



THE
ILLINOIS
GUARDIANSHIP
AND
ADVOCACY
COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

GOVERNOR
ROD BLAGOJEVICH

CHAIRMAN
SAUL MORSE

DIRECTOR
DR. MARY L MILANO

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

Mission Statement

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

Vision

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

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In this, our 29th year as an agency of the State of Illinois, please 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, assuming guardianship for adults with disabilities and investigating allegations of rights violations, the Commission is a leader in serving Illinois and its most vulnerable 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.

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 Blagojevich 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary L. Milano

Executive Director



About the Commission. . .

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

The Office of State Guardian (OSG) Appointed by the courts as a guardian of last resort, the OSG provides case services and money management to more than 5,059 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, conducts investigations of alleged rights violations by providers against people with disabilities. Additionally this program area works closely with providers to help resolve rights issues.

General Overview

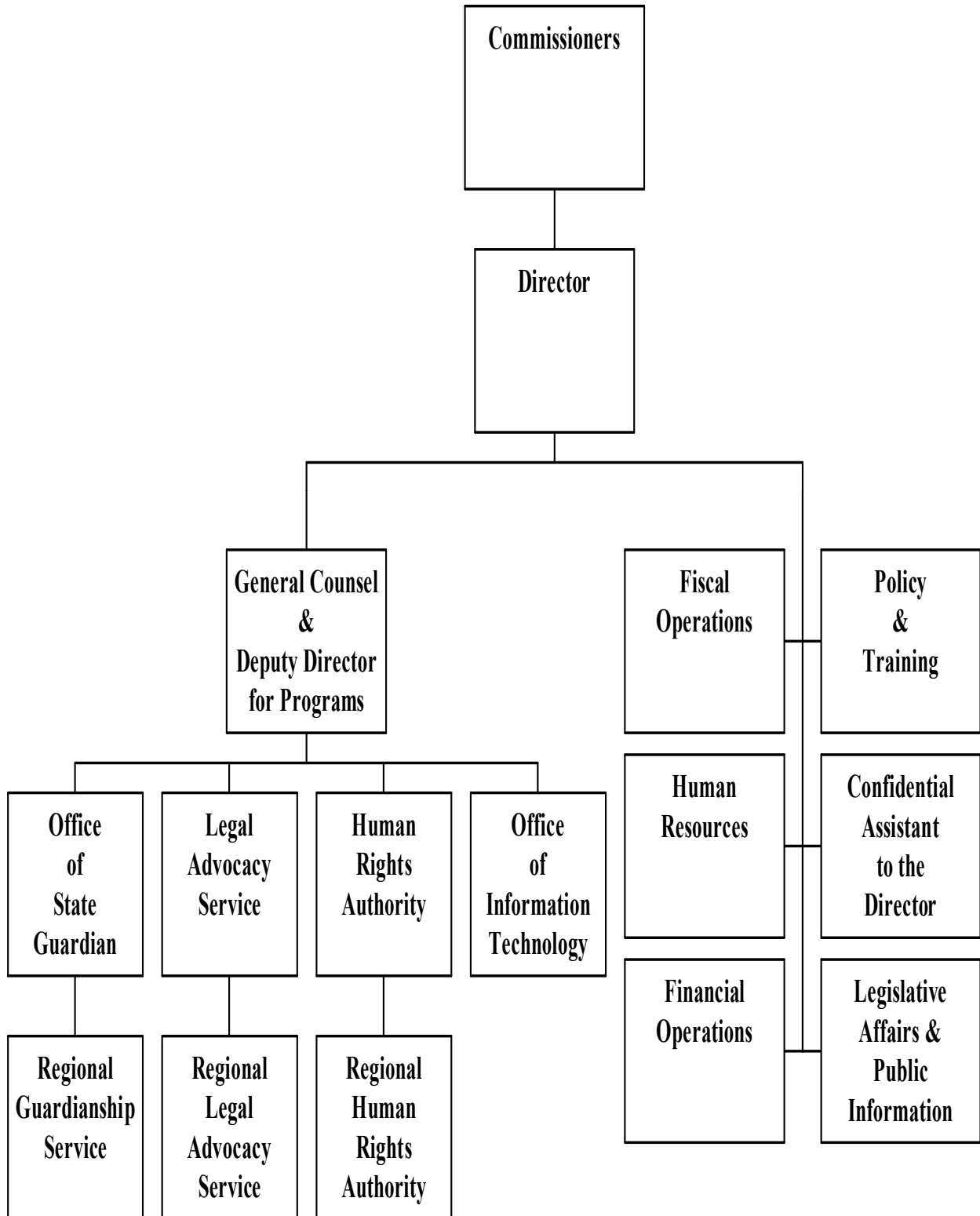
FUNDING:

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

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

- Served as guardian for **5,059** wards throughout Illinois. IGAC is the **largest** public guardianship agency of its kind in the nation.
- Handled over **5,269** inquiries through its Intake Unit, offering information regarding all program areas as well as referral
- Provided legal representation, general legal information and referrals to **7,024** clients
- Investigated **275** cases of alleged rights violations for persons with disabilities benefiting **13,221** persons. This is a result of **3,614** volunteer hours provided by members of the Human Rights Authority
- Employed **111** staff

Organization Chart



Meet our Commissioners. . .



