



Public Guardianship: An Assessment of Need 2004

DECEMBER 2004

DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

Mission Statement

To create an environment that provides choices, promotes independence and enables older Floridians to remain in their communities for a lifetime.

Vision: Golden Choices

To lead the nation in assisting elders to age in place, with dignity, purpose, security and in an elder-friendly community.

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was twofold: to measure the need for public guardianship services throughout the state of Florida, and to develop a better understanding of how the operations and funding of the offices vary across the state.

The study indicates the unmet demand for the services is estimated at between 5,000 to 10,000 persons. This estimate is very conservative and reflects the challenges of accurately measuring demand because it is difficult to determine a sampling frame to assess this population. Direct surveying of potential wards is impossible, since by definition they are incapacitated. While the various members of the social services system are aware that there is a need for public guardianships, their estimates are based on subjective assessments of need and inconsistent knowledge about the services of the program.

The average cost of serving an individual in this program ranged from a low of \$126 in Miami-Dade to a high of \$298 in Palm Beach with the average being \$197. Average per ward costs were found to be a function of the staffing patterns of the local program office and the amount of pro bono legal work provided.

Other aspects of interest included awareness of the public guardianship program among relevant professionals, client referral processes and respondents' knowledge of possible funding sources. The study found that only 16 of Florida's 67 counties are actively served with public guardianship services, and that statewide, only half of the human services professionals most likely to come into contact with persons needing services are aware of the Public Guardianship Program.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report was completed at the request of the Statewide Public Guardianship Office (SPGO) and has two purposes: to estimate the unmet demand for the services of the Public Guardianship Office, and to assess the costs of serving individuals with the need for such services. The report is divided in two sections, with each of the sections addressing a corresponding purpose.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Research conducted by the National Alzheimer's Association, as well as other national studies, indicates that the number of individuals living to the age of 85 is increasing. Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia may affect about 10 percent of those reaching age 65, and as many as 50 percent of elders reaching age 85. Among elders, dementia is the primary cause for the need for guardianship. With an expected increase in the prevalence of dementia, the need for public guardianship is also expected to continue to increase.

In 1986, the Legislature created and funded pilot public guardianship offices in Leon, Broward and Hillsborough counties; the programs were administered through the state court system. Over time, the majority of state funding has been phased out and the offices are now funded through a variety of sources including state, city, county and local private donations. The number of local Offices of the Public Guardian (OPG) in Florida has increased to sixteen¹, and the Department of Elder Affairs now oversees the program.

Depending on an individual's circumstances, the level of need for guardianship varies. Guardianship may range between full guardianship over a person as well as their respective property, to limited guardianship, which involves responsibility for a few areas of care. Guardianship may also be voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary guardianship, for example, may be appointed to an individual who recognizes and requests assistance with managing financial issues. Involuntary guardianship is only appointed for those adjudicated incapacitated, either because of age, illness or injury.

¹ Sixteen public guardianship offices are operating in Florida; however, three of those are pending reappointment.

A guardian is appointed by a court to care for an incapacitated person by managing their property and rights. Once a guardian has been appointed, the individual or ward, may lose many basic rights such as the right to marry, vote, have a driver's license, seek employment or personally apply for government benefits, among other things. In turn, the guardian may assume responsibility for the ward's contracts, suing and defending lawsuits, managing property, consenting to medical treatment, as well as many other responsibilities. The court may appoint public guardians for individuals who have been adjudicated incapacitated, have limited financial means with no funds for the services of a private guardian and who have no willing family or friends to serve as guardian.

Generally, Offices of the Public Guardian are funded through a variety of sources. Some sources include state funds, local funds and United Way donations. However, there are a considerable number of attorneys and guardians representing wards pro bono. Some major studies, such as those done by the American Bar Association and the Center for Social Gerontology,² agree that there is a serious deficiency in resources for Offices of the Public Guardian in Florida as well as many other states.³

Sixteen public guardian offices are currently operating throughout the state of Florida. Two offices are located in Miami and 14 offices are located in other counties; 13 of those offices only actively cover the county in which they are located and one office actively covers two counties-Brevard is served by two different offices (see detail on page 21). Although these offices have been able to provide for some of our incapacitated elders and disabled, 51 of Florida's 67 counties in Florida have no public guardianship services available at all.

However, according to the Statewide Public Guardianship Office (SPGO), strides are being made to ensure that all citizens in Florida who have been declared incapacitated, with no family or friends to help them, will be able to receive the services of a trained competent guardian. Initiation of this study is one of the current efforts by the SPGO to assess Florida's need for increasing the availability of public guardianship services. The results of the surveys will better indicate the level and type of need in Florida; this will bring the SPGO one step closer to achieving its goal of assisting all of Florida's citizens in need of public guardianship.

² The Illinois Guardianship Reform Project, Equip for Equality, <http://www.equipforequality.org/publications/guardianshipreport.php>, February 2001.

³ Center for Social Gerontology, Inc., Utah Office of the Public Guardian Program Evaluation, Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 2001.

3.0 THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

This study was performed to measure the need for public guardianship throughout the State of Florida. Other aspects of interest included awareness of the public guardianship program among relevant professionals, client referral processes and respondents' knowledge of possible funding sources.

Measuring the need for public guardianship was found to be somewhat problematic, due to the lack of consistency in the client referral process (prevalent throughout the nation), to the lack of electronic court record data collection and to the lack of visibility of the client population.

A literature review showed that few studies regarding the need for public guardianship have previously been conducted. Many of the articles that were found were either out of date or very limited in scope. However, even without very specific data, prior studies do consistently concur with the results of this study, which indicates that the need for public guardians is not currently being met and that future needs will far exceed those of today.

The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA), between February and August 2004, conducted two surveys. The initial survey targeted several different professional groups and had a broad focus. The groups were:

1. Department of Children and Families (DCF) protective investigators and supervisors;
2. Hospital social workers or discharge planners;
3. DOEA Comprehensive Assessment Review and Evaluation for Long-Term Care Services (CARES) workers; and
4. Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) lead agency directors.

The initial survey found that DCF and hospitals have the most contact with clients who may be in need of public guardianship. Social workers at hospitals, CARES and lead agencies were most likely to refer clients in potential need of public guardianship to DCF for assessment and services; in some counties, local courts require that referrals be made through DCF.

Statewide, roughly half of the respondents to the initial survey knew that Florida has local public guardianship programs. In areas where public guardian programs exist, nearly three quarters of the respondents were aware of programs. These results demonstrate that professionals need awareness training regarding Florida's public guardianship program.

A follow-up survey of DCF adult protective investigators suggests that there are between 5,000 and 10,000 clients per year who are currently in need of a public guardian, but due to the lack of local public guardianship programs, are unable to obtain services.

