

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

GOVERNOR
Pat Quinn

DIRECTOR
Dr. Mary L. Milano

CHAIRMAN
Anthony E. Rothert

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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.

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.



In this, a year which has seen perhaps the worst and yet the most hopeful as well in government service, and our 30th 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, Ira Silverstein and Representative Angelo "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. . .

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

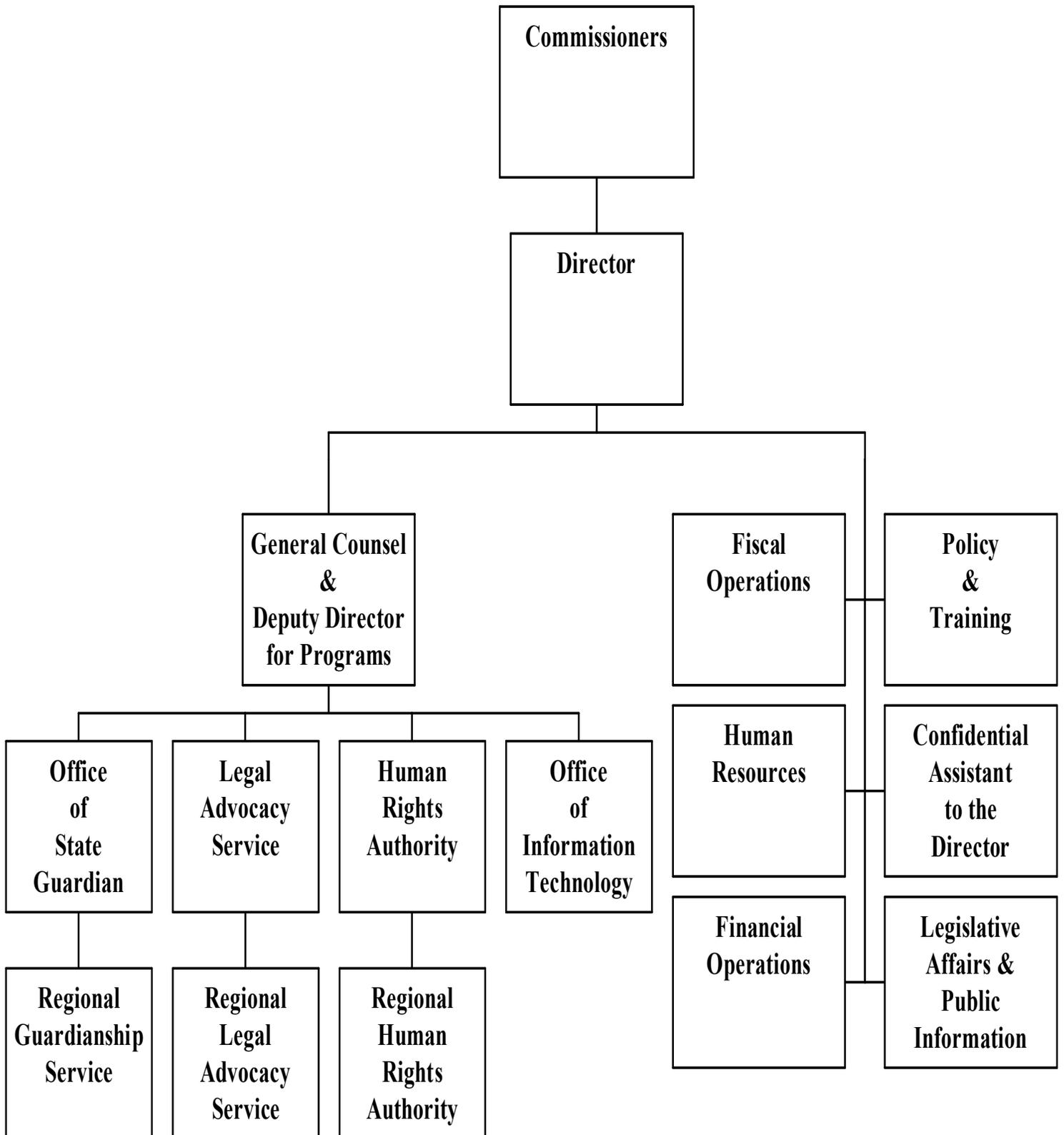
FUNDING:

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 **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. . .



