translates into a much better understanding of the Mental Health Code for my organization and me.

Gail Stickle North West HRA

Office of State Guardian Restores Tara's Rights

The Office of State Guardian restored the rights of Tara last fall after serving as the Limited Guardian of her Estate for six years. The Metro-East Office of OSG was happy to see Tara's life turn around after years of tragedy and misfortune.



Tara was electrocuted from faulty wiring while bathing in her home in Indiana back in 1990. Tara returned to Illinois and received a personal injury settlement from the accident for \$215,000.00. Tara's family initially served as guardian, unfortunately the family misappropriated her funds. The County Public Guardian was later appointed successor guardian. OSG was the third party to serve as guardian for Tara.

A modest home was purchased for Tara out of her funds prior to our appointment. OSG's authority was to safeguard Tara's only remaining asset - her home. Tara was never appointed a guardian of her person.

After OSG was appointed, a lawsuit was filed against her personal injury attorney and the guardian ad litem at the initial guardianship hearing. They were both negligent in not getting a surety bond when the mother was first appointed as guardian for Tara's estate. A small sum of money was received from this civil action and placed in Tara's estate.

Meanwhile, Tara's home was older and in need of repair. Tara's social security income and assets could not cover the cost of the renovation. Tara was unable to maintain the home on her own and wished to relocate. OSG ultimately sold Tara's house and set up a Special Needs Trust with the proceeds.

Prior to OSG's appointment as guardian, Tara's life was very chaotic. She was running with a rough crowd who was taking advantage of her. After several years of wild behavior, Tara's life has now settled down. She met a man that cares for her and is a good influence on her. She now lives with him and is very happy. Sometimes it is hard to believe that this is the same person. Tara's rights have now been fully restored and her assets are protected in a Special Needs Trust.

Dave West
Staff Attorney - Metro East Office



LAS Success Story

Attorney & Former Client Team Up to Present Workshop on Advance Directives at State NAMI Conference



Legal Advocacy Service attorney Laurel Spahn, and former Legal Advocacy Service client Alex Magnus, spoke about the power of advance directives at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Illinois conference in October. The talk, "Empowerment through Advance Directives," encouraged treatment providers to promote advance directives as therapeutic tools, and encouraged mental health recipients to draft these documents to avoid court-ordered involuntary treatment.

While Ms. Spahn spoke about the history and legal implications of advance directives, Mr. Magnus spoke of his personal experience in drafting a comprehensive advance directive. Mr.

Magnus explained that he did not take his advance directive lightly; he put significant thought into the document, and included detailed information on least-to-most restrictive measures that he consents to and have served him well in the past.

Ms. Spahn represented Mr. Magnus in 2001 in a petition for involuntary psychotropic medication. After a trial on the petition, the judge ruled in Mr. Magnus's favor, finding that Mr. Magnus had made reasonable decisions, that he had been able to explain how psychotropic medications had affected him in the past, that treatment staff should talk to him because he might agree to take something, and that he appeared to be healthy and active despite allegations of deterioration. Since then, Mr. Magnus married, started a family, and lives in his own home. He is a member of NAMI DuPage, and now educates others about advance directives.

Mr. Magnus and Ms. Spahn will continue to spread the word about these powerful documents. They have since had requests to present their talk on advance directives to Chicago-area treatment providers and their clients, including Thresholds and Good Samaritan Hospital.

Letter to Legal Advocacy Service Attorney . . .



Laurel Spahn ,Staff Attorney
Legal Advocacy Service
West Suburban Office
PO Box 7009
Hines, Illinois 60141-7009

Dear Attorney Spahn,
Lacking a typewriter, I take my pen in hand.
Thank you so much for your phone call and you mailing of the brief of Respondent Appellant filed on June 23, 2008 in my behalf for which I will be forever grateful. Your phone call and brief both, took my by surprise. I had no idea so much was going on behind the scenes, so to speak.