Saul Morse, Chairman

Saul Morse is an attorney with the Springfield law firm of Brown, Hay and Stephens LLP. He is the current treasurer of the City of Leland Grove and Vice President of United Cerebral Palsy of Land of Lincoln. He is also a Member of the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurses Association and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He is a Graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois College of Law. Chairman Morse has also served as Former Counsel to the Minority Leader of the Illinois State Senate and served as a former member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Dr. Seymour Bryson

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



Senator Ira Silverstein

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



IGAC Commissioners. . .



Representative Kathleen Ryg -

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

Kenley R. Wade

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



IGAC Commissioners. . .



Senator Don Harmon

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



Senator Todd Seiben

Senator Seiben was elected to the Illinois State Senate after serving three terms in the House of Representatives. He was selected as an Assistant Senate Republican Leader in 2003. Senator Seiben carries a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Western Illinois University. He is a Vietnam Veteran and served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy. Senator Seiben focuses on issues pertaining to education, agriculture and business development.

IGAC Commissioners. . .



Glenn Jackson

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



Dr. M. Jeanne Dolphus Cotton

The Reverend Dr. M. Jeanne Dolphus Cotton is the founder and CEO of Trinity Universal Center Inc. (TUC), a center for positive youth, family and personal development. Dr. Cotton is the Executive Minister of Trinity's Fellowship Hour, the spiritual arm of TUC. She has more than 35 years of experience as an Educator, Administrator, Personologist and a Counselor. She is an Ordained Minister and serves as an Independent Contractor for the College of Lake County and the Waukegan Public School District. She has created many successful programs for at risk youth and their parents. Dr. Cotton is regarded as an innovator in the field of Human Resources Development, Management Leadership and Goal Achievement. She has traveled extensively and carries multiple graduate level degrees.

IGAC Commissioners. . .

Inez Torres-Davis

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

Inez has worked professionally as an anti-racism educator since 1994, and anti-bias education since 1991. One part Chiricahua Apache and two parts Mexican American, Mrs. Davis has conducted cross-cultural immersion experiences on Reservations as well as in Appalachia.

In addition to writing and gathering curriculum used in teaching hundreds of women about being anti racist organizers, Inez has also worked in areas of organizational development, cross-cultural education, commercial sexual exploitation, environmental safety and working with youth. Since 1997 she has consulted with various groups on issues related the full-inclusion of people living with disabilities and has written disability related cross-cultural tips for the web.



Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano

77th District.

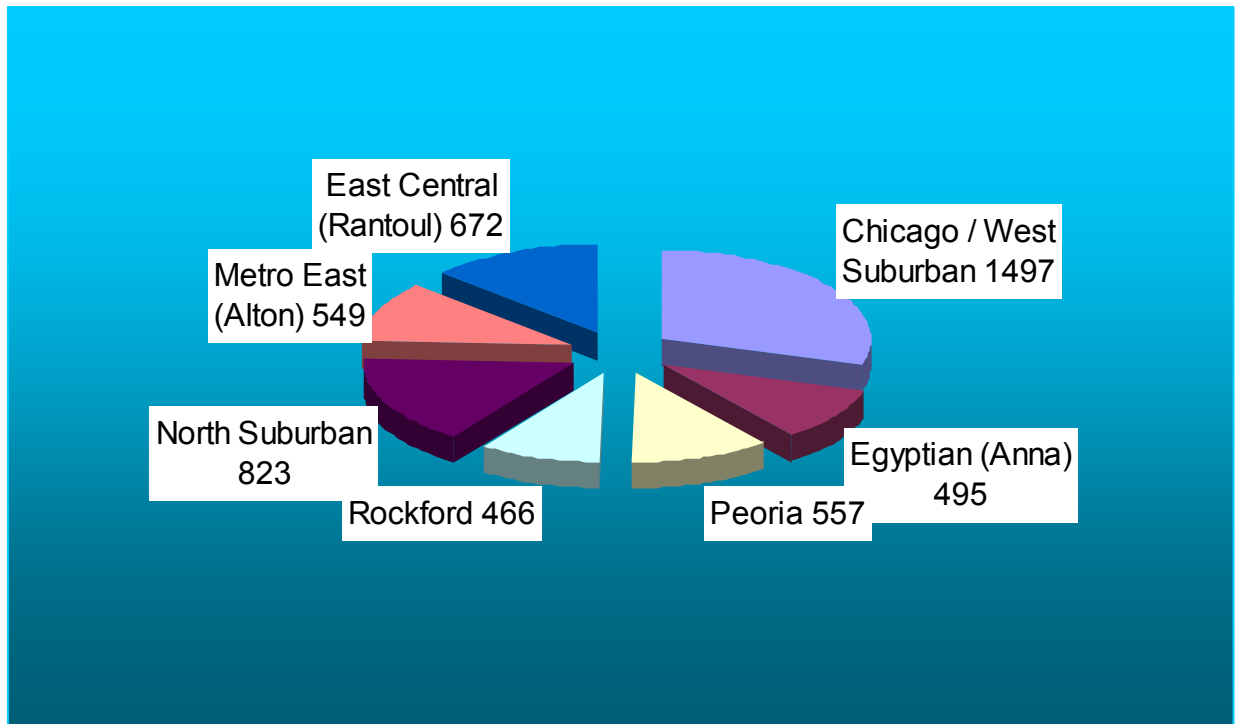
State Representative Angelo "Skip" Saviano (R-Elmwood Park) is a full-time state legislator; born May 20, 1958 in Chicago; B.A., DePaul University; married (wife, Julie), and has two children. He was first elected to the legislature in 1993. Since 1995, Representative Saviano has served as chairman of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

