



Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

**GOVERNOR
Pat Quinn**

**DIRECTOR
Dr. Mary L. Milano**

**CHAIRMAN
Anthony E. Rothert**

**A
N
N
U
A
L

R
E
P
O
R
T

2
0
1
2**

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.

Contents

GREETING	3
ABOUT THE COMMISSION	4
OVERVIEW	5
ORGANIZATION CHART	6
COMMISSIONERS	7
OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN	11
LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE	13
HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY	15
FISCAL SERVICES	19
SUCCESS STORIES	20
GUARDIANSHIP COLLOQUIUM	26
GREEN GOVERNMENT	27
CLOTHING DRIVE	28
VOLUNTEERISM	30
OFFICE DIRECTORY	31

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.



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 works 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.

We are particularly proud to point to the efforts of our Commissioner legislators, our House Sponsor Sara Feigenholtz, along with the strong support of Governor Quinn's staff, who were successful in moving SB3592 through the legislature. This bill incorporates new emphases in the rights of those with disabilities, as well as providing for the first time, a dedicated stream of revenue to support guardianship services to persons who are disabled, indigent and without appropriate family support. Through this newly found revenue stream generated from probate filings statewide, we will be able to maintain and expand services, particularly in new community based models.

The Commission continued its role as a leader in educating the public about critical matters that affect the citizens we directly serve, as well as those we may not, and for advocating for the rights of those with disabilities to the greatest degrees of personal autonomy possible and the highest degrees of support needed. To these ends we continued our work in making known means of planning for mental health and other needs, as well as our work in analysis and advocacy under the umbrella of Imagine Illinois. We successfully expanded and deepened our relationships with professional schools such as John Marshall Law School and the Stuart Graduate School of Business at Illinois Institute of Business.

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

Dr. Mary L. Milano

About the Commission. . .

Since its inception in 1979, the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission has safeguarded the rights and promoted the welfare of countless persons with disabilities throughout the state. Governed by a board of eleven commissioners, who serve without compensation, the responsibilities of the Commission are carried out through three programmatic divisions strategically located in nine regions across the state. The divisions are as follows:

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 Code and other related laws.

The Human Rights Authority (HRA), - With the assistance of a team of volunteers, HRAs conduct investigations of alleged rights violations by providers against people with disabilities.

General Overview

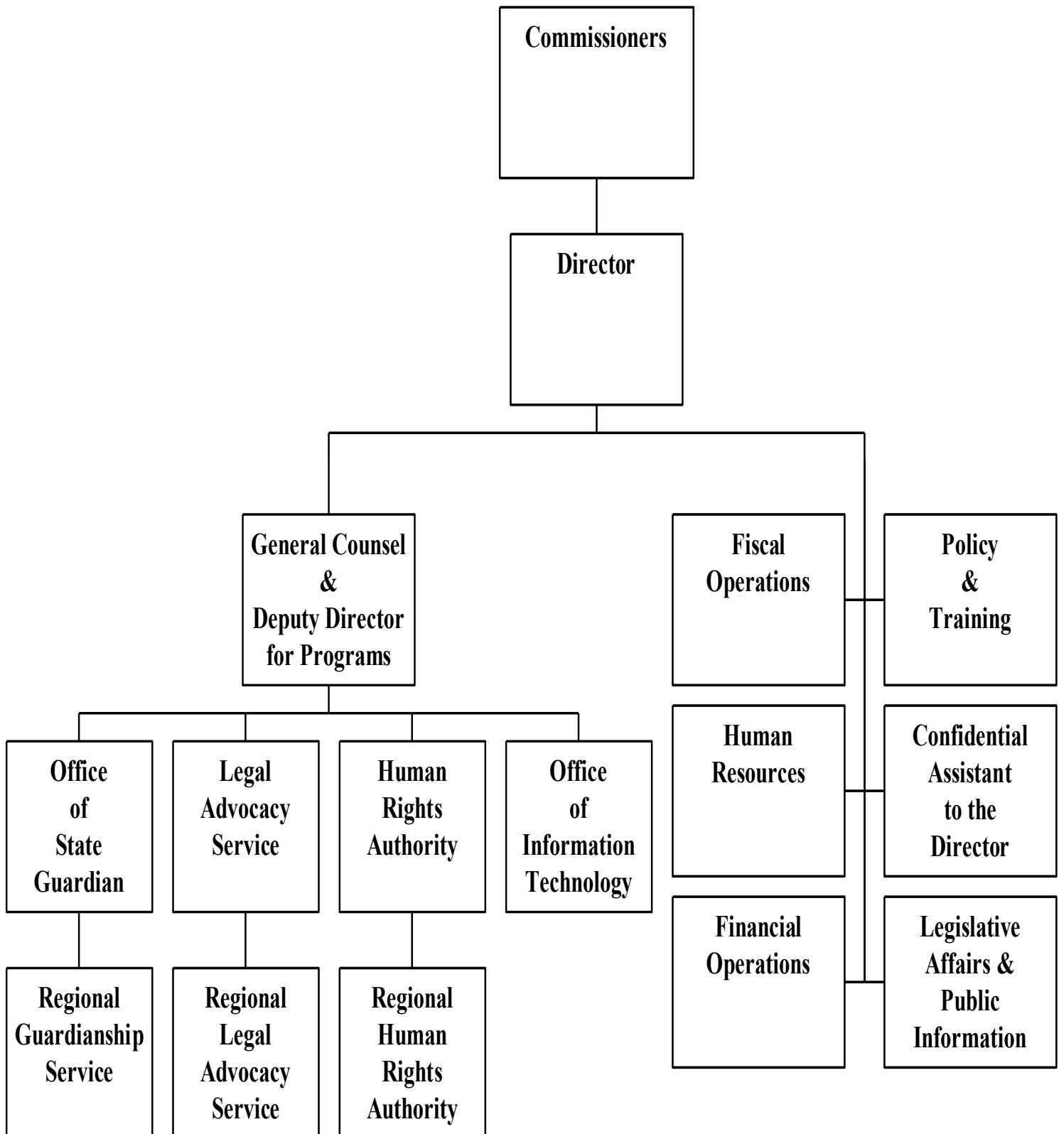
FUNDING:

General Revenue Fund	\$ 9,629,600
Guardianship and Advocacy Commission Fund	\$ 187,700
TOTAL:	\$ 9,817,300

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 **285** cases of alleged rights violations for persons with disabilities benefiting **25,382** persons. This is a result of **2,812** volunteer hours provided by members of the Human Rights Authority.

Organization Chart



Meet our Commissioners. . .