Anthony E. Rothert, Chairperson

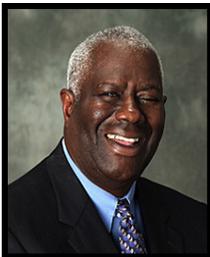
Anthony Rothert is the Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri. His previous experience includes six years as a staff attorney with the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission's Legal Advocacy Service. Mr. Rothert received an MSW and his Juris Doctorate from St. 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 for the past two years and serves 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.



Angelo "Skip" Saviano

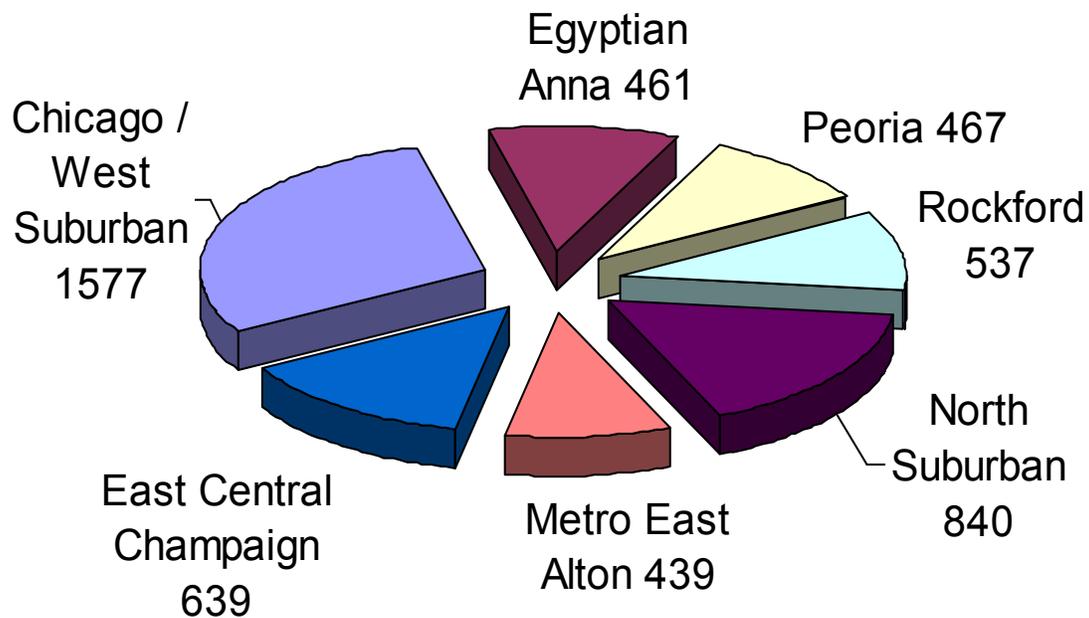
Former State Representative, Angelo "Skip" Saviano (R-Elmwood Park) represented the 77th District as a full-time state legislator. For several years. He has a B.A. from DePaul University. He is married to wife, Julie, and has two children. He was first elected to the legislature in 1993. Since 1995,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