Office of State Guardian (OSG)

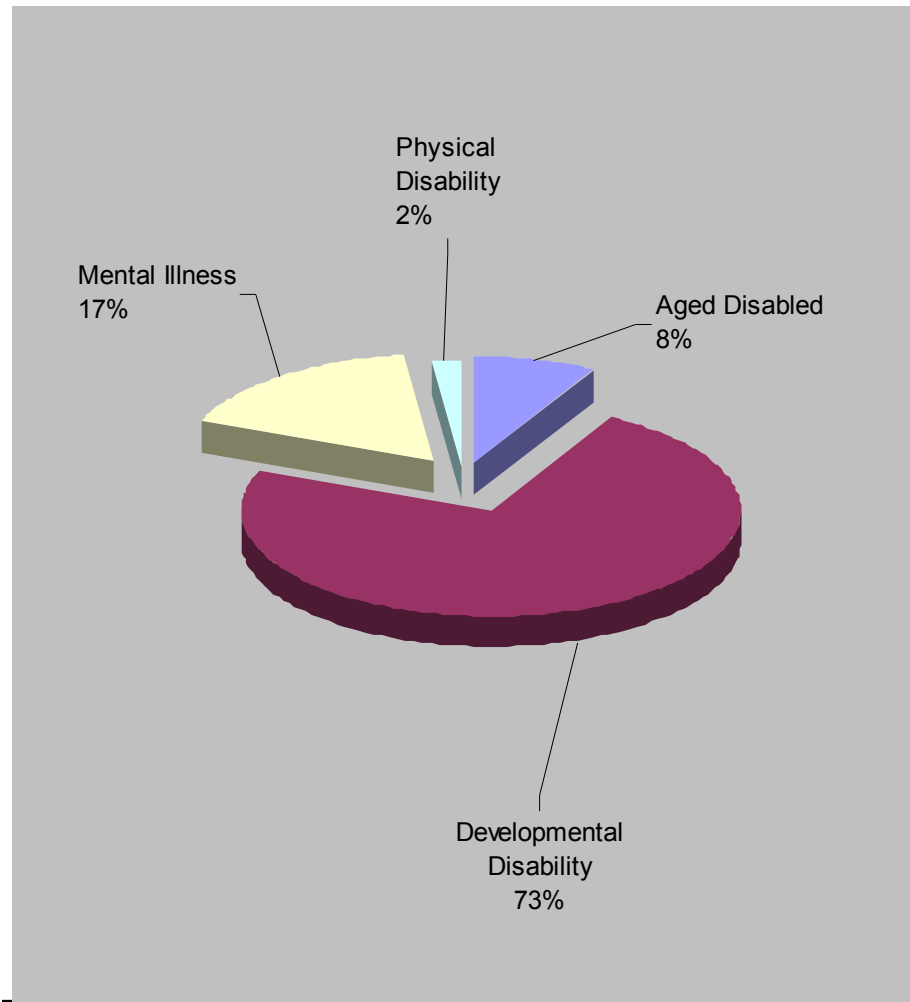
As the guardian of last resort in Illinois, the Office of State Guardian (OSG) provides guardianship services for adults with disabilities by court appointment when alternatives to guardianship have been exhausted, when the appointment of a guardian is necessary, or when family or friends are unavailable to serve as guardian. The purpose of adult guardianship is to provide substitute decision making for medical treatment, residential placement, money management and direct care planning. The OSG monitors and advocates for appropriate medical and other services for each ward and provides guardianship information, advice and assistance to families of persons with disabilities. The OSG is the largest public guardian in the United States, serving 5,059 adults. The average caseload of an OSG Guardianship Representative is 119 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 11,922 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 Ward Profiles



Medicaid

Reimbursement

OSG entered into an interagency agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Aid that allows for administrative case management services provided by OSG to be billed on a quarterly basis to Medicaid. Billings have been submitted for services from the period of October 1, 1998 through June 30, 2007. All reimbursement for the Medicaid Billings is deposited into the General Revenue Fund. Total billings submitted through June 30, 2007 were \$13,866,605. In FY '07 Medicaid billings totaled \$1,623,836.

OSG Statistics for Fiscal Year 2007

• Documented visits to wards	19,234
• Medical consent activities	11,532
• After hours calls regarding services for wards	7,326
• New temporary guardianships	222
• New plenary guardianships	302
• Rights restored to wards (no longer in need of guardianship)	20
• Successor guardian appointed	29

