

An abstract graphic consisting of several thin, black, overlapping lines that form various geometric shapes and polygons, primarily located in the upper left and center of the page.

COLORADO OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP

SMART Act Hearing 01.19.2023



MISSION & VALUES

COPG serves:

Indigent & Incapacitated adults 21 years of age and older who lack willing or appropriate family/friends available or willing to serve as guardian

COPG provides guardianship services to:

Secure the health & safety of vulnerable adults while safeguarding and preserving their independence wherever possible

COPG values:

Dignity and self-determination of clients and providing quality and appropriate services to clients

COPG values:

Collaboration, accountability and transparency

Most impactful services the COPG provides are assisting clients with:

COPG SERVICES

- *Establishing the appropriate level of housing/placement*
- *Securing needed and appropriate medical and health care*
- *Securing needed and appropriate mental health care*

COPG POPULATION

102 CLIENTS
SERVED

DENVER
COUNTY/2ND
JUDICIAL COUNTY

- 83 active guardianships
- 316 referrals; 93 outside of Denver County
- 42 identified as female, 64 identified as male
- Client ages range from 20s to 90s
- Median age 60-75; 45% of clients over age 65
- Primary diagnoses: Alzheimer's disease, dementia disorder, or other neurocognitive disorder (33%)
- Secondary diagnoses: Mental illness or psychiatric conditions (29%)
- At the time of referral, 89% of clients had additional medical conditions, with 44% suffering from multiple medical conditions

HIGHLIGHTS

COPG POPULATION

- 73 clients need assistance with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) and 67 clients need assistance with two or more ADLs.
- 93 clients need assistance with at least one Instrumental activities of daily living (iADLs) and 87 clients need assistance with two or more iADLs.

SUCSESSES

- Completion of 2023 COPG Final Report and Bill for statewide expansion
- Established a “Hold Status”
- Office of Behavioral Health funding of 2 COPG guardians

SUCSESSES

- Expansion during the Pilot
- Unmet Need: 2,754 – 3,736 Coloradans need public guardianship

HIGHLIGHTS

- Qualitative Study

INITIAL COST
SAVINGS DUE TO
APPROPRIATE
HOUSING

\$2,988,140

- 9 clients from CMHI Ft. Logan and Pueblo
- 15 clients experiencing homelessness

OTHER COST
SAVINGS

\$10,000 – pre-paid burial arrangements for
10 clients

OTHER COST
AVOIDANCE
SAVINGS

- Reduced 911 calls
- Reduced emergency department visits
- Reduced hospitalizations

INTANGIBLE
COST SAVINGS

“It impressed me in many ways. They placed me in a home. They helped me get established in this place I'm living at. They helped me get established with shoes and clothes. I'm waiting for a winter jacket for my birthday, my own winter jacket. I have my own pair of shoes on. I got my own pants, my own shirts. Not at a grab bag. It's really from Amazon and they're really mine. I don't have to dig in grab bags or get second best or anything. I got my own clothes. Erin helped me with it. I'm impressed and thank her for it. She helped me a bunch.”—Sam—Client

HIGHLIGHTS