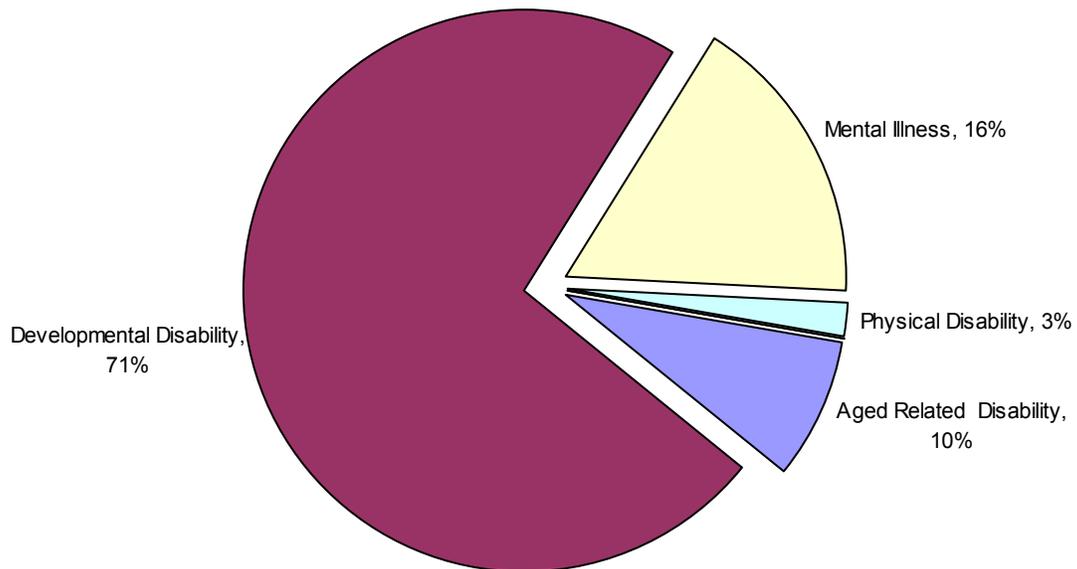
The Office of Fiduciary Services provides assistance with processing deposits and payments for wards of the Office of State Guardian. Last fiscal year, the Fiduciary Unit processed more than 12,724 separate financial transactions totaling more than \$5,506,340. This unit also prepares state and federal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

OSG Wards by Region



OSG Statistics for Fiscal Year 2012

OSG Ward Profiles



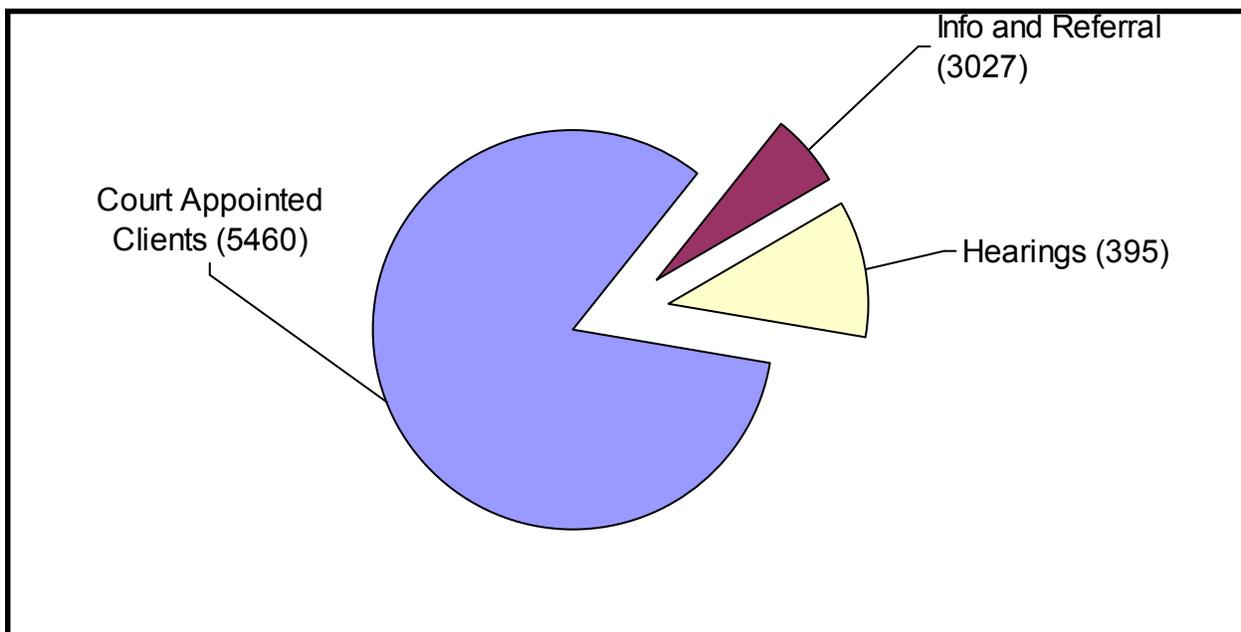
Legal Advocacy Service (LAS)

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.