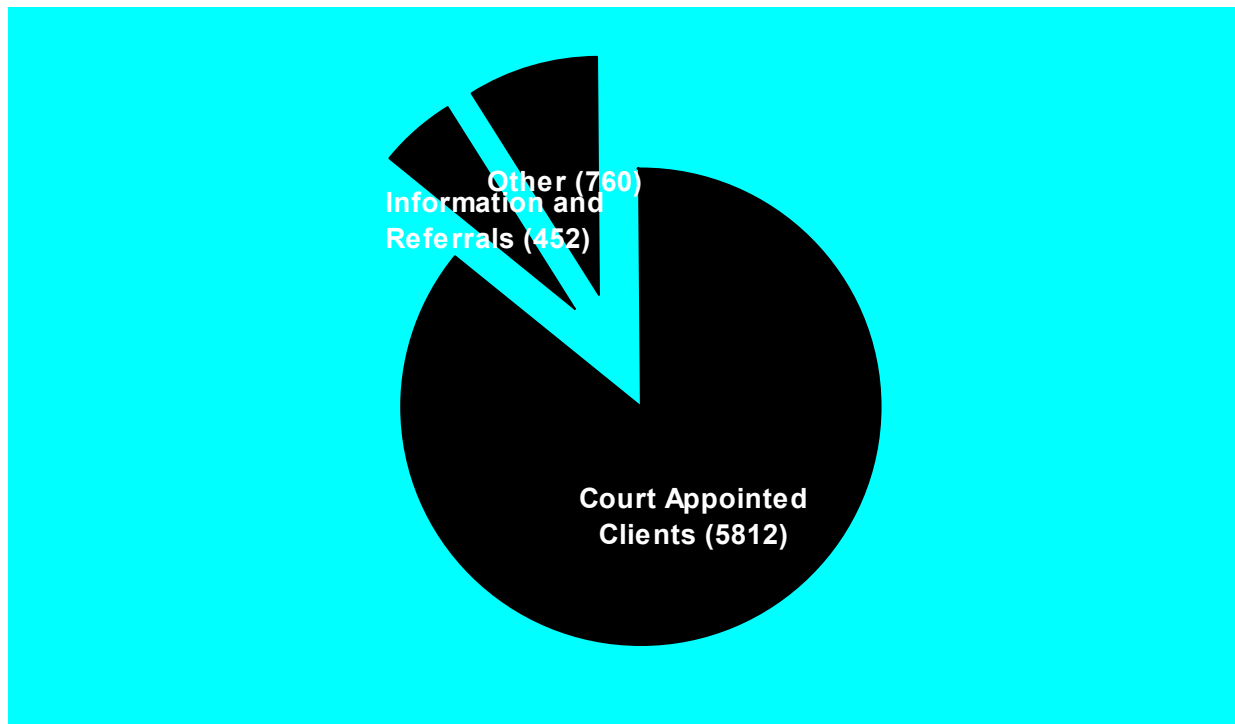
Legal Advocacy Service (LAS)

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.

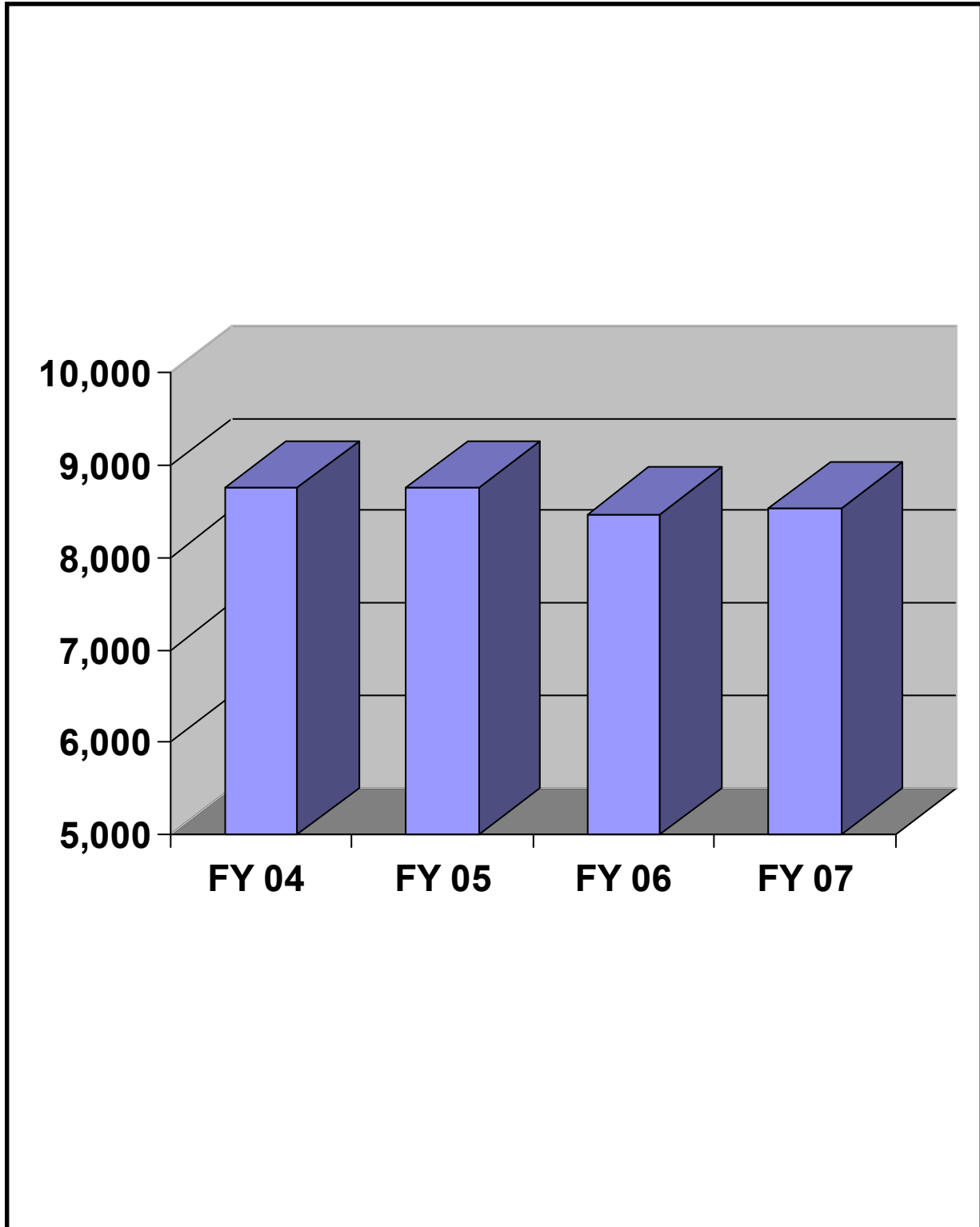
In most cases, the Illinois circuit and appellate courts appoint LAS attorneys to represent people facing involuntary hospitalization and treatment, or who have been determined in need of such services. LAS attorneys interview clients and research individual situations in order to prepare the best possible 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 7,024 clients were represented, provided with information or given referrals by LAS in Fiscal Year 2007.