I have to commend you on your diligent work in this matter. Your statements could not be more on target and it gives me renewed hope that the dark could cast overhead as a result of labeling me "seriously ill" may one day be lifted. How readily a person is rendered ill by said label ,is mind boggling.

I recently completed six weeks of chemo and Radiation and I am into another 6 week period. I should know my destiny by months end. I hope and pray I'll once again be able to live my life independently.

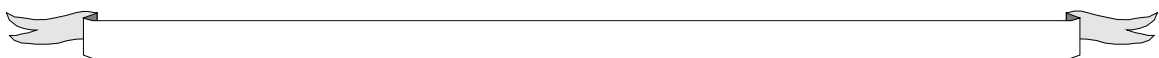
I have never given up hope in that, age aside, I have a lot to offer, and believe the Good Lord meant me to live out my life to a better purpose. Of course, I still need to keep an open mind, "it's" not up to me.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience sometime in August, and as otherwise indicated.

Thank you again for your consideration

Sincerely,

Val C.
W Convalescent Center

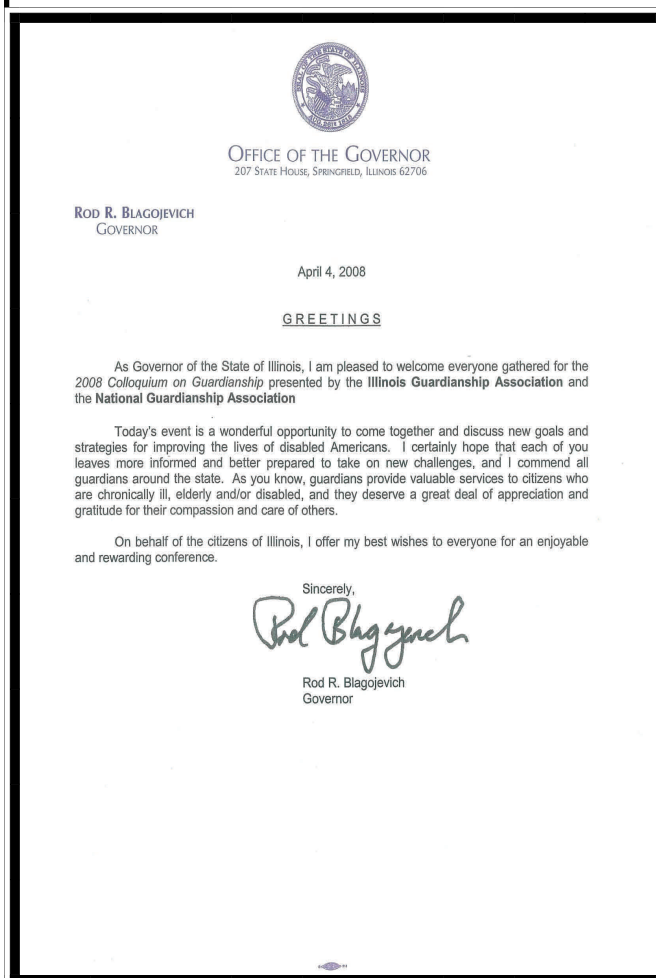


1st ANNUAL NATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION COLLOQUIUM CHICAGO

The Chicago Colloquium was an experiment for the National Guardianship Association, the Illinois Guardianship Association and the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission.

With substantial involvement by Commission staff, the Colloquium offered guardianship training opportunities that also allowed Illinois guardians to maintain national guardianship certification. The Commission's Office State Guardian has consistently supported training and certification for all guardianship staff and this Colloquium helped maintain that long record of dedication.

Over 175 persons from around the country participated in a plenary conference with the conference theme of "The Rights of Wards." Nearly eighty Commission staff attended and the Commission hopes to again partner with NGA and IGA to produce another successful conference.





Recycle and Reuse

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

IGAC employees have implemented a number of practices to reduce paper waste: configuring print settings to print only the necessary pages of agency forms and documents, scanning and emailing documents that were previously distributed by printing and copying, and reusing the blank side of printed pages for draft documents. Other creative waste reduction and reuse programs at IGAC include using as few waste cans as possible to reduce the number of can liners replaced every day, and training IT staff to remotely troubleshoot, which has decreased travel to regional offices.