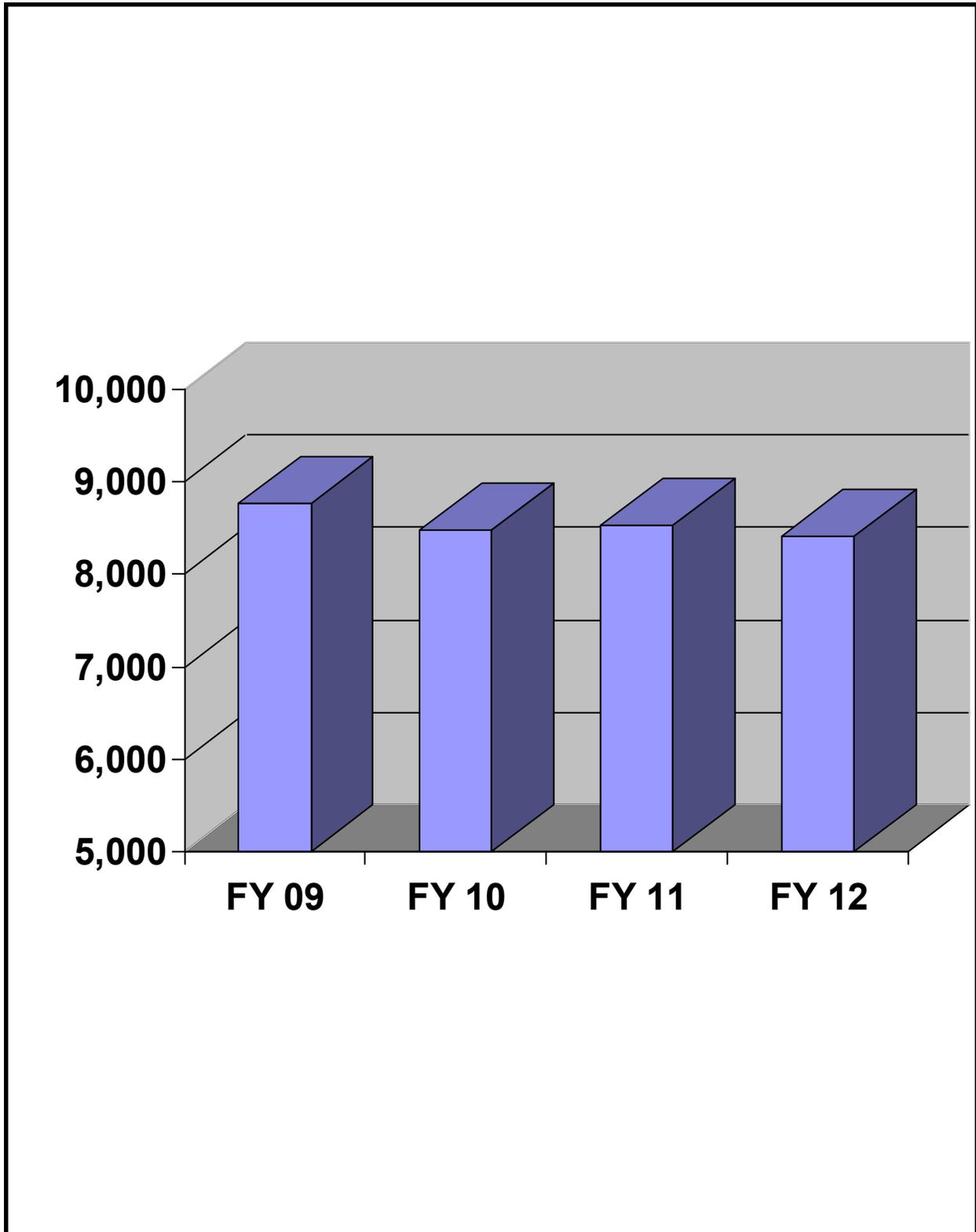
In most cases, the Illinois circuit and appellate courts appoint LAS attorneys to represent people facing involuntary hospitalization and treatment, or who have been determined in need of such services. LAS attorneys interview clients and research individual situations in order to prepare the best possible 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.