Anthony E. Rothert, Chairperson

Anthony Rothert is the Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri. His previous experience includes six years as a staff attorney with the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission's Legal Advocacy Service. Mr. Rothert received an MSW and his Juris Doctorate from St. Louis University in Missouri. He has taught courses at Sanford Brown College in St. Louis at the Bachelor and Associate Degree levels. An active member of the Bar Associations, he serves on many committees in a variety of capacities, some include; The Committee on Human Rights, The Committee on Law- Related Education for the Public and The Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, The Committee on Mental Health and Committee of Supreme Court Rules. He has been an active member of IGAC's Human Rights Authority in the Metro East Region and served on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Guardianship Association.



Andrea M. Schleifer, Vice Chairperson

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.

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.

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.



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.

IGAC Commissioners. . .



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.



Sharon Jenkins-Collins

Sharon Jenkins-Collins has been a Doctor of natural health care for 34 years. She holds both Doctor of Naprapathy and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees. Dr. Jenkins-Collins is in private practice on the south side of Chicago. She has been married for 25 years and is the mother of four children. Her passion for the population that the Commission serves is derived in part from her experiences as the mother of a son with special needs.



Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano

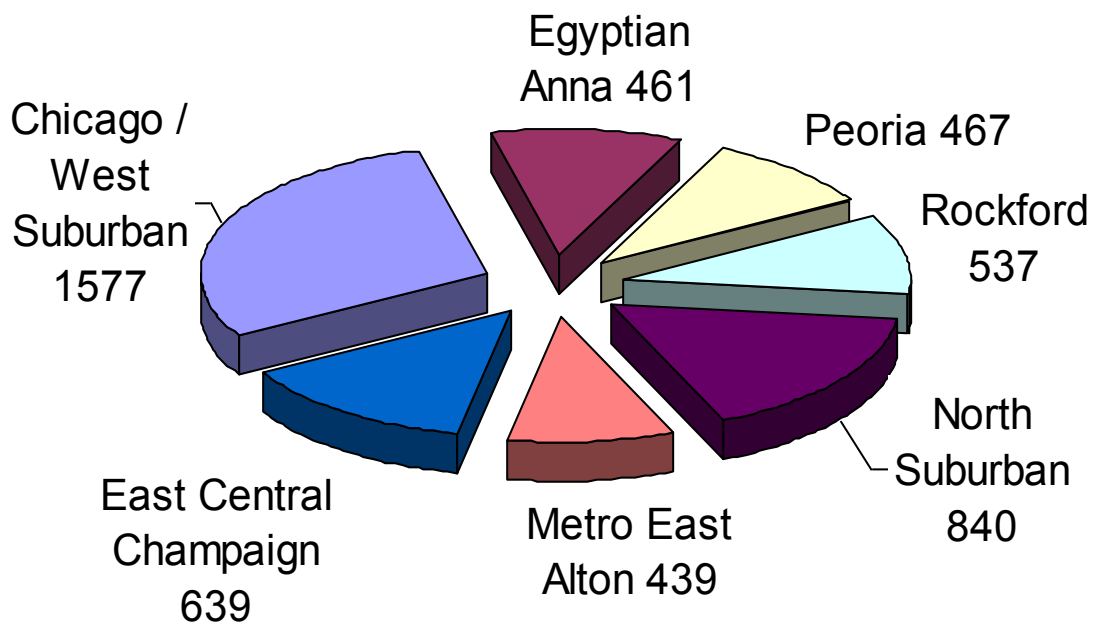
Former State Representative, Angelo "Skip" Saviano (R-Elmwood Park) represented the 77th District as a full-time state legislator. For several years. He has a B.A. from DePaul University. He is married to wife, Julie, and has two children. He was first elected to the legislature in 1993. Since 1995, Saviano served as chairman of the Registration & Regulation, 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.

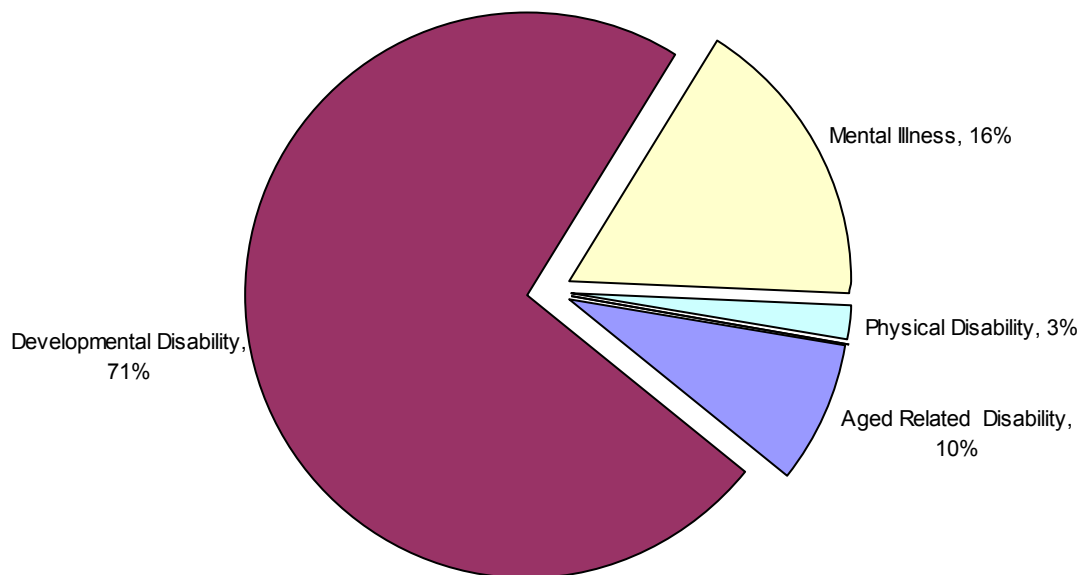
OSG Wards by Region



OSG Statistics for Fiscal Year 2012

- Documented visits to wards 17,563
- Medical consent activities 14,188
- After hours calls regarding services for wards 11,243
- New temporary guardianships 301
- New plenary guardianships 417
- Rights restored to wards
(no longer in need of guardianship) 16