Penny Smith from the Egyptian Regional Office was also instrumental in launching a multi-agency effort, including the residents of Choate Developmental Center, to establish recycling services at this year's DuQuoin State Fair. And in our Metro East office, where recycling is not yet available, paper that would otherwise be discarded is shredded and then, in a unique way of recycling agency paper, it's given to a local resident who uses it to line her chicken coops!



Penny Smith
Egyptian Regional Office



Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

**Winner of the
Green Government Award in 2008
for**

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Holiday Clothing Drive



Kim Conway of the
Egyptian Regional Office

In 2008, Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission (IGAC) held a holiday clothing drive to benefit people with disabilities. Many of state guardian wards and other individuals living in Nursing Homes and Supportive Living are indigent and may not be able to afford proper clothing. IGAC's Nine Regional Offices competed against each other for the highest collection. Gently worn items of all kinds were requested. The agency collected heaps of coats, sweatshirts, dress clothing, shoes, pajamas and other necessary items. The clothing drive was slated to run for a month but was extended due to overwhelming support by our staff. Staff cleaned out closets and garages, and solicited donations from family, friends and local community organizations. When the clothing was tallied in late January 2008, our **Egyptian Regional Office** in Anna, Illinois, took 1st place, collecting 25 large bags of clothing. On the whole, the IGAC gathered 64 bags of clothing for needy wards and other persons with disabilities!

Clothing was distributed to individual wards and large donations were dropped off at local area nursing and substitute care homes to benefit all those who live there. The IGAC takes donations of clothing and small household items for wards who cannot afford such things. The Guardianship and Advocacy Commission continues to find innovative ways to improve the quality of lives of persons with disabilities in the state of Illinois.