LAS Activities for Fiscal Year 2007



Number of LAS Clients Served



Human Rights Authority (HRA)

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

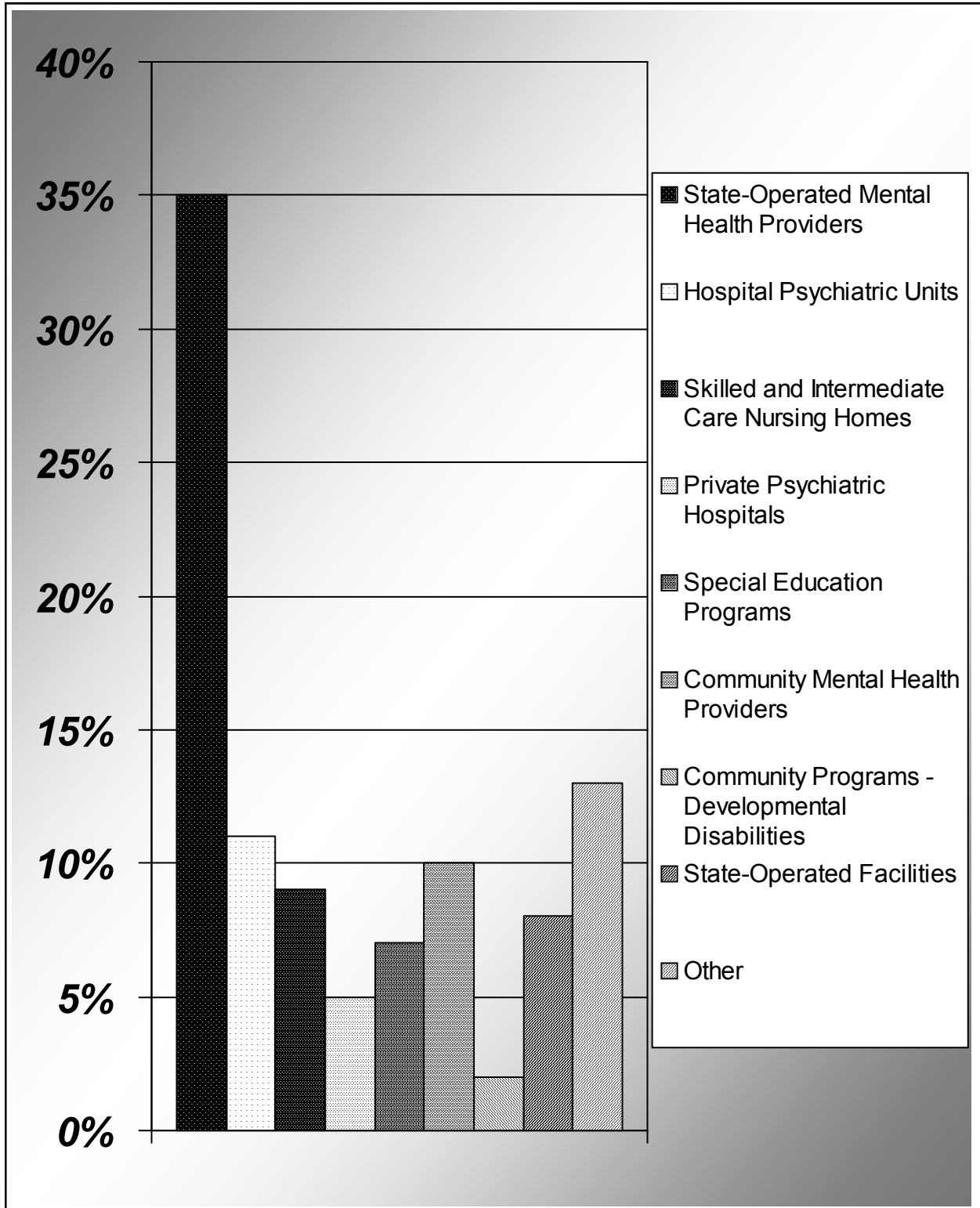
The Authority is comprised of nine regional Authorities located across the State of Illinois; each regional panel consists of nine volunteer HRA members for a total of 81 volunteers who conduct the rights investigations. The HRA members are appointed by the Commission and have expertise and experience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