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 Initial Survey

To assess the level of need for public guardianship services and awareness of such services two different surveys were designed. The first survey has a focus on measuring awareness and contact with individuals in need for services among four types of human service professionals. A second survey was designed to more accurately assess unmet need and to avoid double counting of individuals with need, it was directed only to Adult Protective Services investigators.

The four different types of professionals surveyed for the initial survey were: hospital social workers, Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adult Protective Services supervisors, CARES office personnel and lead agency personnel. Survey cover letters were individualized for each of the four populations. For example, the letter for the DCF supervisors was developed in collaboration with the DCF Adult Services Program office and was sent out on DCF letterhead to assure supervisors of the legitimacy and importance of the survey. Additionally, the DOEA state director for the CARES program sent out an e-mail request for CARES program office managers to complete the public guardian survey. CARES staff and lead agency directors were asked to have as many of their staff complete the survey as possible.

The Florida Association of Hospitals was contacted and supplied a list of all hospitals throughout Florida. Contact information was obtained for the hospitals and pre-response calls were made to identify the names of the hospital social workers/discharge workers. Identified workers were apprised of the survey's purpose and asked to respond.

The DCF Adult Services Program office supplied a list of all Adult Protective Services supervisors. All district and regional DCF offices were contacted and apprised of the purpose of the survey. Pre-response calls were also made to the CARES offices and the lead agencies.

Cover letters and surveys were sent out during the months of February and March 2004. Potential respondents were urged to return the survey by facsimile to expedite the process. After two weeks, calls were made to those who had not returned the surveys and attempts were made to complete the surveys by telephone interview. The efforts to obtain responses to the surveys continued until mid-April 2004.

3.1.2 Initial Survey Sample Disposition

Table 1 shows that DCF offices were the most responsive to the survey. Response rates for the four sample groups are as follows:

1. DCF Adult Protective Services Supervisors 75.0%
2. CARES Offices 64.7%
3. Hospitals 59.2%
4. Lead Agencies 53.5%

Table 1: Initial Survey Response Detail

SAMPLE TYPE	Hospitals	DCF	CARES	Lead Agencies	All Types
Sample	260	48	17	60	385
Respondents	154	36	11	32	233
Refusals	0	0	1	0	1
No Response	112	12	6	28	158
Response Ratio	59.2%	75.0%	64.7%	46.7%	41.0%

Source: DOEA initial survey, 2004

3.1.3 Public Guardianship Needs Assessment Survey

Data and other information from the initial survey were used to design a second survey to more accurately estimate the level of current demand and need for public guardians. This second survey focused on data provided by Department of Children and Families Adult Protective Services investigators. Adult Protective Services investigators were chosen because the information provided by DCF during the initial survey were the most reliable and had the highest response rate. It was also surmised that contacting the Adult Protective Services investigators directly, as opposed to contacting supervisors, was the best course of action due to their more direct contact with clients and the public guardianship offices. Finally, since most public guardianship cases that come through the four human service agencies surveyed are most often referred through DCF, counts obtained from the other three agencies would have been, in most instances, duplicates.

In mid-July, the DCF Adult Services Program office sent e-mails to the operations program administrators (OPAs) and district managers, instructing them to notify the Adult Protective Services investigators about the survey and to inform them that a Department of Elder Affairs interviewer would be in contact with them by telephone within the next two weeks.

Adult Protective Services investigators throughout the state were then contacted by telephone in an effort to obtain representative data from each county in Florida. The number of completed surveys needed from each county was determined based on the number of active cases in the 2003-2004 fiscal year (41,099 cases). One Adult Protective Services investigator was contacted for every 1,000 cases in each county. The number of Adult Protective Services investigators contacted per county was higher in some cases because many investigators covered more than one county, and there was some overlap in coverage between different DCF offices. Data was obtained from 64 of the 237 Adult Protective Services investigators. This sample statistically mirrors the 41,099 active abuse cases during the 2003-2004 fiscal year. However, due to the small sample size, the results of the survey are only valid to the DCF District level.

3.2 Results

The results of the analysis of the two surveys show findings in three categories:

1. The unmet need for public guardians;
2. Awareness of the public guardianship program; and
3. The points of entry or referral process for clients in need of public guardianship.

Survey respondent comments and suggestions are shown in Chart 5 on page 9 of this report.

3.2.1 Need For Public Guardianship

This study estimates the unmet need for need for public guardianship services in Florida to be between 5,000 and 10,000. As has been stated, the difficulties of assessing this population make this estimate very broad in nature. It is believed that the need for public guardianship services in Florida is far greater than this report is able to show.

Table 2: DCF Adult Investigators' Estimate of Current Public Guardianship Needs

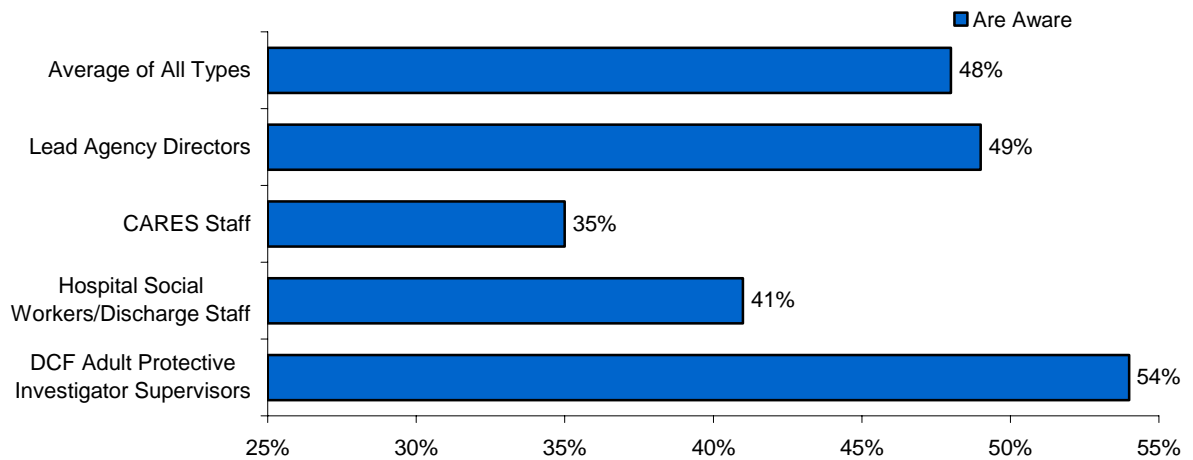
Question	Monthly Total	Annual Need
How many of your adult clients do you refer, petition or recommend that a public guardian be appointed in an average month?	396	4,752
If the resources were available, in your opinion, how many of the clients that you have contact with during an average month would you refer for public guardianship?	834	10,008

Results based on Needs Assessment statewide survey of 66 DCF Adult Protective Services investigators. Sample was stratified at the district level and then aggregated to state totals.