OSG Ward Profiles



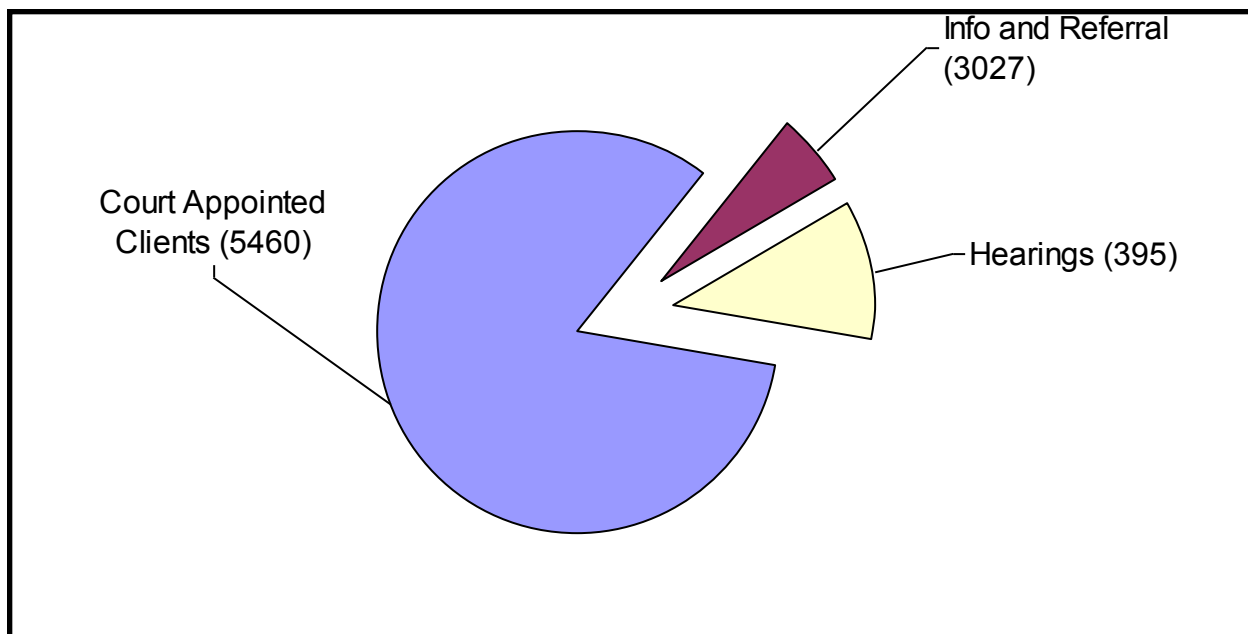
Legal Advocacy Service (LAS)

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.

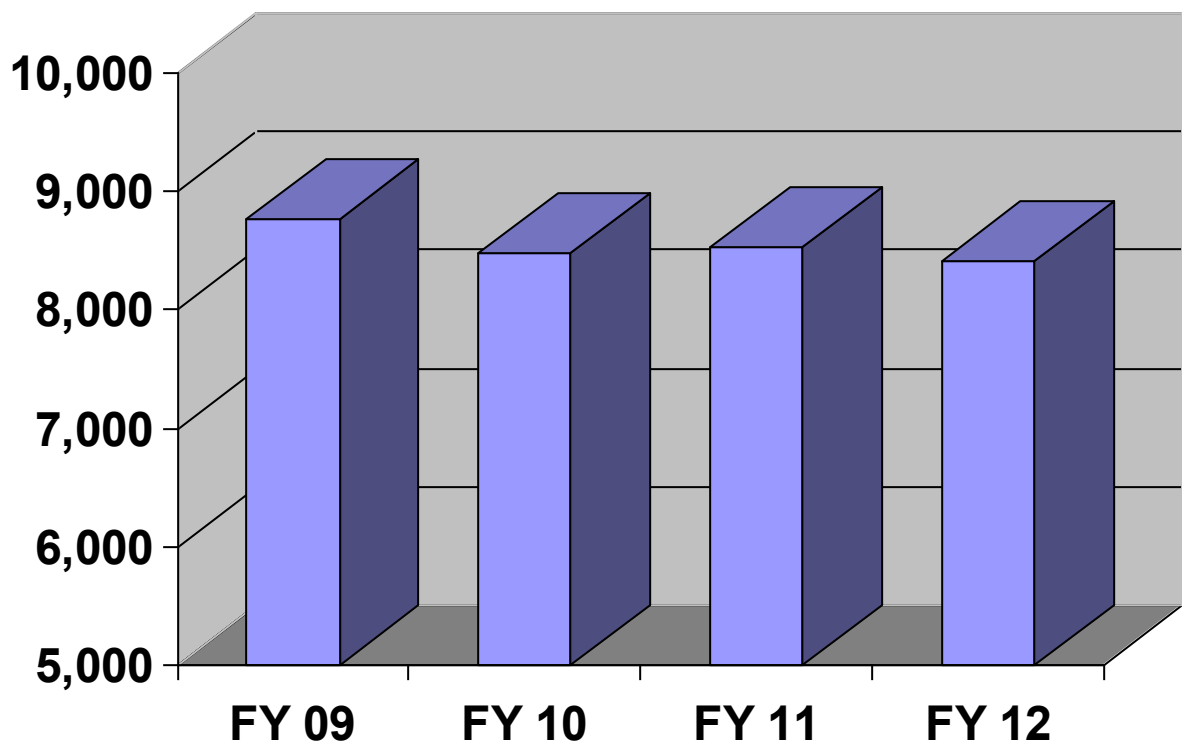
In most cases, the Illinois circuit and appellate courts appoint LAS attorneys to represent people facing involuntary hospitalization and treatment, or who have been determined in need of such services. LAS attorneys interview clients and research individual situations in order to prepare the best possible 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 9,468 clients were represented, provided with information or given referrals by LAS in Fiscal Year 2012

LAS Activities for Fiscal Year 2012



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.