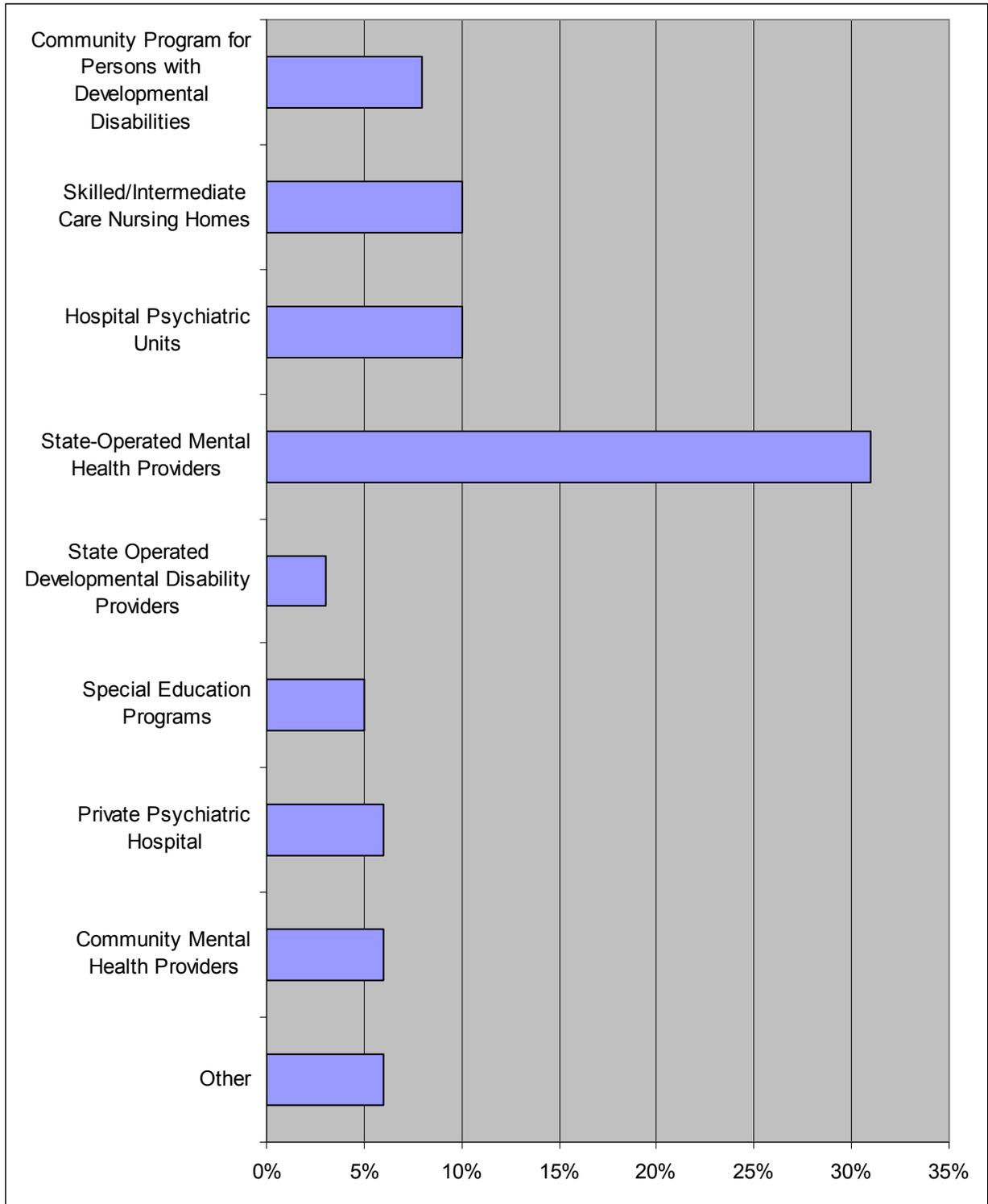
The Authority is comprised of nine regional Authorities located across the State of Illinois; each regional panel consists of nine volunteer HRA members for a total of 81 volunteers who conduct the rights investigations. The HRA members are appointed by the Commission and have expertise and experience 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>