The Authority conducts investigations of reported complaints and issues findings. Included in the findings are recommendations for improved rights protections. The ultimate goal of the Authority's work is to negotiate with providers for systemic changes to agency policies, procedures and practices that will promote rights protections for both current and future recipients of services. During Fiscal Year 2007, 94% of Human Rights Authority recommendations were accepted and implemented by service providers investigated, and those recommendations had an impact on more than 13,221 persons with disabilities. The Authority's reports are available to the public and are posted on the Commission's web site at <http://gac.state.il.us>

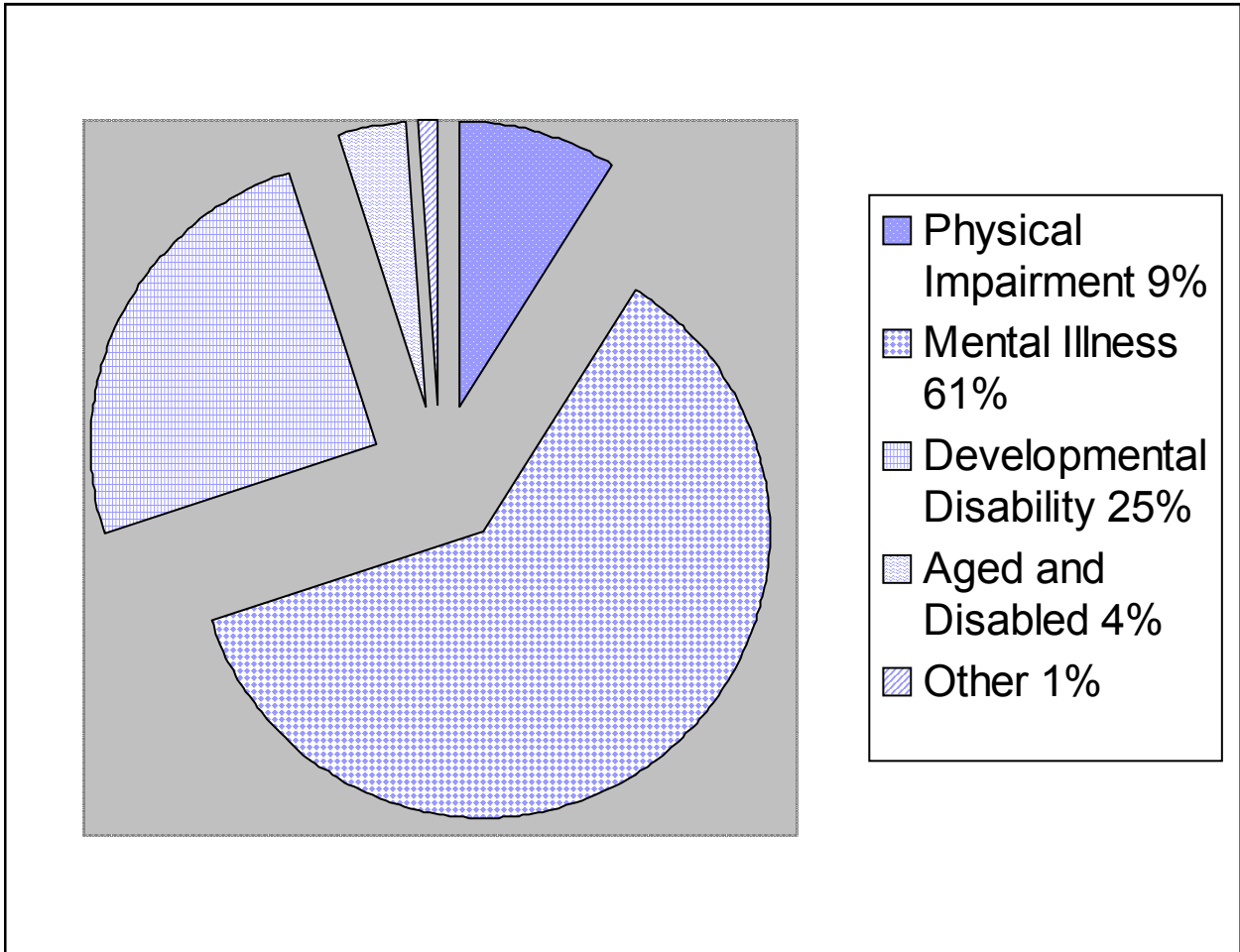
HRA STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

Total number of cases handled	275
Percentage of recommendations accepted and implemented	94%
Number of volunteer hours	3,614
Number of persons with disabilities benefiting from HRA recommendations	13,221

Types of Service Providers Represented in New HRA cases



Recipients of HRA Services



Sue Barfield

"When you have a family member with a disability, you are made painfully aware of the barriers that exist. Serving as an HRA member in an advocacy role is a way that I can personally attempt to alleviate some of those barriers." - Sue Barfield

HRA Member List 2007

Chicago Region

Ellen Holden Clark
 Katherine Dunford
 Michael Grice
 Daniel Bishop
 Paul Mencinkas
 Joseph E. Mengoni
 Eleanor Murkey
 Ray Hemphill
 Lawrence Kamer
 Jill Quinto