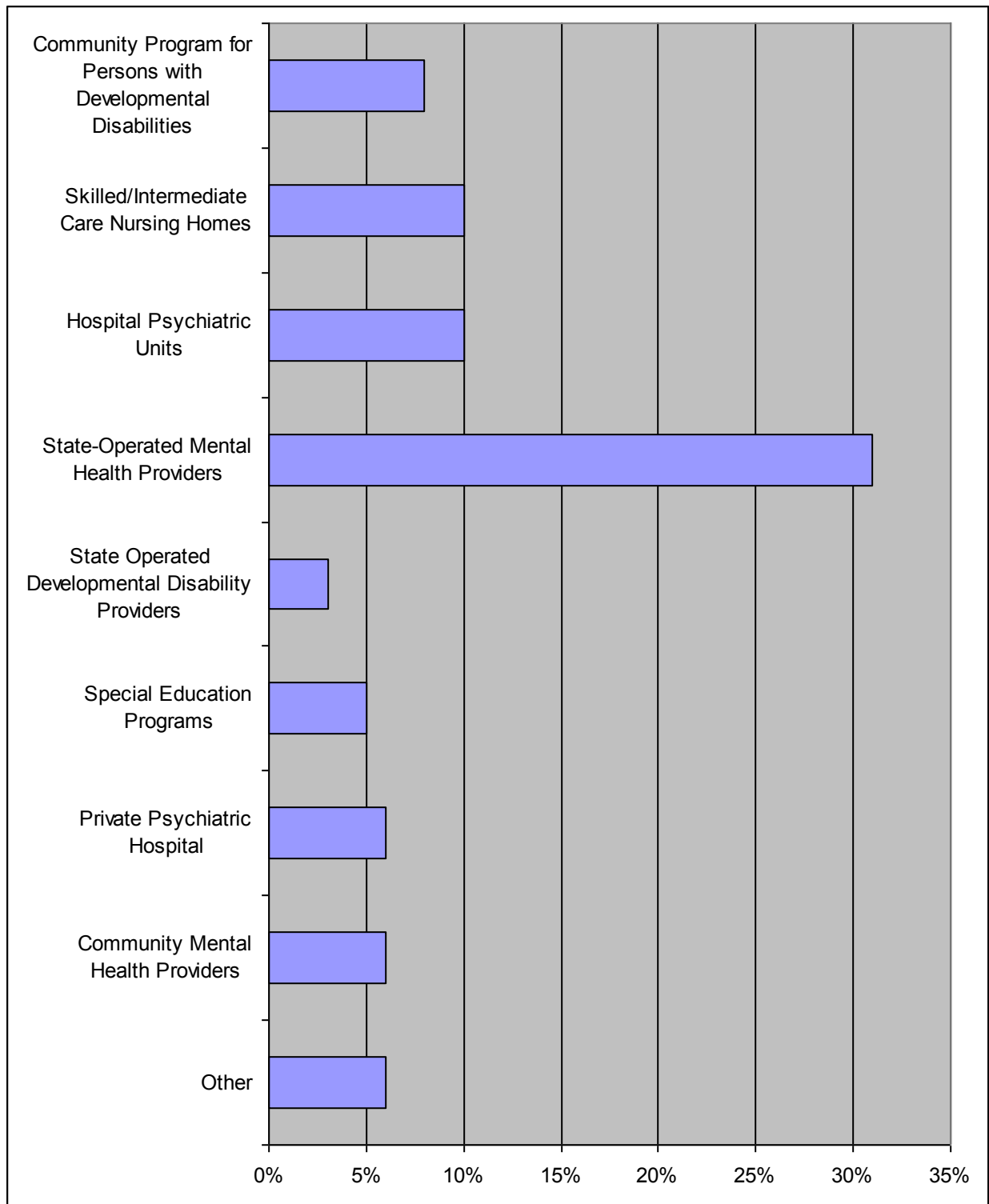
The Authority is comprised of nine regional Authorities located across the State of Illinois; each regional panel consists of nine volunteer HRA members for a total of 81 volunteers who conduct the rights investigations. The HRA members are appointed by the Commission and have expertise and experience 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. The Authority's reports are available to the public and are posted on the Commission's web site at <http://gac.state.il.us>

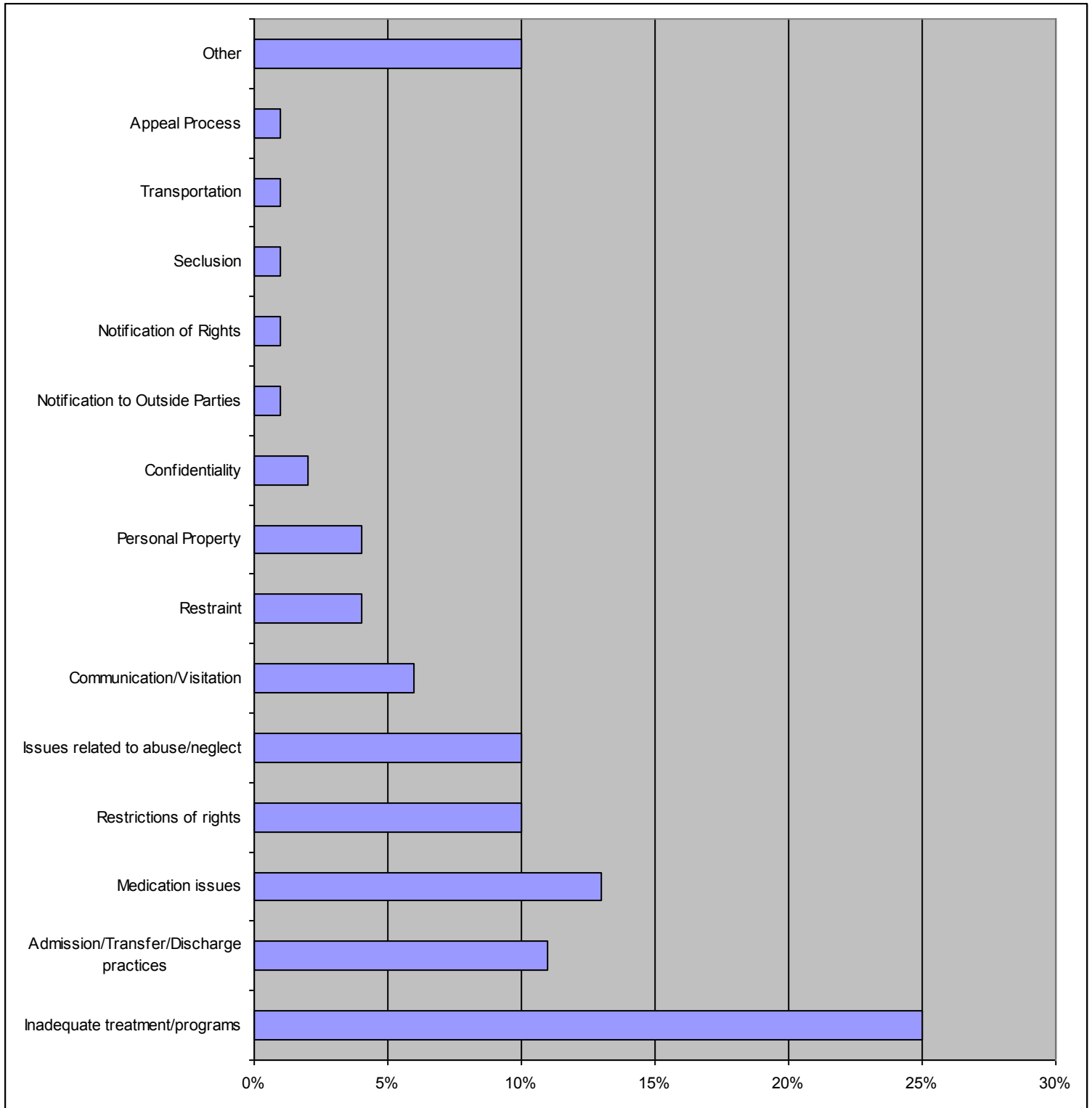
HRA STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Total number of cases handled	285
Percentage of recommendations accepted and implemented	89%
Number of volunteer hours	2,812
Number of persons with disabilities benefiting from HRA recommendations	25,382