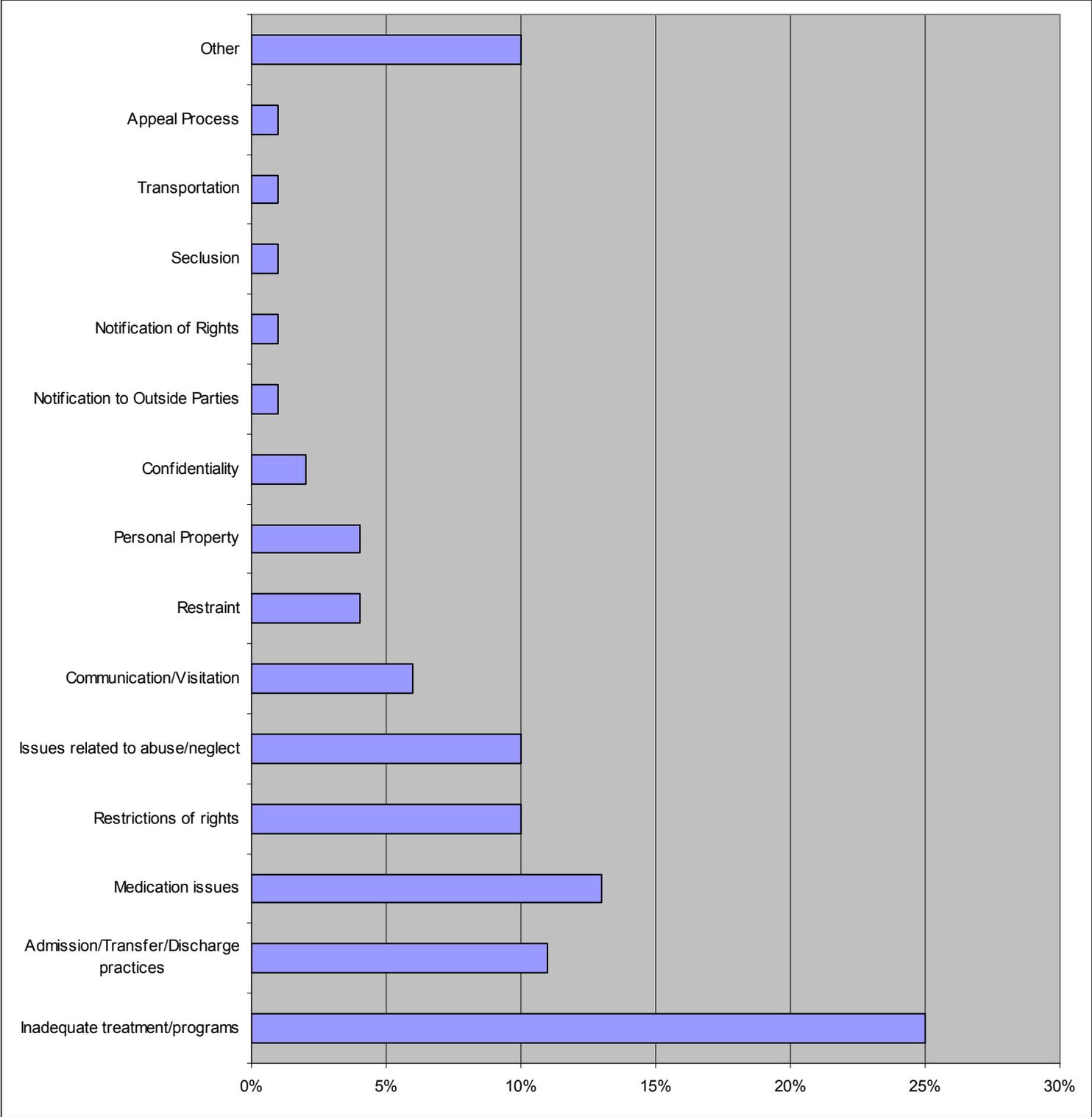
HRA STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