East Central Region

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

Springfield Region

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



North Suburban Region

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

HRA Egyptian Region

Metro East Region

Richard Avdoian MS, MSW, CSP
 Thomas B. Cannady
 Robert Clipper, Ph.D.
 Anthony Rotherth
 Kathy Gregus
 Robert Louis Kingston Schmid
 Mae Alice Shobe
 Jonathan Sorenson
 Emil E. Wilson
 Leo Willis
 Beverly Sweatman

Peoria Region

Debra L. Goodwin
 Jeremy McNamara
 Donald Rulis
 Barbara Runyan
 James Runyon
 Dean Steiner
 Steven Watts
 Susan White
 Carolynsue Wolf

South Suburban Region

M. Marva Allison
 Theresa Buell
 Carol Genutis
 Symon Hopson
 Thelma Larsson
 Lauren Pell
 Paula Phillips
 Peggy A. Peterson
 Judith Rauls
 Hazel Shapen
 Margaret Crotty
 Kimberlee Brewerton

Egyptian Region

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

Northwest Region

Walter S. Bankson
 Kathleen Gustafson
 Candace Long
 Jean McNulty
 Trina O'Brien
 Kirk Osborne
 Erin Wade, Ph.D.
 Erich Hagenlocher
 Gail Stickle

Fiscal Summary Guardianship and Advocacy 2007

Cost Center	Enacted Appropriations	Appropriations After Transfers	Expenditures
Personal Services	\$ 6,679,300.00	\$ 6,679,300.00	\$ 6,611,064.00
Retirement Pickup	\$	\$	\$
Retirement	\$ 769,800.00	\$ 769,800.00	\$ 762,692.00
Social Security	\$ 510,000.00	\$ 497,000.00	\$ 490,022.00
Contractual Services	\$ 258,000.00	\$ 258,000.00	\$ 257,831.00
Travel	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 175,285.00	\$ 175,283.00
Commodities	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 9,345.00	\$ 9,320.00
Printing	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 7,825.00	\$ 7,675.00
Equipment	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 7,845.00	\$ 7,744.00
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 21,400.00	\$ 26,400.00	\$ 26,331.00
Auto Operations	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 7,274.00
Telecommunications	\$ 242,900.00	\$ 242,900.00	\$ 239,075.00
GAC Fund	\$ 187,700.00	\$ 187,700.00	\$ 168,149.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,868,700.00	\$ 8,868,700.00	\$ 8,762,460.00

Human Rights Authority Case Summary

The Egyptian Regional HRA investigated an allegation that a state-operated mental health facility failed to honor a recipient’s end of life decision specified in a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order. In an effort to revive the recipient, staff at the facility administered Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and used an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) when the recipient was found unresponsive, not breathing, and without a pulse. CPR was continued until paramedics arrived and transported the recipient to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead. When the HRA Investigation Team spoke with the Administrator of the facility, the Administrator stated that the recipient’s DNR Order was invalid due to the lack of witness signature, an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) requirement to ensure validity. Additionally, the Administrator stated that CPR is always administered to a recipient when he or she is found without a pulse and unresponsive, even if the recipient has a DNR Order.

The HRA reviewed a copy of the recipient’s DNR order that contained a physician’s signature and the recipient’s Power of Attorney’s signature; however, there were no witness signatures on the Order. HRA did not observe any documentation in the recipient’s clinical chart that verified that the facility had reviewed the DNR and found the Order to be invalid or that they attempted to investigate and remedy the matter. When Department of Human Services (DHS) and facility policies pertinent to the allegation were reviewed, HRA learned that recipients are to be informed of various advance directives and the recipients’ right to have those directives honored.

(continued on page 21)



Pam O'Connor



HRA is a working board that makes a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities.

-Pam O'Connor

HRA . . . Case Summary

(continued from page 20)

The HRA determined that the DNR Order specific to the complaint was invalid due to the mandates of IDPH to have witness signatures on the Order. However, the facility was cited for failure to follow its own and DHS advanced directives policies specific to informing recipients and their representatives of information and rights related to advanced directives, clarification of an advanced directive upon admission and appropriate documentation of an existing advanced directive in the clinical record and treatment plan.

The HRA issued the following recommendations for the facility: 1) follow its own policies and procedures; 2) have a copy of the advance directive in a recipient's clinical chart; 3) inform staff members of a recipient's advance directive; 4) provide training to familiarize staff of the components of the directive; 5) document in the recipient's clinical record when an advanced directive is invalid with the reason for the invalidity clearly stated; 6) have information regarding the recipient's advanced directive incorporated in his/her Individual Treatment Plan; 7) clarify the recipient's end-of-life decisions and provide assistance to authenticate a DNR that was found invalid.; 8) ensure that policies are consistent with the Health Care Surrogate and Power of Attorney Acts; 9) review practice of giving CPR whenever there is a prohibiting DNR or other advanced directives in place; and, 10) reference updated DNR form on the IDPH's website.

The facility reviewed the HRA report of findings and agreed to abide by all the issued recommendations. Approximately 100 individuals with disabilities were impacted by the HRA's recommendations.



