



COLORADO OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP

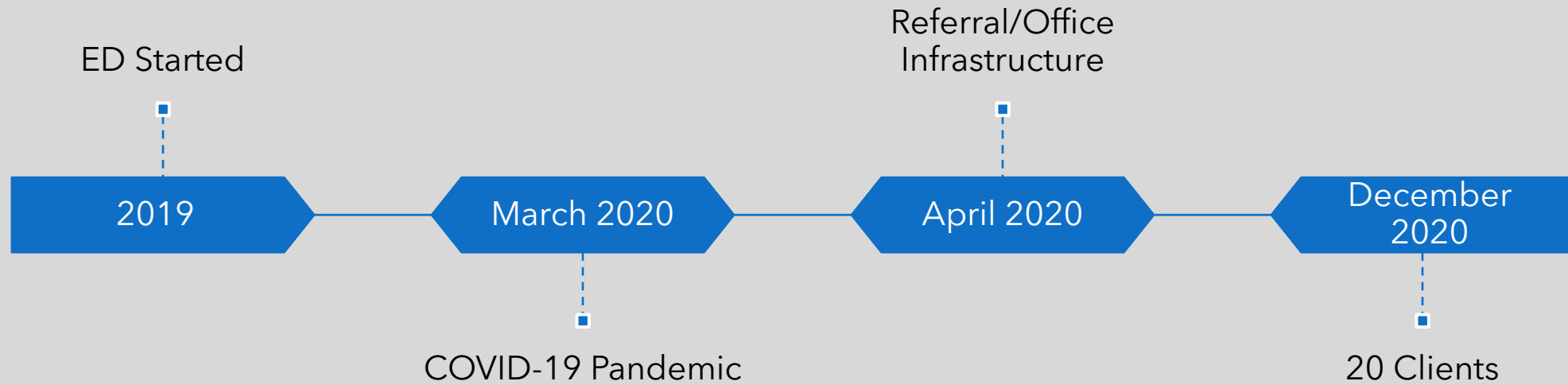
Performance Plan

2022

Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program

The Colorado Office of Public Guardianship (COPG) Pilot Program established by the Colorado General Assembly will strive to meet the guardianship needs of incapacitated and indigent adults, within the targeted judicial district, who lack willing or appropriate family or friends, while implementing the least restrictive alternatives and person-centered planning. The COPG Pilot Program will assess the need for, and feasibility of, a statewide office of public guardianship services and provide detailed recommendations for action to the Colorado General Assembly by January 1, 2023.

2019 - 2020 Overview

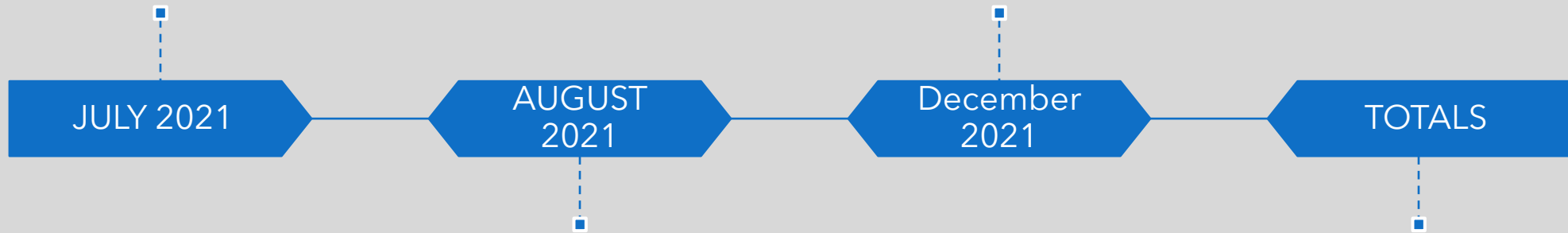


CHALLENGES

- Covid-19 Pandemic
 - Court Administrative Orders
 - Legal counsel
 - Omicron variant
- Issues with delayed guardianship appointments
 - Legal counsel
 - Court and filing fees
- Limited mental health services
- Limited behavioral health services

2021 Overview

OBH Dedicated Public
Guardian



JULY 2021

AUGUST
2021

December
2021

TOTALS

73 Clients

Statewide Survey

84 Clients

104 Declined Referrals

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- Declined referrals

- 64 Non-Denver referrals
- 12 Incomplete referrals
- 1 Not incapacitated
- 5 Friends/Family available