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

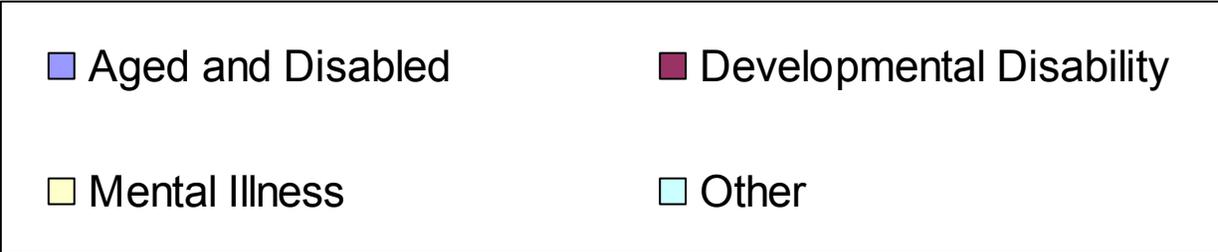
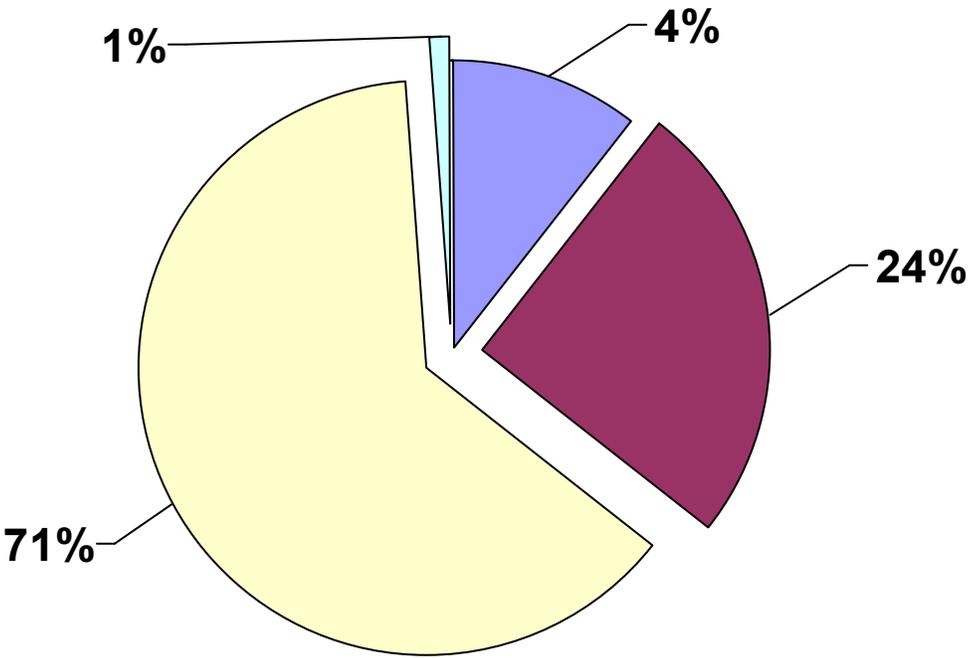
Types of Service Providers Represented in New HRA cases



Types of Rights Issues Represented in New HRA cases



Recipients of HRA Services



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 McMahan
Sharon Mumford
Pam O'Connor
Kathy Rambeau
Clarence E. Russell