South Suburban HRA

Legal Advocacy Service



LAS was appointed to represent Tom. Based upon allegations that were made in a petition for involuntary admission, he had been brought to a DHS hospital. The matter was set for a hearing. The LAS attorney met personally with Tom and spoke with him at length about his rights, the upcoming hearing, options that he may want to consider and other matters. Tom decided to stay at the DHS hospital as a voluntary patient in order to get the mental health treatment that he felt was appropriate and necessary for his well-being. His petition was dismissed due to his request that he remain as a voluntary patient.

Tom had described to the LAS attorney the difficulties that he experienced prior to coming to the hospital. It became apparent to the LAS attorney that Tom had legal rights to protect in addition to his rights related to a mental health hearing. Here is a summary of Tom's experience: Tom arrived at a hospital's emergency department following what was allegedly an overdose. He was in the emergency department for an extended amount of time and received medical treatment. He was told that he would be brought to the DHS hospital for mental health treatment. Exhausted, Tom took a nap in the emergency department while he waited.

When he awoke, he decided to run home to get a change of clothing to bring with him. He walked the few blocks to his home. Once there, he saw a vehicle stop in the street in front of his home. Two, rather large, security guards exited the vehicle. They were from the hospital where Tom had been waiting in the emergency department. During the next several minutes, Tom was tackled by the officers, pinned, punched, beaten and handcuffed. The officers used martial arts techniques on him, dragged him to their vehicle and repeatedly kicked him in the ribs while he was restrained. When he arrived at the DHS facility, Tom was observed to have several injuries. It is important to the citizens of Illinois and the Illinois legislature to protect individuals with disabilities from experiencing the trauma of such encounters. Thus, the legislature has decided that LAS shall "make available or provide legal counsel and representation to eligible persons to enforce rights or duties arising out of any mental health or related laws, local, state or federal." 20 ILCS 3955/10(2).

To meet this obligation, Tom's LAS attorney referred him to a private attorney who agreed to represent his interests related to the incident. After some time, Tom agreed to a settlement in the matter and received a sum that was adequate to make him feel whole again. Since that time, Tom has worked on improving his life. He is pursuing his GED, he helps his mother with work around her house with any repairs that she needs. He has even gotten married! Above all, his mental health has not only remained stable, but has greatly improved. Tom has stated that "It was so nice that you guys (LAS) were there to listen to me when no one else would."



Recycled Computers via Computer Banc



In 2007, the Office of State Guardian (OSG) was successfully able to deliver twenty-one (21) refurbished computers to wards of the State. The package included a computer with modem and a printer for \$90.00. Many OSG wards would enjoy access to computers and the internet in their homes. Some individuals, may have access to computers and the Internet at various vocational programming sites. Most OSG wards, 98% are indigent and are unable to afford computers at their homes or apartments. Computer Banc, a Not-For-Profit organization in the Springfield area provides refurbished computers, and computer training to people who need assistance. Through a generous agreement with Computer Banc, OSG wards were able to purchase computers at a reduced rate. Refurbished computers were delivered to IGAC offices; caseworkers and IT personnel saw to it that they were distributed to needy wards all over the state. Above is a picture of OSG ward Michelle J. beside her new computer! Michelle's caseworker, Tam, arranged for the purchase and delivered the computer. Wards are using the computers to communicate with friends and family, play games, and practice skills. OSG was proud to bring these great resources to our wards, while leaving less of a footprint on the environment.

The Volunteer Guardianship and Advocacy Program

The Volunteer Guardianship Program is an initiative of the Office of State Guardian. Volunteer Guardians provide additional visits and advocacy to wards of the state in their OWN communities. The Office of State Guardian collected approximately 400 hours in volunteer guardianship services in 2007. The program is administered statewide and provides additional meaningful contact for our wards of the state. The program matches screened, trained volunteers with people with disabilities in an attempt to increase oversight and provide friendly visiting opportunities and increased advocacy. Many wards of the state have been alienated from friends and family over the years, most wards have few friends outside of caregivers. The Volunteer Guardianship Program enables wards to meet interested individuals in their communities. This project is managed by Masters level interns and volunteers who assist the program administratively as well. Below, Jammee, a volunteer guardian is on an outing with, Paul, a ward of the state who lives in Chicago. Jammee and Paul enjoy frequent visits at Pauls home and outings in the community. Jammee is one of the many generous individuals who give of their free time and expertise to help bridge the gaps that exist between people with disabilities and people in their communities.



Jammee and Paul

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. In FY 07 GAC continued to recruit and train volunteers for the Volunteer Guardianship Program. This program increased visits to wards of the state by 72 visits this year alone. In FY 07 an average of **4,000** volunteer hours were documented in assistance for office support. Over **2,200** hours were contributed by students completing internships for Masters level programs.



Jennifer Van Lue
Intern University of Chicago



Robert Kingston Schmid
Office Volunteer



Marilyn Belcher
Office- Volunteer



M. Herbert Gordon
Volunteer Guardian-
ship Program



Nicole Muhammad
Volunteer Guardian with
Jenny Van Lue

OFFICE DIRECTORY

Offices of the Director

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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**.

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

Regional Offices

East Central Regional Office

423 South Murray Road
Rantoul, Illinois 61866-2125
(217) 892-4611
Fax (217) 892-4598

Egyptian Regional Office

#7 Cottage Drive
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Fax (618) 833-5219

Metro East Regional Office

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