3.2.2 Awareness

The initial survey found that in general awareness about local public guardianship services was low, ranging from 35 to 54 percent. DCF Adult Protective investigator supervisors were the most aware, among all social service professionals surveyed, about local availability of public guardianship services.

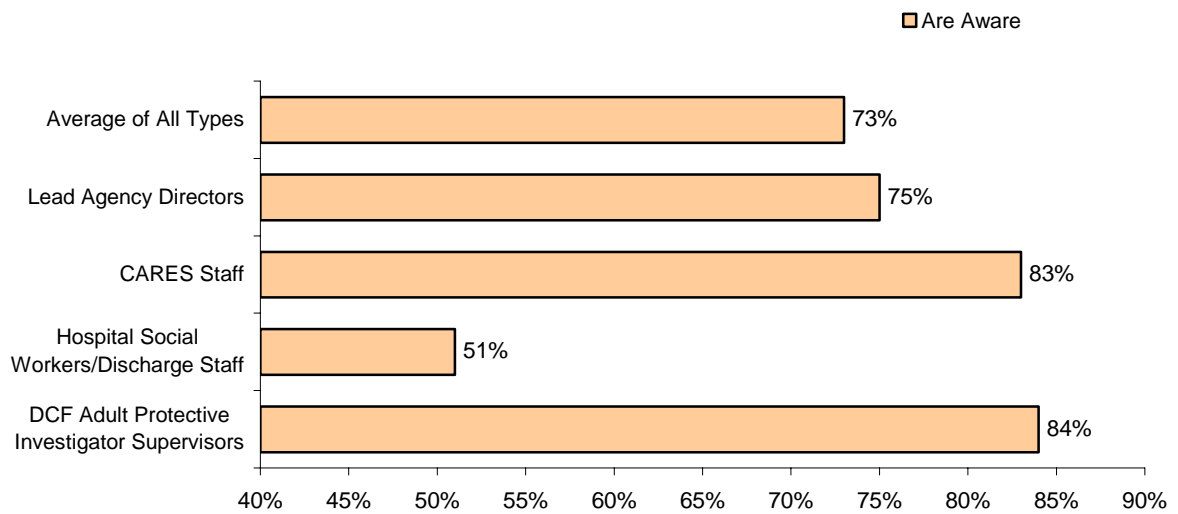
Chart 1: Knowledge Of Public Guardianship Services by Type of Human Service Professional



Source: DOEA initial survey, 2004

Awareness about public guardianship services varied across the state. In areas in which there is an office of the public guardian, human service professionals were more likely to be aware of the public guardianship office.

Chart 2: Awareness of Public Guardianship Services by Type of Human Service Professional in Counties That Have Public Guardian Offices

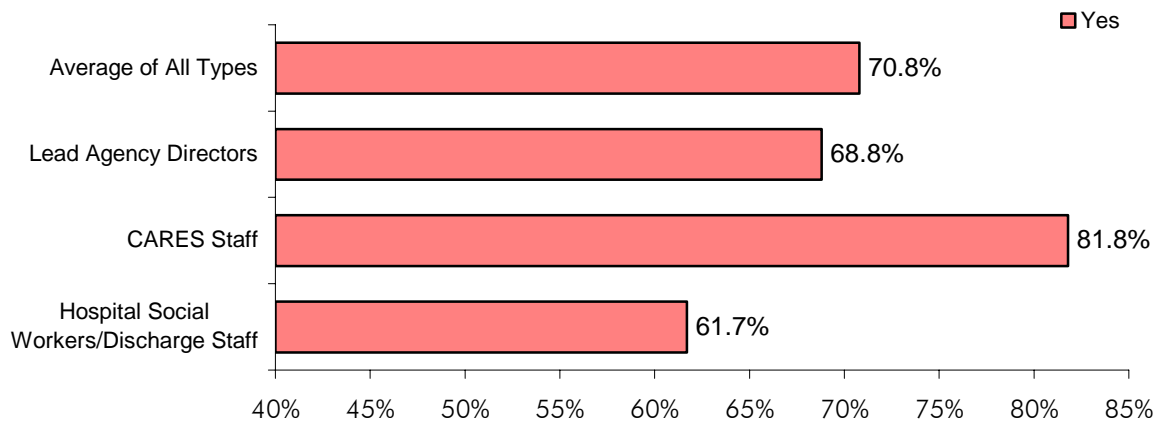


Source: DOEA initial survey, 2004

3.2.3 Referral Process Detail

Most human service professionals refer individuals with a perceived need for guardianship services to DCF. The percent of the respondents that indicated that a referral to DCF is the standard procedure when a need for public guardianship varied from 61.7 percent for hospital discharge planners to 81.8 percent for CARES workers.

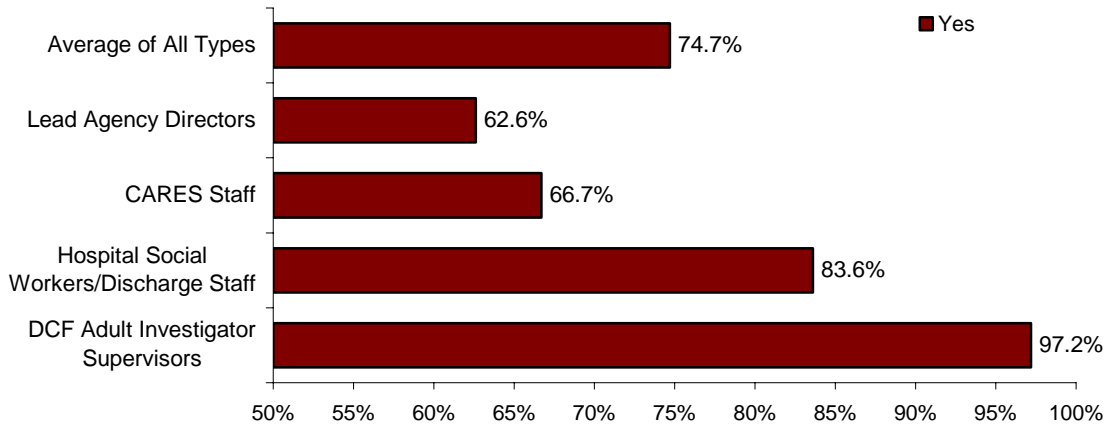
Chart 3: Referral to DCF by Type of Human Service Professionals



Source: DOEA initial survey, 2004

Most human service professionals have contact with persons needing public guardianship services. The ones most likely to have such contact are DCF workers with 97.2 percent having reported at least a contact during the previous six-month period. The least likely to report contact were county Community Care for the Elderly lead agency workers (62.6 percent).