Northwest Region

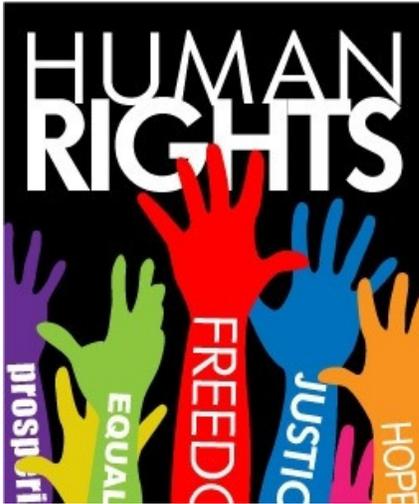
David J. Carlson
Jean McNulty
Colleen E. Parks
David Retzlaff
Florence Sandberg
Gail Stickle
Erin Wade, Ph.D.

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, he 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 when they need it, with activities such as shopping for interview clothing or practicing handwriting. For eddy, this is a dream come true. Governor Pat Quinn recog-

nized Eddie and invited him to a reception where Eddie had a terrific time At the last State of the State address. 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 your 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 cloud 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, also known as SB 3592 was an experiment of its kind not only for Illinois' Guardianship and Advocacy Commission but for the 98th General Assembly as well. This bill had substantial involvement from the Commission's legislative staff, Senator Ira Silverstein spearheading as

the senate sponsor, State Representative Sara Feigenholtz as the house sponsor and former state representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano. In practice, SB-3592 imposes a fee of \$100 instead of \$50 for the administration of the estate of a decedent. 95% of the fee shall then be disbursed within 60 days after receipt by the circuit clerk to the State Treasurer for deposit by the State Treasurer into the Guardianship and Advocacy Fund. This in practice provides some much needed relief in additional funding avenues of Guardianship and Advocacy services throughout the state. Another flag-bearing aspect of this bill is based on the fact that courts are required to consider limited guardianship firsthand before a plenary one. This is extremely important to our agency and the population we serve, especially when considered in cases where the ward and Guardian both agree that guardianship is not needed; the law now favors self guardianship.

VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, JANUARY 30, 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 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

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

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.



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



Suzanne Fike
Masters Level Intern with
University of Chicago



Sara yoo
Intern University of Chicago

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 Commis-

sion 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

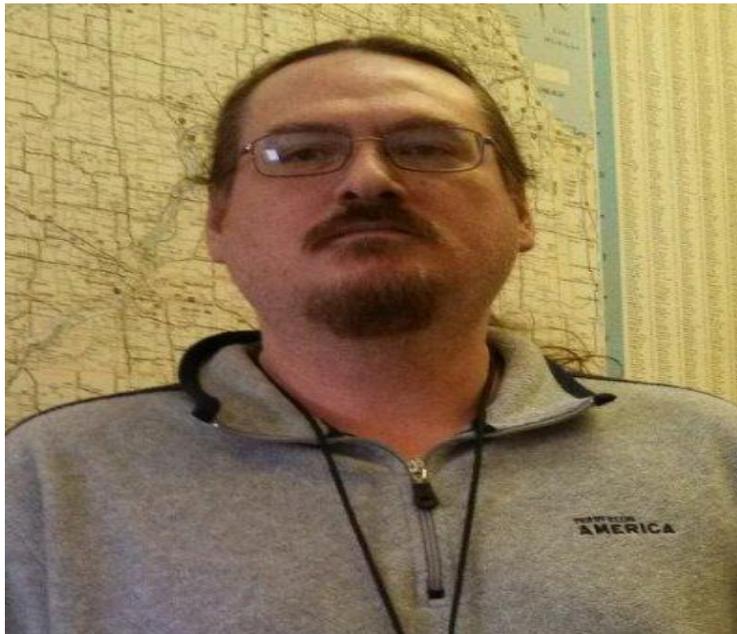


Yashvin Prakasam
University of Illinois Springfield

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 Jan 1st 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



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 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 functions 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

"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.

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