- Withdrawn Referrals

- 5 AIP died before the appointment hearing
- 5 Incomplete referrals
- 7 Not incapacitated
- 5 Friends/Family available



GOAL 1: PROVIDE APPROPRIATE AND
QUALITY PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP
SERVICES WITHIN THE TARGETED
JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Goal 1 - Provide appropriate and quality public guardianship services within the targeted judicial district

- **Caseload capacity reached**
 - December 2020 demographics
 - 45 Male/28 Female
 - 8 Veterans
 - 47 Initial number of Homeless clients
- **OBH dedicated Public Guardian**
- **Statewide Survey as support for expansion**

Dementia related diagnoses	Intellectual/Developmental disability	Cognitive/Traumatic Brain Injury or Neurological disorder	Severe Mental Health Illness (schizophrenia and/or bipolar diagnosis)
24	9	22	18

2021 Statewide Survey

- ALL Judicial Districts were represented
- Primary Obstacles in Establishing Guardianships
 - Lack of available family and friends to serve as guardians
 - Lack of available guardians/services
- **98%** of direct service providers indicated that at least *SOME* (50%) of their clients would benefit from guardianship services
- **88%** of all participants indicated there was a *HIGH* or *EXTREMELY HIGH* need for Public Guardianship services in their community

2021 Statewide Survey

- On average, **93%** of participants indicated there was a *HIGH* or *EXTREMELY HIGH* need for Public Guardianship services in the 2nd, 7th and 16th Judicial Districts
- On average, **59%** of participants indicated they were unsuccessful in locating a guardian in their service area within the 2nd, 7th and 16th Judicial Districts
- On average, **52%** of participants indicated that the population of clients without available friends or family to serve as guardian increased in their service area within the 2nd, 7th and 16th Judicial Districts





GOAL 2: COMPLETE DATA
COLLECTION AND PRESENT 2023
DIRECTOR REPORT TO GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

Goal 2 - Complete data collection and present 2023 director report to general assembly § 13-94-111, C.R.S. (2019)

- Colorado's unmet need for public guardianship services for indigent and incapacitated adults;
- Average annual cost of providing guardianship services to indigent and incapacitated adults;
- Net cost or benefit, if any, to the state that may result from the provision of guardianship services to each indigent and incapacitated adult in each judicial district of the state;
- Identify any notable efficiencies or obstacles that the office incurred in providing public guardianship services pursuant to statute;
- Assess whether an independent statewide office of public guardianship or a nonprofit agency is preferable and feasible;
- Analyze costs of and off-setting savings to the state from the delivery of public guardianship services;
- Provide uniform and consistent data elements regarding service delivery in aggregate format that does not include any personal identifying information of any adult; Assess funding models and viable funding sources for an independent office of public guardianship or a nonprofit agency, including the possibility of funding with a statewide increase in probate court filing fees.
- The Director, in consultation with the OPG Commission, shall develop a strategy for the discontinuation of the office in the event that the general assembly declines to continue or expand the office in 2023. The strategy must include consideration of how to meet the guardianship needs of adults who will no longer be able to receive guardianship services from the office.



GOAL 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY

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- **Best Practices** as per
 - Colorado Public Guardianship Act
 - National Guardianship Standards
 - Center for Guardianship Certification
 - Colorado Probate Statutes
 - Colorado Judicial Branch
- **Program evaluation** will be scheduled as determined with COPG Commission
- **Complaint process and policy** established and available on the Colorado OPG website



GOAL 4: ADEQUATE FUNDING



GOAL 5: DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR
DISCONTINUATION OF THE OPG
PILOT PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION
WITH THE COMMISSION

Goal 5 - Develop a Strategy for Discontinuation of the OPG pilot program in consultation with the Commission

- Establish and maintain relationships with guardian and fiduciary agencies and other key stakeholders that may serve as successor guardians of Colorado OPG clients
- Funds to organizations to support successor guardians of Colorado OPG clients
- Using Colorado OPG funds for legal services and emergency client funds
- Pilot a Guardianship Academy

COLORADO OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP

• FINANCIAL FORECAST

- HB19-1045 allows for fees charged in relation to probate case filings to fund the COPG Cash Fund
- This funding source has allowed the Colorado OPG to not request budget increases for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 and 2023
- The FY 2022-2023 Budget Request will allow the Pilot to serve the original intent of the 2017 legislation supported by the COPG Cash Fund
- The Colorado OPG Pilot Program strives to provide quality public guardianship services to incapacitated and indigent adults and will continue to review and improve its policies and procedures to effectively expand its services statewide.