Chart 4: Workers Reporting Contact With Individuals Needing Services by Agency

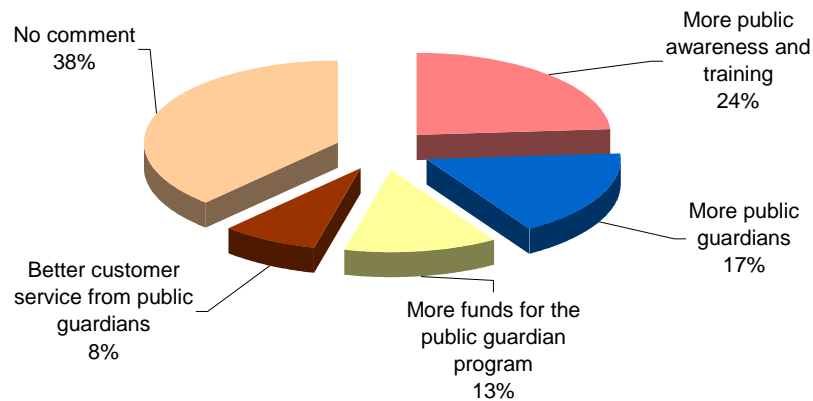


Source: DOEA initial survey, 2004

3.2.4 Respondents Comments and Suggestions

Survey respondents made a variety of comments regarding the need for public guardians and their general feelings about the program. A majority of the respondents felt that there needs to be more training to increase public awareness of the overwhelming need for more public guardians.

Chart 5: Respondent Comments and Suggestions



Source: DOEA initial survey, 2004

3.3 Discussion

There is a high level of unmet need for public guardianship services in Florida, and it is predicted that the need will continue to rise. Exact estimates of the number of Floridians needing guardianship services is difficult to determine due to the lack of visibility of the relevant client population. This report estimates that there are 5,000 to 10,000 incapacitated Floridians per year who are currently unable to obtain public guardianship services. In fact, anecdotal evidence suggests even more Floridians are in need of public guardianship services than can be represented without an evaluation of much larger scope.

It is believed that these estimates may be low. Furthermore, it may be impossible to accurately estimate the need for public guardianship services because it is difficult to determine a sampling frame to assess this population. Direct surveying of potential wards is impossible, since by definition they are incapacitated. While the various members of the social services system are aware that there is a need for public guardianships, they cannot accurately estimate the extent of this need.

The Florida Needs Assessment conducted by the Department of Elder Affairs in 2003 estimated that there are over 350,000 elders currently living below the poverty level in Florida and there are over 444,000 Floridians who will probably be diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Elders who become incapacitated and who do not have willing family or friends or the financial means to hire a private guardian are at extremely high risk of needing a public guardian.

Professional awareness of the public guardianship services is necessary to meet the needs of some of Florida's most vulnerable citizens. Currently, only three-quarters of the professionals who responded in areas where public guardianship offices are located were aware of the existence of the offices. In other parts of the state in which there are no public guardianship services, awareness of the state program is even lower.

Availability of public guardianship is limited to a few counties in Florida. Offices of Public Guardian actively serve 16 counties. Therefore, 51 counties do not have access to public guardianship services.

4.0 PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP OFFICE FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES

This section provides an analysis of the funding and operation of the Statewide Public Guardianship Office (SPGO) to better understand the challenges faced by the individual public guardian offices. Recent legislation has reduced traditional sources of funding for this program and has heightened the need to insure that the program is cost effective. A detailed understanding of the financing of these critical services will begin to provide the information required to justify future requests for additional support for public guardianship in Florida.

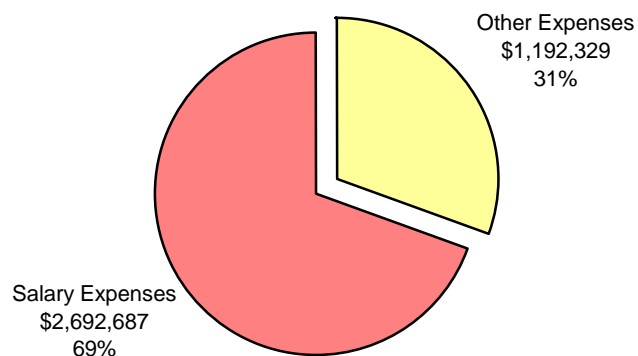
In order to collect a uniform data set to perform this analysis, a data collection instrument was developed by the Department of Elder Affairs' Office of Program Evaluation and Planning and distributed to the 16 operating Offices of Public Guardian.

This report contains an analysis of data provided by the 16 public guardianship offices operating around the state. Each office provided data; however, some reports were incomplete. Offices with information missing for a particular item were excluded from only those analyses that required those data.

4.1 Expenses of Offices of Public Guardian

Approximately 70 percent of the expenditures by the Offices of Public Guardian are for salaries and benefits; the remaining expenditures are used for operational expenses such as office rental and insurance.

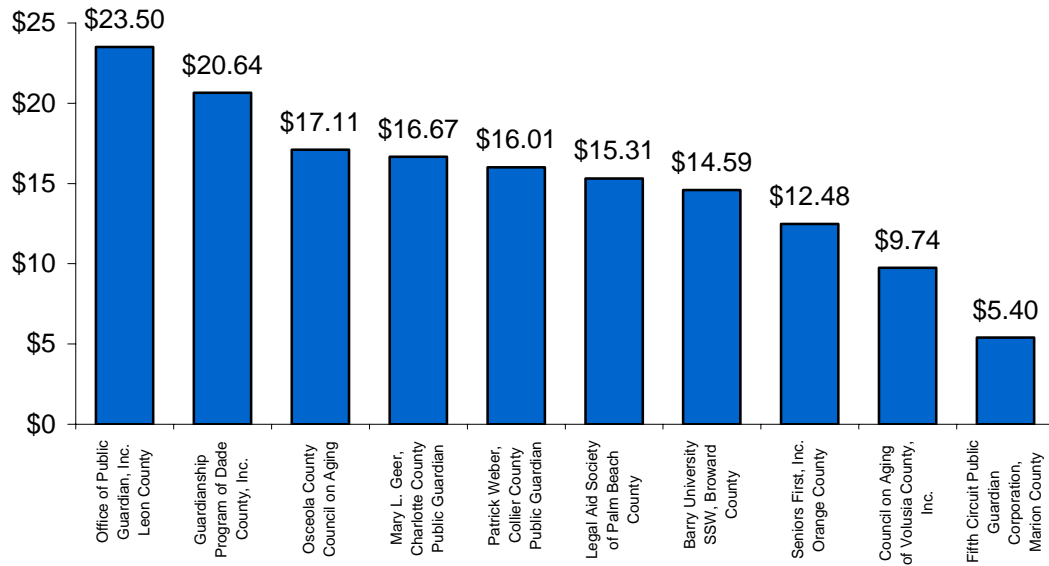
Chart 6: Offices of Public Guardian Expenses State Fiscal Year 2003-2004



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

There is considerable variation among the OPG in the effective hourly rate paid in salaries ranging from \$5.40 to \$23.50. This variation can be partially attributed to differences in staffing patterns such as the mix of social workers and attorneys, as well as the extent to which services are provided at no cost, as in the case of an attorney representing a ward pro bono. Some offices were eliminated from this analysis due to missing data.