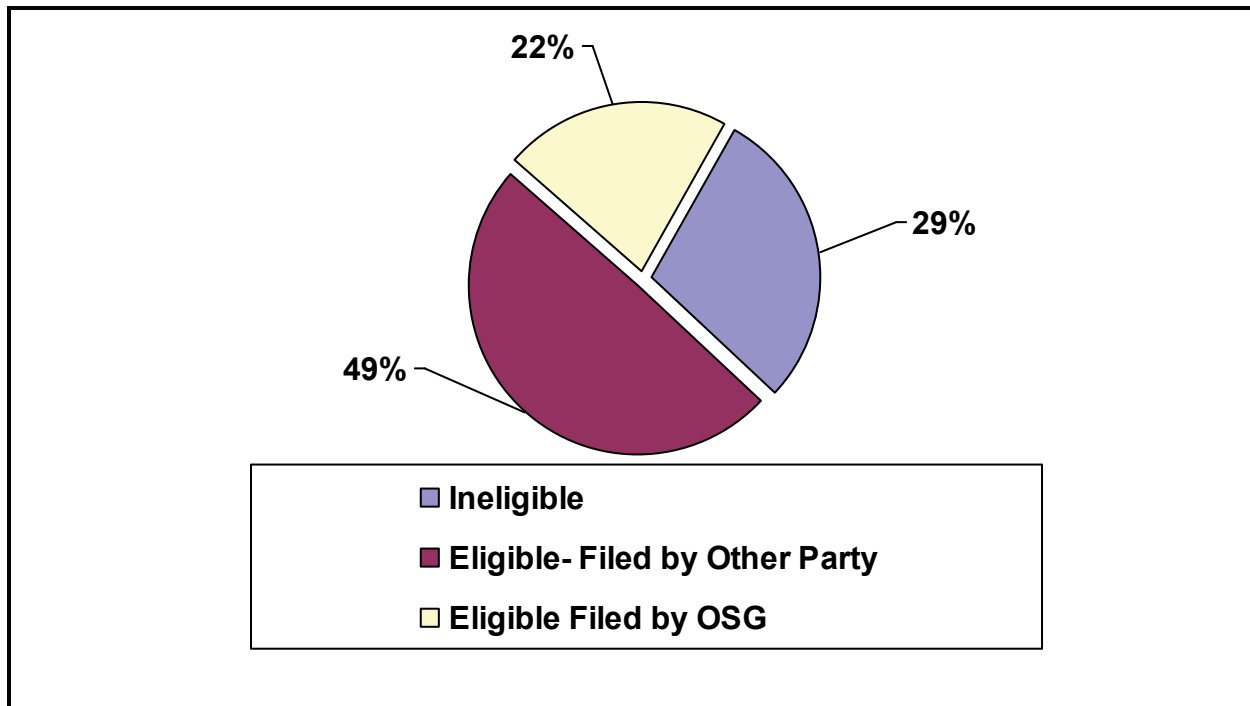
The Stimulus Package

Many of our wards were eligible for federal economic stimulus payments in 2008. The Office of State Guardian, not wanting to miss an opportunity for monetary assistance for our wards, reviewed 4,955 separate fiduciary cases. The State Guardians Office determined that 3,535 wards met the federal guidelines and were eligible to receive \$300. Guardianship Representatives gathered data from residential facilities and representative payees and filed tax returns for more than **1,000** wards.



In other cases, the residential provider who also acts as representative payee for social security benefits, filed tax returns on behalf of our wards. Per the directive of Healthcare and Family Services, these payments were not to be used to offset costs of care.

This was a unique opportunity. Ninety percent of the wards served by the Office of State Guardian are indigent persons. Rarely does the opportunity present itself for wards to purchase new clothing, shoes or other items. Most wards typically receive about \$30 per month for these types of purchases. This was an excellent chance for our wards to purchase much needed items, and in turn, stimulate the economy!



IGAC Volunteers and Interns

Guardianship and Advocacy recruits and trains volunteers to assist with office support and supplemental visits to wards. IGAC also partners with universities and colleges to provide internships, both clinical and administrative, for students at an advanced degree level. Many interns complete over 700 hours per internship with IGAC. Licensed attorneys, law students, case managers, retired seniors from the community and persons with disabilities looking to gain job experience are just some of the professionals who have contributed their time and effort to the Commission as volunteers. IGAC actively recruits volunteers year round, through a number of various resources, and is continually striving to increase the volunteer base.



Jennifer Van Lue
Intern University of
Chicago



Ann Hicke
Masters Level Intern with
Illinois State University

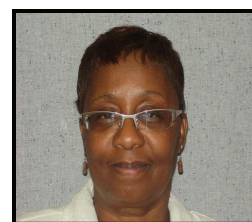
In FY 08 GAC continued to recruit and train volunteers for the **Volunteer Guardianship Program**. This program increased visits to wards of the state by 180 activities (roughly 170 hours) this year alone. In FY 08 an average of **4,945** volunteer hours were documented in assistance for office support. Over roughly 1300 hours were contributed by students completing internships for Masters level programs. IGAC also captured **730** hours of **Pro-Bono Legal Assistance**



Paul with his
Volunteer Guardian



Marilyn Belcher
Office Volunteer



Ellen Jackson
Title V Employee with JVS

In FY08, IGAC partnered with **Jewish Vocation Services (JVS)** to offer job training to Seniors looking to secure employment, in exchange for volunteer work at our various offices. The volunteers answer phones, prepare reports, open mail and provide valuable support to commission staff.

OFFICE DIRECTORY

Offices of the Director

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Chicago, Illinois 60601-3115	(217) 785-1540
(312) 793-5900	Fax (217) 524-0088
Fax (312) 793-4311	

All requests for general information and intake are received by the
IGAC INTAKE unit located in the West Suburban Regional Office.

Out of state callers please dial **(708) 338-7500**
Staff can be reached by calling toll free **1-866-274-8023**.
Visit our World Wide Web Site: <http://gac.state.il.us>

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