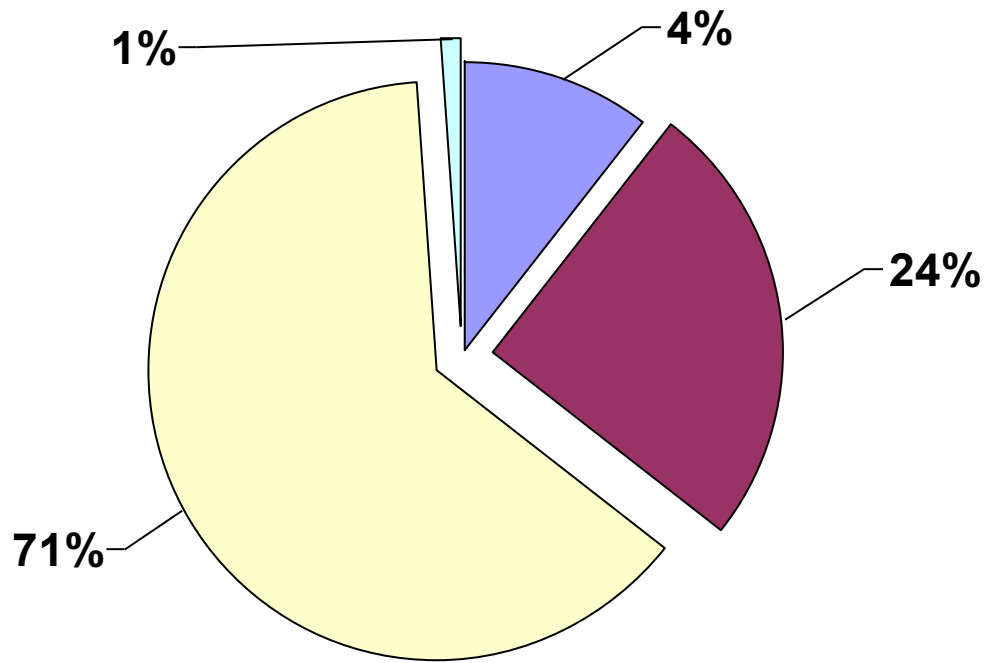
Types of Service Providers Represented in New HRA cases



Types of Rights Issues Represented in New HRA cases



Recipients of HRA Services



■ Aged and Disabled

■ Developmental Disability

■ Mental Illness

■ Other

HRA Member List 2012

Chicago Region

Edith Bukwa
Donna Claffy
Katherine Dunford
Nicole Erickson
David Ginter
Kamil Jaruga
LaVonne McClairen
Patricia Mencinkas
Jill Quinto
Elizabeth Tucker

East Central Region

Mary Auth
Annette Becherer
Sandra Dixon
Sandra Kopels
Babette Leek
Janet Manning
William McSurley
Thomas Larison Phillips
George Roth

Springfield Region

James Bakunas
Tara Dunning
Donna Ferguson
Jan Little
Linda O'Rourke
Janet Shelton
Stephanie Lyn Beard Snyder
Megan Waldschmidt
Debbie Weiner

North Suburban Region

John Barrett
David Michael Downey
Sumner Garte
Patricia Getchell
Donald Judson
Jeanette Kiene
Kori Larson
Louise Miller
Art Savage

South Suburban Region

Michelle Arthur
Kimberlee Brewerton
Theresa Buell
Carol Genutis
Romesa M. Hardy
Maria Heer
Georgia Jones
Judith Rauls
Abraham Wehbi

Metro East Region

David Bollone
Sandra J. Burbank
Thomas Cannady
Karen Kelly
Margaret Merrell
Carol Neudecker
Marguerite Riley
Robert Louis "Kingston" Schmid
Beverly Sweatman
Emil Wilson

Peoria Region

Janelle Crump
Debra L. Goodwin
Lois Hamilton
Ann Hicke
Flora Knutson
Diane Pflederer
Dolores Sheen
Dean B. Steiner
Meri Tucker
Carolynsue Wolf

Egyptian Region

Sue Taylor Barfield
Phyllis Brown
Alphonso Farmer
J.R. Livesay
Mary McMahon
Sharon Mumford
Pam O'Connor
Kathy Rambeau
Clarence E. Russell

Northwest Region

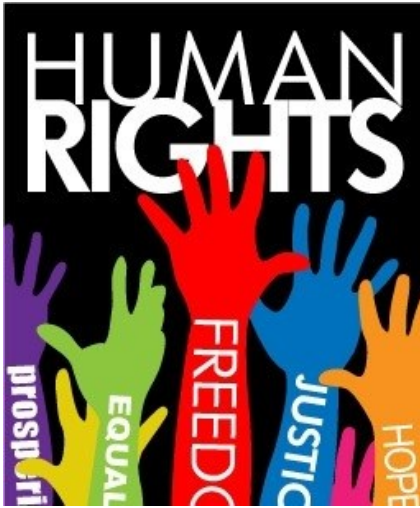
David J. Carlson
Jean McNulty
Colleen E. Parks
David Retzlaff
Florence Sandberg
Gail Stickle
Erin Wade, Ph.D.

Fiscal Summary

Guardianship and Advocacy 2012

Cost Center	Enacted Appropriations	Appropriations After Transfers	Expenditures
Personal Services & fringe benefits	\$ 8,711,600.00	\$ 8,711,600.00	\$ 8,504,578.40
Contractual Services	\$ 354,200.00	\$ 354,200.00	\$ 278,806.98
Travel	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 143,478.84
Commodities	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 9,190.87
Printing	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 7,557.65
Equipment	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 25,617.69
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 44,727.20
Auto Operations	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,946.72
Telecommunications	\$ 277,600.00	\$ 277,600.00	\$ 204,041.64
GAC Fund	\$ 187,700.00	\$ 187,700.00	\$ 41,950.45
TOTAL	\$ 9,817,300.00	\$ 9,817,300.00	\$ 9,272,896.44

Human Rights Authority - Case Summary



HRA Case Summary - Chicago HRA Region

This case involved a 297- bed skilled nursing facility in Chicago which includes short term rehabilitation, specialized dementia care, and long term care. Approximately 130 of the adult residents have a diagnosis of mental illness. The complaint alleged that the facility regularly ran out of a recipient's medications, administered forced psychotropic medication absent an emergency, and hospitalized the recipient against her will for no adequate reason. Interestingly, the issue that the HRA found to be the most egregious was the final discharge of the resident, which was not even reported by the complainant to the HRA but discovered

in the review of the record. The HRA found that the resident's physician ordered hospitalization and the resident refused to go, stating that she would leave AMA. She was then escorted out of the building by police, the doors were locked, and a memo was distributed to all staff to refuse her entry, even after staff acknowledged that she had no place to go (this event occurred in December). The HRA requested that the facility investigate this incident and develop a procedure for handling situations such as this in a more humane manner and in compliance with applicable law. The reported allegations were also substantiated and the HRA issued two recommendations and 4 suggestions to address these deficiencies.