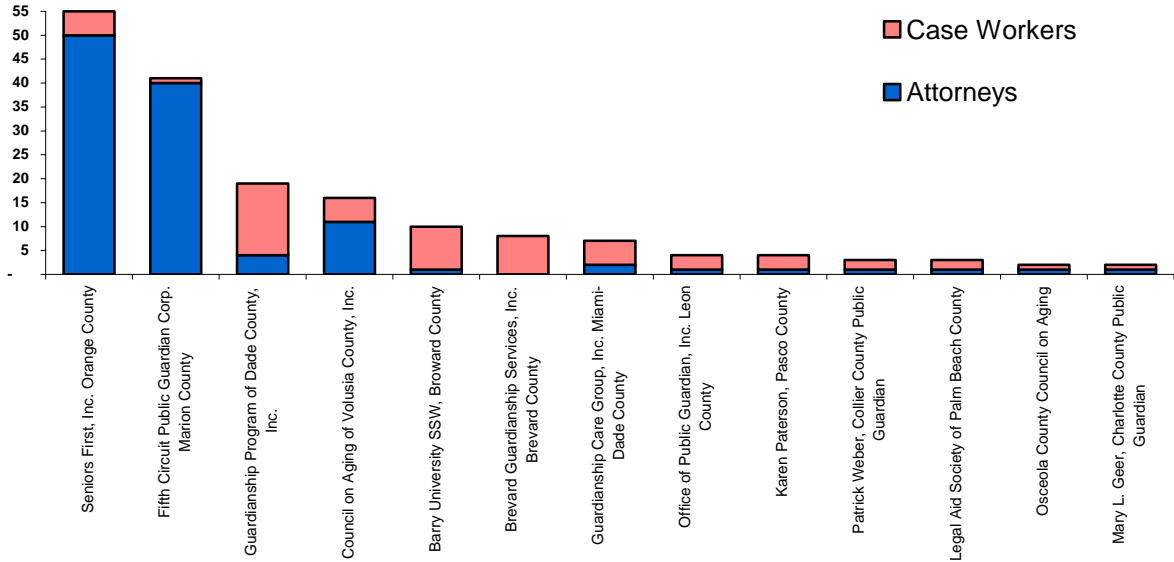
Chart 7: Offices of Public Guardian Staff - Average Hourly Rate



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

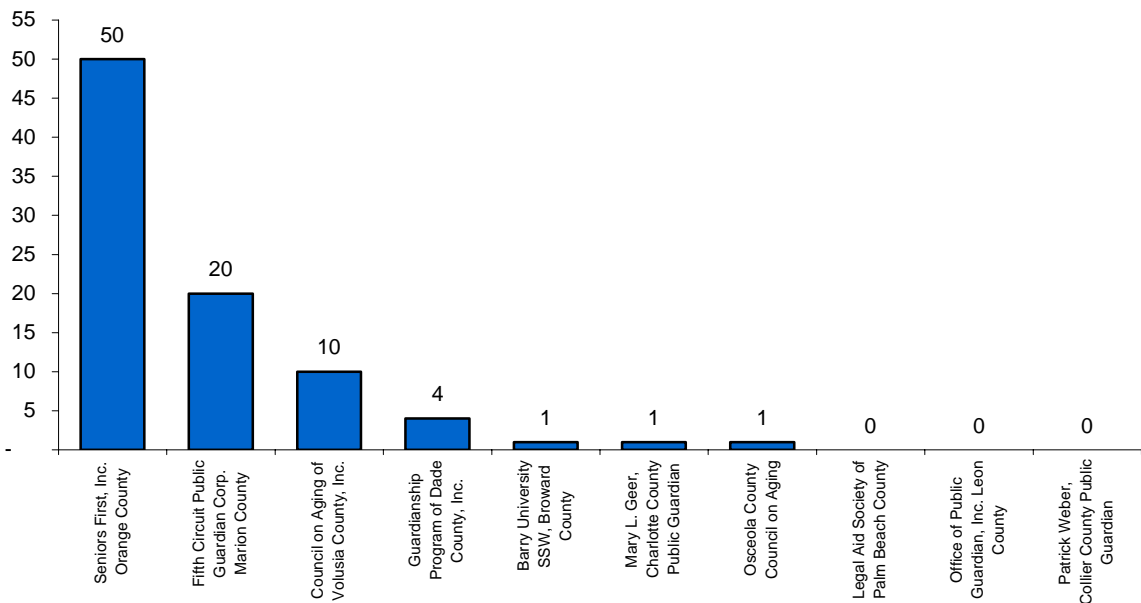
4.2 Staffing Patterns

Chart 8: Staffing Pattern by the Offices of Public Guardian



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

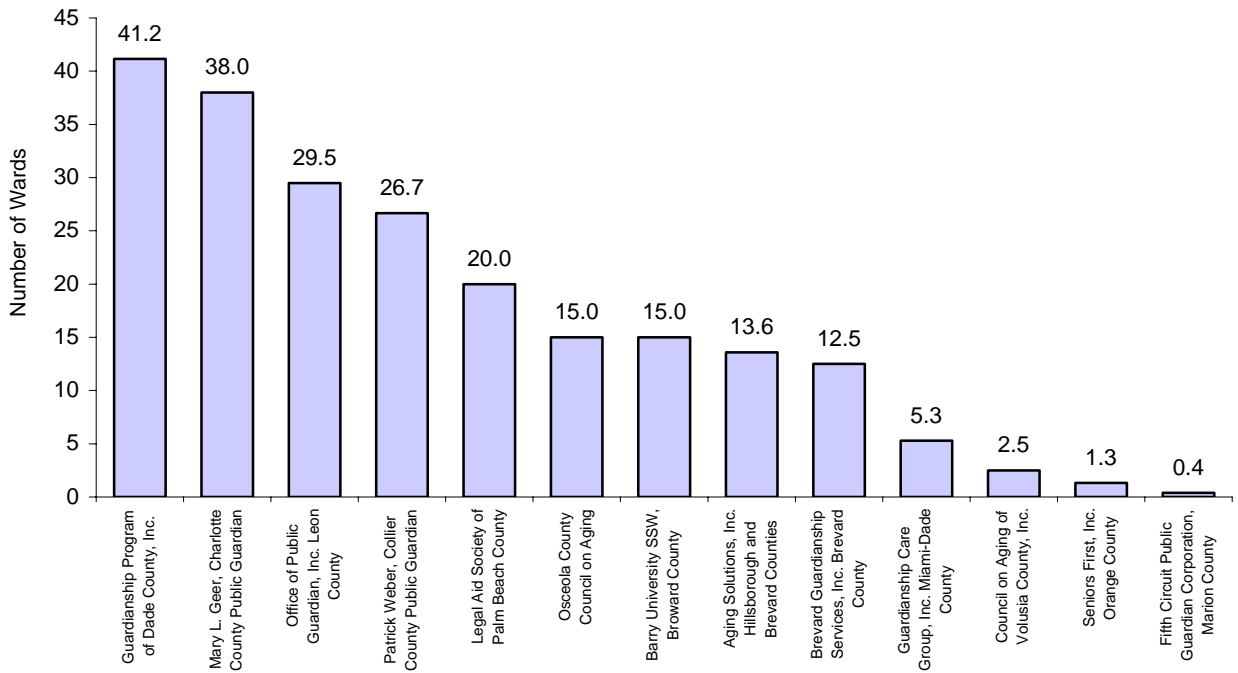
Chart 9: Number of Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Services by the Offices of Public Guardian



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

Florida Statute 744.708(7) requires that the caseload of any public guardian not exceed 40 wards per staff member. The Guardianship Program of Dade County is in compliance with this requirement through a special provision even though that program operates at about 41 wards per staff person. The following chart shows the staffing ratio of the Offices of Public Guardian for which data are available. Note that some of the offices have very low staffing ratios. These offices generally have many lawyers, often operating on a pro bono basis, who are appointed guardian for only one case. In this analysis, the administrator is counted as a staff member who provides direct services to wards, which is not always the case.

Chart 10: Number of Wards per Direct Service Staff

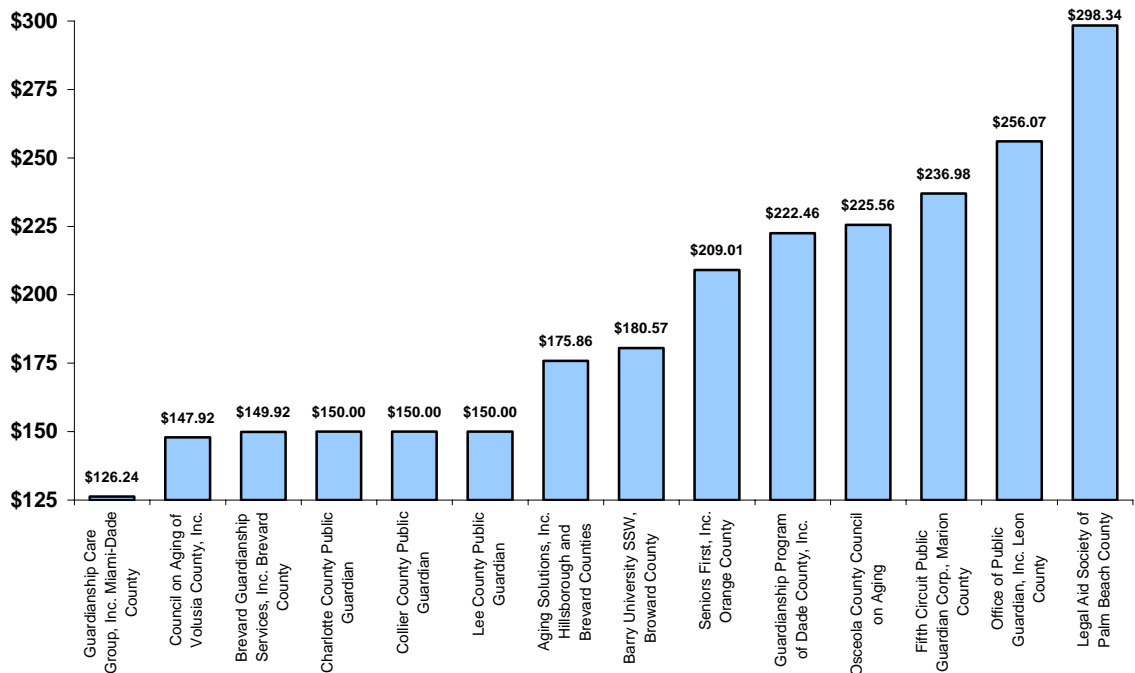


Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

4.3 Average Costs

Although there are differences in the offices of the type and number of staff, the monthly cost per client only ranges between \$126.24 and \$298.34. The average cost per client was \$189.60. The chart below shows the average monthly cost to serve a ward for each of the Offices of Public Guardian.