HRA Case Summary - East Central HRA

The East Central HRA investigated a school district with regard to the provision of special education services. In this case, the HRA found that a child with a disability who attends a for-profit private school is not entitled to the same amount of funding for special education as a child with the same disability who attends a not-for-profit school whether it is a public or private school. The public may not be aware that there is a huge financial benefit for attending a not-for-profit school. In this case a child with a disability only received a very small proportionate share of speech therapy that he needed. He was only eligible for a portion of the therapy determined by the Individualized Education Program by attending the public school part-time. The HRA helped to educate the parents on special education regulations and parameters.

Human Rights Authority - Case Summary

HRA Case Summary - South Suburban HRA



The South Suburban Regional HRA closed a case involving a rehabilitation center. The complaint stated that the facility failed to safeguard a resident's property. During the investigation, the HRA found that the staff lacked accountability for the items removed from her room for safekeeping and supposedly released to someone of her choice. This violates Sections 45/2-103 of the Nursing Home Care Act and 300.3210 of the Illinois Administrative Code for Skilled Nursing and

Intermediate Care Facilities and the facility's policy. The provider agreed to follow the above Sections and its policy on storing residents' personal property as recommended by the HRA. The facility's staff were reportedly retrained on inventorying residents' property and disposition of items when individuals are hospitalized or discharged from the facility. The HRA commends the facility's Administrator who was willing to pay the deductible to replace the resident's hearing aid but later discovered that the device would be covered by a one-time lost replacement and damage policy. We suggested that the facility's administration should offer to replace her other missing items or make some monetary reimbursement to resolve this issue. The facility agreed to pay the resident about \$3000.00 for her alleged missing items.

The HRA Team



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)

Rights Restored: Transitional Home Success



Eddie Fleming and Bob

It was merely a year ago when OSG ward Eddie resided at the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) in downstate Illinois. Today, thanks to Governor Quinn's rebalancing initiative, Eddie has been able to move out of Jacksonville and now lives in Springfield with friend Jeff O'Neal. They prefer living in their new home, doing laundry, preparing breakfast and other normal daily activities. Staff are available to help Eddy and Jeff whenever they need it; with activities such as shopping for interview clothing or practicing handwriting. For eddy, this is a dream come true. Gover-

nor Pat Quinn recognized Eddie at the last State of the State address, and invited him to a reception where Eddie had a terrific time.

David Sturgis represents yet another successful transition from the (JDC) facility into community life setting. David is currently working at the Chicago Auto Show, a carwash and enjoying life in his new home. David is one of 19-people living with support from Seguin Services in Cicero that transferred from JDC in 2012. He is just one of many success stories being lived out due to Illinois commitment to invest in providing people with developmental and intellectual disabilities an opportunity to live in a community of choice, rather than institutionalization.

LAS Success Story

Attorney Wins 2012 Richard J. Phelan Public Service Award



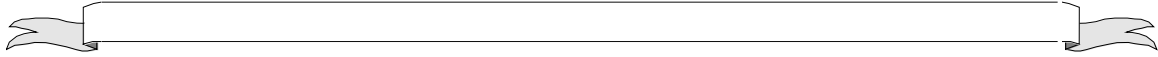
For over 20 years, **Laurel Spahn** has worked to protect and empower people with mental illness. As a lawyer at the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, Laurel represents individuals facing involuntary civil commitment or forced treatment in mental health proceedings. She advocates tirelessly on behalf of her clients, ensuring that their rights are protected and their voices are heard. She also works to address the many systemic issues that impact this critical area of practice.

Laurel practices outside of the spotlight in a highly specialized and little understood area of law, making her contributions especially important. Her record is impressive: in addition to her trial work, she has argued before every appellate district in Illinois and before the Illinois Supreme Court. Moreover, she regularly makes presentations on these issues for local and national audiences. She is regarded as a leading advocate for incorporating therapeutic jurisprudence into mental health proceedings, challenging both advocates and institutions to reconsider the impact of civil commitment on persons with mental illness. She also always makes time to teach and mentor other attorneys on these issues.

Laurel is a skilled and zealous advocate. As one of her nominators notes, she “takes her clients as they come, showing kindness and patience to each new acquaintance and presenting a steady and skilled demeanor to the judges and practitioners involved in all of her cases.” Laurel regularly goes beyond the requirements of her court appointments, advocating for clients long after their cases have been closed. As one client aptly put it, “she has been my inspiration, guidance [and] counselor.”

With humility and tireless dedication Laurel steadfastly advocates for people with mental illness. We honor Laurel this year because, as stated by one of her nominators, her work shows that “there are some in our profession who quietly and tenaciously make a difference in the lives of desperate clients, one person at a time.”

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.

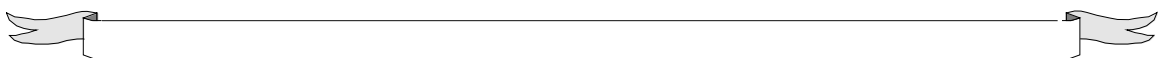
I have never given up hope in that, age aside, I have a lot to offer, and believe the Good Lord meant me to live out my life to a better purpose. Of course, I still need to keep an open mind, "it's" not up to me.