Chart 11: Average Monthly Cost Per Ward

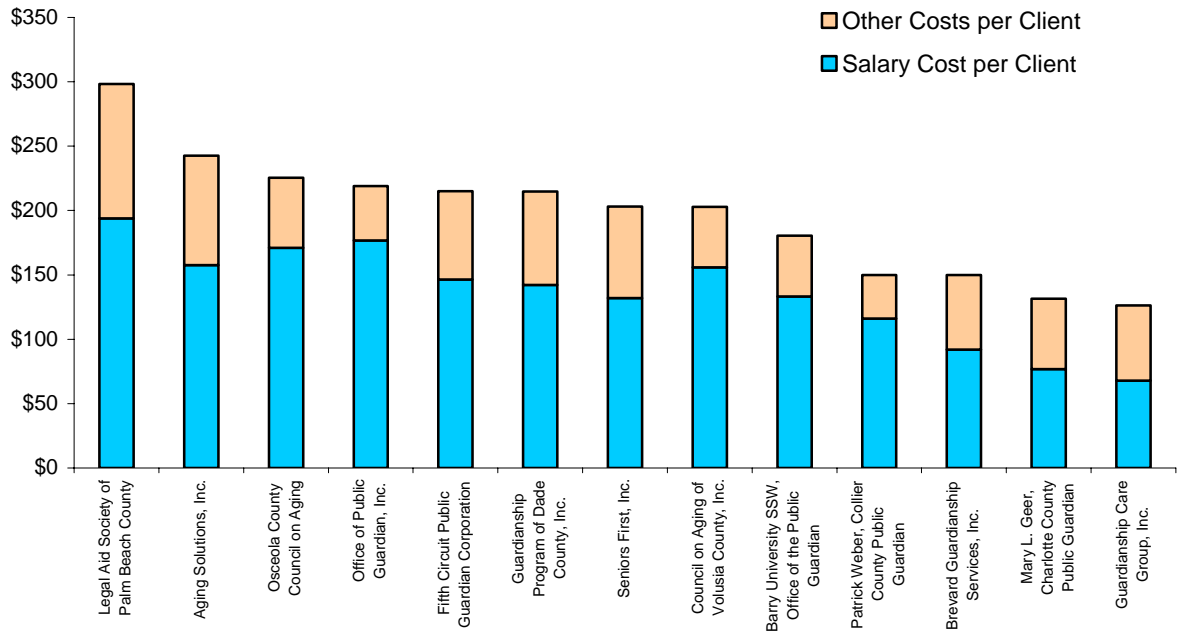


Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

Analysis shows that characteristics such as number of pro bono attorneys, use of case managers or hours per client cannot be used alone or in combination to explain the variation in the monthly costs per ward.

The next chart shows the average cost per ward broken down into salary and other expenses. Review of the detailed budgets of the Offices with the highest and lowest costs per ward do not indicate a clear reason for these differences. Factors such as office space rentals costs, employee benefit expenses and travel were considered. The cumulative sum of the differences in these operational costs and salaries results in the differences observed. There was no substantial difference in the types of expenses indicated on the various office budgets.

Chart 12: Components of the Average Cost Per Ward



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

Table 3: Components of Average Cost Per Ward

<i>Public Guardianship Agency</i>	<i>Salary Cost per Ward</i>	<i>Other Costs per Ward</i>	<i>Total Cost Per Ward</i>
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County	\$193.92	\$104.42	\$298.34
Aging Solutions, Inc. Hillsborough and Brevard Counties	\$157.66	\$84.99	\$242.65
Osceola County Council on Aging	\$171.10	\$54.46	\$225.56
Office of Public Guardian, Inc. Leon County	\$176.85	\$42.08	\$218.93
Fifth Circuit Public Guardian Corp. Marion County	\$146.35	\$68.75	\$215.10
Guardianship Program of Dade County, Inc.	\$142.09	\$72.80	\$214.89
Seniors First, Inc. Orange County	\$132.08	\$71.11	\$203.20
Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc.	\$155.83	\$47.08	\$202.92
Barry University SSW, Broward County	\$133.28	\$47.29	\$180.57
Patrick Weber, Collier County Public Guardian	\$116.05	\$33.95	\$150.00
Brevard Guardianship Services, Inc. Brevard County	\$92.09	\$57.83	\$149.92
Charlotte County Public Guardian	\$76.75	\$54.82	\$131.58
Guardianship Care Group, Inc. Miami-Dade County	\$67.92	\$58.32	\$126.24
Average of All Offices	\$135.54	\$61.38	\$196.92

Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

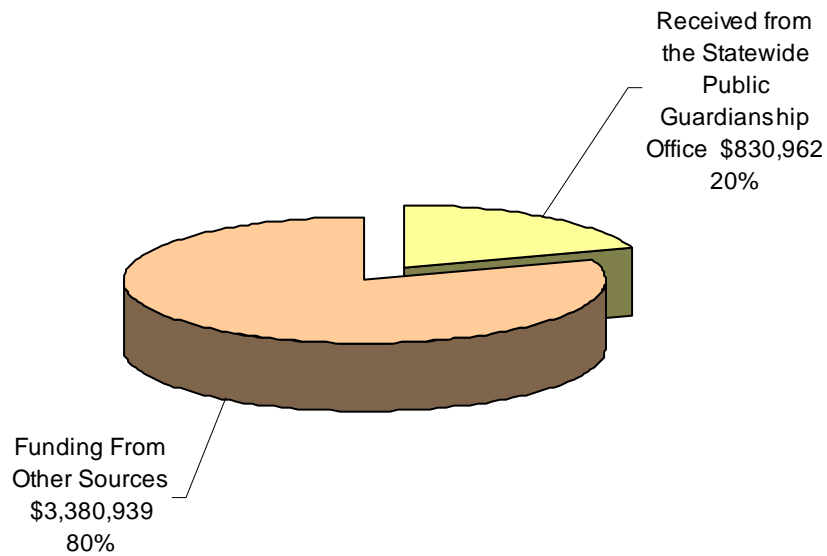
If the differences in average monthly cost per ward were due to the amount of time spent with each ward, then the Office that spends the longest amount of time per ward (Fifth Circuit Guardian Corporation) would be expected to have the highest monthly cost per ward. But, the Fifth Circuit Public Guardian has a monthly cost per ward (\$215) just above the average for all Offices. The amount of time spent with each ward every month does not explain the differences in monthly cost per client.

Further research would be required to investigate the expected procedural differences between the offices at the extreme ends of this distribution. The operating procedures of the Fifth Circuit Public Guardian Corporation and the Charlotte County Public Guardian can be expected to be quite different from each other.

4.4 Funding of Offices of Public Guardian

The 14 Offices of Public Guardian included in this analysis received a total of \$4.2 million in expected funding during the fiscal year 2003-2004, of that, \$831,000 (or about 20 percent) was provided by the Statewide Public Guardianship Office.

Chart 13: Offices of Public Guardian Funding Sources-State Fiscal Year 2003-2004



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

Eighty percent of the funding is from sources other than direct funding by the Statewide Public Guardian Office; however, there are three offices that receive the majority of their funding from the Statewide Office.