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

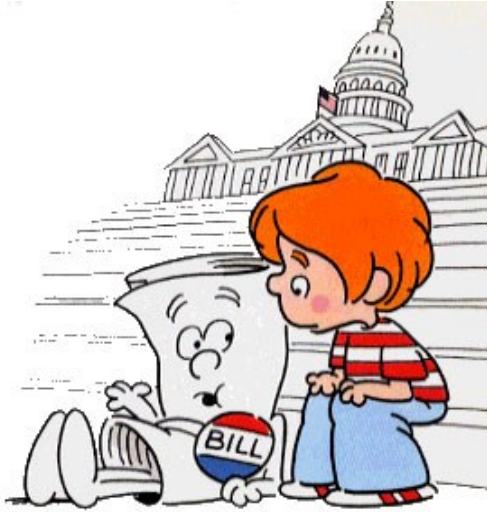
Thank you again for your consideration

Sincerely,

Val C.
W Convalescent Center



LEGISLATIVE BREAKTHROUGHS



Public Act 097-1093, more affectionately known as SB 3592 was an experiment of its kind not only for Illinois' Guardianship and Advocacy Commission but for the legislators of the 98th General Assembly as well. This bill had substantial involvement from the Commission's legislative staff, and a few legislators. Senator Ira Silverstein spearheaded the bill

as the senate sponsor, while State Representative Sara Feigenholtz did the same in the house of representatives alongside former state representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano. In practice, SB-3592 imposes a fee of \$100 instead of \$50 for the administration of a decedent's estate. 95% of the fee is then disbursed within 60 days after receipt by the circuit clerk's office to the State Treasurer for deposit into the Guardianship and Advocacy fund. This in practice provides some much needed supplemental funding for Guardianship and Advocacy services throughout the state. Another flag-bearing aspect of this bill is that courts are now required to consider limited guardianship firsthand before plenary ones. This breakthrough is extremely important not only to our agency but also for the population we serve, especially when considered in cases where wards and Guardians conclude that guardianship is not needed; the law now favors self guardianship.

VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, JANUARY 23, 2013

Sunny Skies Over McDonald's Fries

Brandon was browsing VolunteerMatch.com, looking for an opportunity to connect with someone that lives in the community and would benefit from companionship. That's how he found VGAP.

"I really believe that there's tremendous power in meeting people who are so far out of your world and lead very different lives," said Brandon.

Brandon has been visiting OSG ward Louis since 2006. Louis has been in an institutional setting since he was a child and currently resides in a long-term care facility in Chicago.



"Louis is a fascinating, funny, intelligent guy," said Brandon. "He's sophisticated verbally and enjoys puns, word games, and being silly with language. He also has a passion for harmonica playing."

Brandon visits Louis every other week. They often have dinner at the McDonald's across the street, sharing laughs over French fries.

"If I'm stressed when I see him, he cheers me up. I go from thunderclouds to sunny skies."

When asked what keeps Brandon involved with VGAP, his answer is simple: Louis.

"He's a blessing. It doesn't feel like volunteering anymore, it feels like I'm just seeing someone I care about. He's a part of my life. I like knowing him, and I think he likes knowing me too."

A Celebration Amidst Difficult Times

Last year, Randy, an OSG ward, faced hard times when his wife Pamela passed away. Throughout his heartbreak, VGAP volunteer Misty has been there for him, visiting him on a weekly basis for movie nights in or dinner out with his mother-in-law.

On top of that, Misty invited Randy and his mother in-law to her family's Thanksgiving celebration. They spent the whole day together enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal and watching football games.

Misty had been visiting wards Pamela and Randy since 2009. She connected with them when they were living together in a supportive living facility west of Chicago.

"They have become part of my life," said Misty. "For me, it's humbling. I learn something new from them all the time. They are so appreciative of me coming and hanging out, and that's the least I could do."

ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS

- We have 16 volunteer visitors serving 20 wards throughout Illinois.
- Our goal is to have 30 volunteers by June 2013.
- Volunteers work in various settings including forensic art, IT, psychology, social work, and law.
- Volunteers span from early twenties to retirement age.



Contact Us

(312) 793-5000

gac.vgap@illinois.gov

IGAC Volunteers and Interns

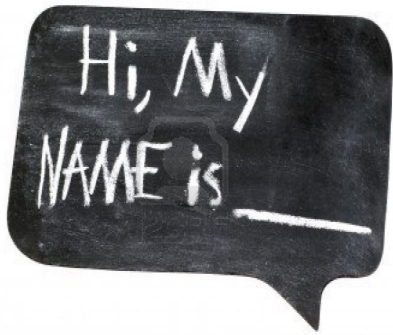
Guardianship and Advocacy recruits and trains volunteers to assist with office support and supplemental visits to wards. IGAC also partners with



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. GAC continues to recruit and train volunteers for the **Volunteer Guardianship Program**. This program increases visits to wards of the state by (roughly 170 hours). **4,945** volunteer hours were documented in assistance for office support with Over1300 hours contributed by students completing internships for Masters level programs. IGAC also captured **730** hours of **Pro-Bono Legal Assistance**. 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.

IGAC Volunteers and Interns



Sara Yoo
Intern University of Chicago

"I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in English Writing and International Studies. Currently, I works as a project assistant at a general-practice law firm and in my third and final year of the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration extended evening program. For my first-year placement, I interned at the Chicago Youth Centers, where I spent my Saturdays leading educational workshops for at-risk youth.

I chose IGAC for my second placement because I found the organization interesting and knew that I would have the opportunity to build a variety of new skills. As an Office of the State Guardian intern, my main task is to coordinate the Volunteer Guardianship and Advocacy Program alongside Suzie Fike. This has entailed recruiting, interviewing, and training volunteers, as well as researching volunteer guardian programs across the country to find ways to expand VGAP. In this placement, I have gained valuable knowledge on researching disability policy, administering and developing human service programs, and working with adults with disabilities. I looks forward to a career in social services and am excited to see where my studies and experiences will take me."

IGAC Volunteers and Interns



Camille Tucker
Former Intern, Peoria Region Human
Rights Authority

As an intern with the HRA, part of my responsibility was assisting Gene Seaman, the Regional Coordinator, in writing reports. I carefully read through medical records, Illinois Administrative Code, and court documents to formulate clear narratives of the events leading up to a complaint. I had the opportunity to go on a site visit with Gene and some board members, and I created a spreadsheet of all the disability advocacy groups in the Peoria Region. These invaluable professional experiences have shaped my future goals, challenging me to further seek a career in disability rights and advocacy. I am currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University with a focus in International Development and Civil Society Organizations. I hope to work in inclusive development, because I believe that development efforts cannot adequately achieve their stated objectives without eliminating the barriers to personal success encountered by *all* of a country's citizens. I am grateful for the opportunity to intern with the HRA because it pointed me in this direction.

IGAC Volunteers and Interns



Suzanne Fike
Masters Level Intern with
University of Chicago

Suzanne Fike graduated from Butler University with a B.A. in History and Gender Studies in 2010. Throughout college, she worked for RFMS Inc., a nursing home provider based in Western Illinois. There she completed quality assurance audits for assisting living facilities across Illinois, and further developed her interest in working with older adults.

Suzanne is currently in her second year of graduate school in the Social Service Administration program at the University of Chicago and will graduate in June 2013. She completed her first field placement at VITAS Hospice, where she did home visits to patients and families on the south side of Chicago. She chose the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission for her second field placement, because she has had a life-long interest in working with people with developmental disabilities and with older adults.

Suzanne currently works on a number of projects for the OSG Chicago General Office. Her primary role is running the Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGAP) with fellow University of Chicago graduate student, Sarah Yoo. Her duties include volunteer recruitment, management, training, retention, and research. Suzanne also works on various research and marketing projects involving the Illinois Guardianship Association and Public Health Reports/OIG Reports.

IGAC Volunteers and Interns

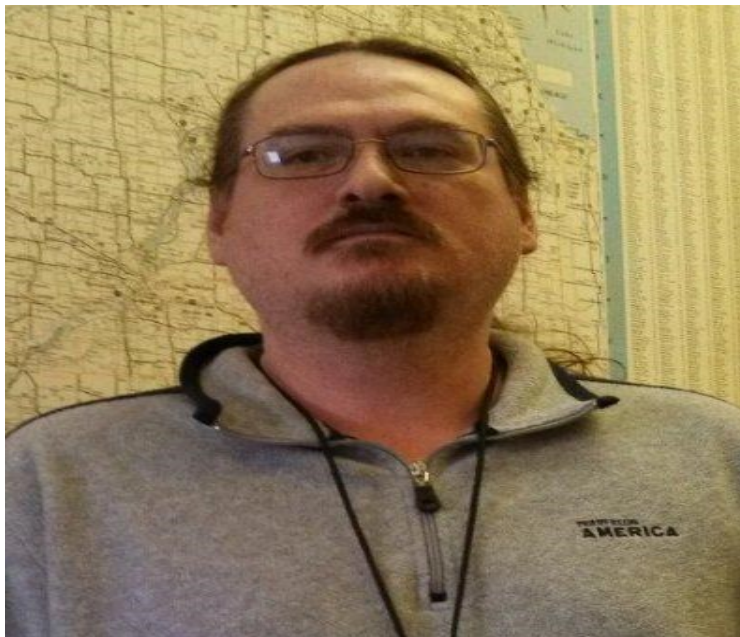


Yashvin Prakasam
University of Illinois Springfield

“ I finished my under graduate degree in Information Technology back in India. I am doing my masters in computer science at the University of Illinois Springfield (Fall 2012). I started my work as an Information System Analyst intern on Jan1st 2013. I upgrade our agencies web site and take care of other system installations at various agencies around Illinois. As an intern I am able to enrich my technical and managerial skill under the supervision of Ann and Fletch. This will help me to get a job of my kind and succeed in it.”

IGAC Volunteers and Interns

“ I chose IGAC because I have a 24 year old autistic son whom I am the guardian for and feel a strong connection with the mission of IGAC. For me this is the perfect blend of my ideals and skills.”



Richard Dixon
University of Illinois Springfield

“I have been a medical laboratory technician for 23 years at various hospitals around central Illinois. I am currently a senior at UIS majoring in computer science. Some of my responsibilities while being here have been to help get the Open Data initiative off the ground and lay the ground work for securing email correspondence through digital ID's, encryption, and digital signatures.”

IGAC Volunteers and Interns

"Getting to apply the skills I spent four years trying to learn is pretty cool. This could be something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life, however, presently; I believe my calling to be community organizing"

I'm Andrew Englebrecht and I'm from New Lenox, IL. I attended Lincoln-Way Central High School before moving on to Bradley University. After trying to figure out



Andrew Englebrecht
Bradley University

what I wanted to do with my life all through high school, I found social work. I initially attempted a double major in both social work and sociology, but social work had too many requirements and therefore I had to settle for a minor instead. I am also involved with various groups that focus on social issues and attempt to resolve them. These are pretty much my interests. I chose the OSG because it offered the most experience based on its macro-nature; however I still feel like I could be doing more about changing the world. As an OSG Intern I perform various func-

tions including but not limited to various paper work, phone calls, shadowing, and just started visiting some wards on my own. My real passion is Community Organizing, and it is what I would really like to do eventually. After I graduate this summer, I hope to land some experience in community organizing; where I'm out working and interacting with a community of people. Graduate school would be nice in that field, however, right now; I would like to see what other options I have while saving up some money to make it more affordable.

IGAC Volunteers and Interns



Brittany Mailey
Bradley University

"Interning with this agency has opened my eyes up to a lot of things. I am glad that I am getting this experience; it has opened me up to new possible ideas. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and patience and I would consider working with the elderly and persons with a disability in the future"

My name is Brittany Mailey and I am a senior Social Work major at Bradley University. After I graduate from Bradley University, I plan to attend graduate school at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in the Forensic Psychology masters program then eventually get a Psy.D. in Clinical Forensic Psychology. My career goal(s) is to become a Forensic Psychologist working

with juvenile delinquents in juvenile detention centers, hospitals, and in a private setting. I am really interested in psychology, criminal justice and law backgrounds. I chose to intern at the Office of State Guardian because I wanted to get experience in working with different populations and persons with disabilities since I have never really worked with them before. Since the start of the practicum I have done various visits with clients, I put together new ward packets, and many other little things to help the caseworkers out. Soon I will be going out to visit each of the clients that I have been assigned and I have to do a case study on one of them.

OFFICE DIRECTORY

Offices of the Director

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 N. La Salle Street S500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3115
(312) 793-5900
Fax (312) 793-4311

421 East Capitol Ave. Suite 205
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1797
(217) 785-1540
Fax (217) 524-0088

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**.

Statewide TTY: **1-866-333-3362**

Visit our World Wide Web Site: <http://gac.state.il.us>

Regional Offices

East Central Regional Office

2125 South First Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 278-5577
Fax (217) 278-5588

Egyptian Regional Office

#7 Cottage Drive
Anna, Illinois 62906-1669
(618) 833-4897
Fax (618) 833-5219

Metro East Regional Office

4500 College Avenue, Suite 100
Alton, Illinois 62002-5051
(618) 474-5503
Fax (618) 474-5517

Peoria Regional Office

5407 North University, Suite 7
Peoria Illinois 61614-4776
(309) 693-5001
Fax (309) 693-5050

Rockford Regional Office

4302 North Main Street, Suite 108
Rockford, Illinois 61103-5202
(815) 987-7657
Fax (815) 987-7227

West Suburban Regional Office

Post Office Box 7009
Hines, Illinois 60141-7009
(708) 338-7500
Fax (708) 338-7505

North Suburban Regional Office

9511 Harrison Avenue, W-300
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016-1565
(847) 294-4264

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois
Recycled Paper. Soy Inks.
GRF 2009-79 200/ \$1.73 per copy