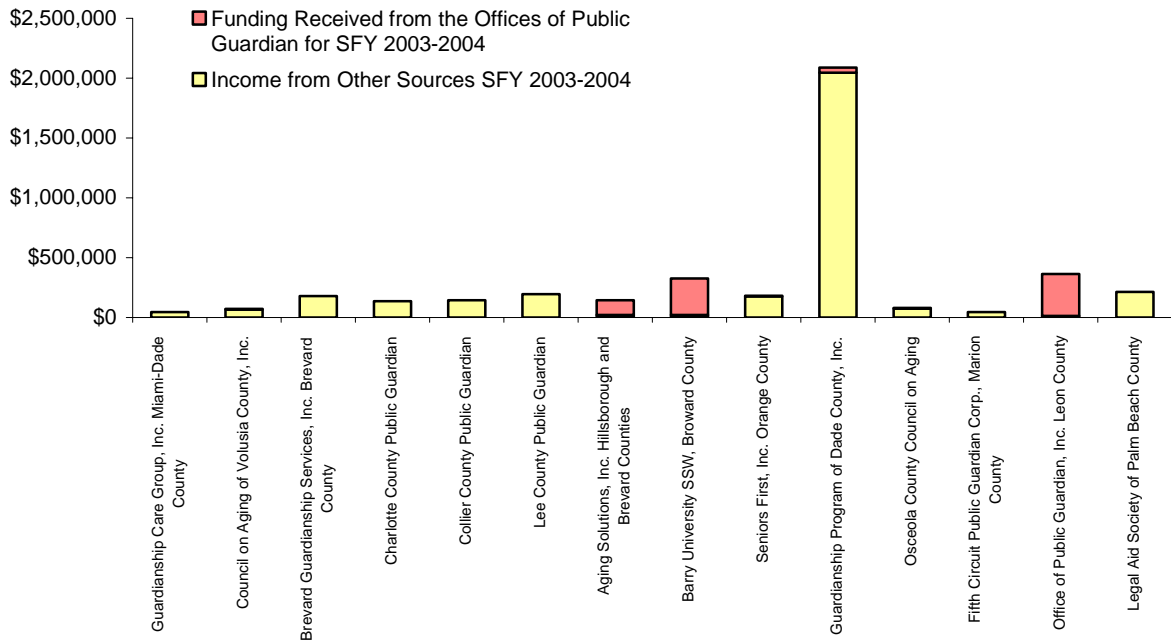
Table 4: Offices of Public Guardian Funding by Source State Fiscal Year 2003-2004

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>Income from Other Sources</i>	<i>Funding Received from SPGO</i>	<i>Percentage of Funds from SPGO</i>
Guardianship Program of Dade County, Inc.	\$2,087,568	\$2,045,892	\$41,676	2.00%
Office of Public Guardian, Inc. Leon County	\$362,596	\$14,596	\$348,000	95.97%
Barry University SSW, Broward County	\$325,034	\$21,000	\$304,034	93.54%
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County	\$214,808	\$214,808	\$0	0.00%
Lee County Public Guardian	\$194,400	\$194,400	\$0	0.00%
Seniors First, Inc. Orange County	\$180,585	\$175,585	\$5,000	2.77%
Brevard Guardianship Services, Inc. Brevard County	\$179,908	\$179,908	\$0	0.00%
Collier County Public Guardian	\$144,000	\$144,000	\$0	0.00%
Aging Solutions, Inc. Hillsborough and Brevard Counties	\$143,502	\$21,250	\$122,252	85.19%
Charlotte County Public Guardian	\$136,800	\$136,800	\$0	0.00%
Osceola County Council on Aging	\$81,200	\$76,200	\$5,000	6.16%
Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc.	\$71,000	\$66,000	\$5,000	7.04%
Fifth Circuit Public Guardian Corp. Marion County	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$0	0.00%
Guardianship Care Group, Inc. Miami-Dade County	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0	0.00%
All Agencies	\$4,211,901	\$3,380,939	\$830,962	19.73%

Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

The primary source of funding for this program is from sources other than the Statewide Public Guardianship Office. These agencies are funded by various local sources, primarily court filing fees. Recent legislation has eliminated the ability of local government to impose these fees, substituting a standard fee that is imposed by the state and designated as state revenue. The change in legislation is expected to have a large impact on the funding of these critical public guardian services.

Chart 14: Revenue by Source

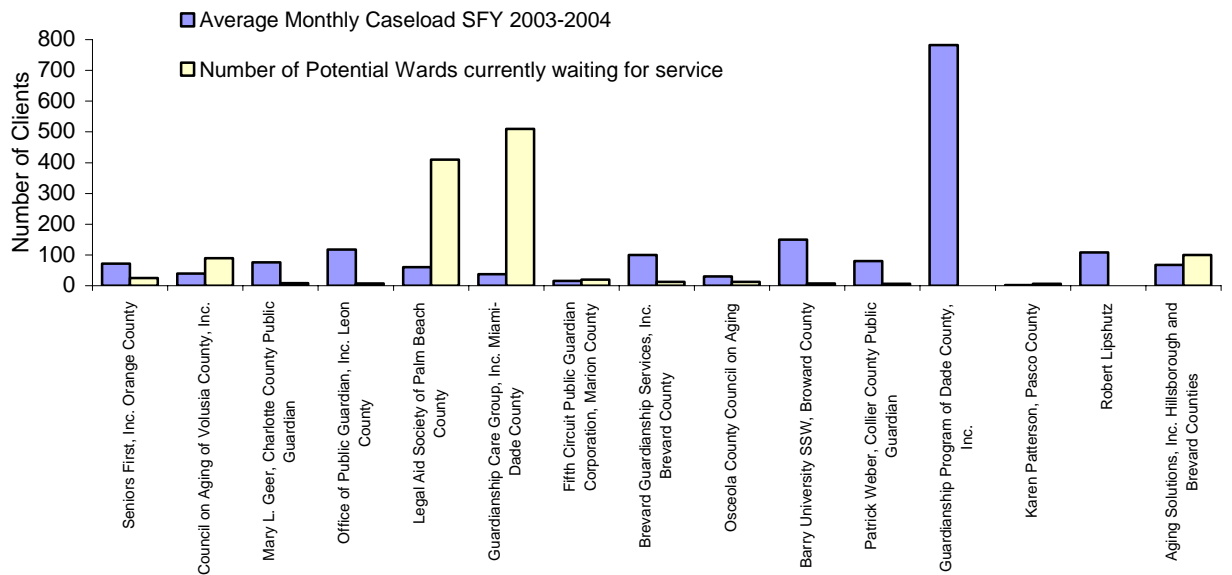


Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

4.5 Wait Lists

The information requested from Offices of Public Guardian included an estimate of the number of potential wards awaiting service. The responses from the Offices of Public Guardian are summarized in the chart below. Please note that many offices do not keep a formal waiting list and could not provide an estimate of the unmet need for public guardianship services.

Chart 15: Monthly Caseload and Estimated Waiting List



Source: DOEA Funding Survey, 2004

The reported number of wards awaiting service totaled 1,213. It must be noted that while all offices responded to this items with an estimate, there is no formal waiting list for this program. It is expected from statewide demographics, and the fact that Offices of Public Guardian are established in only a portion of the state, that the need would be much higher. There are almost four million Floridians age 60 and older and 374,000 Floridians age 85 and older. During March 2004, there were 10,101 Medicaid clients in nursing homes who were age 90 and older. It is estimated that about 465,235 Floridians have Alzheimer's or related dementia. It is anticipated that some of these individuals are in need of public guardianship services.

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 Maps and Data

- Public Guardian Office Location Map

- Public Guardian District Need Map

- Public Guardian Office Locations & Active Area

- Public Guardian Service Accessibility by County

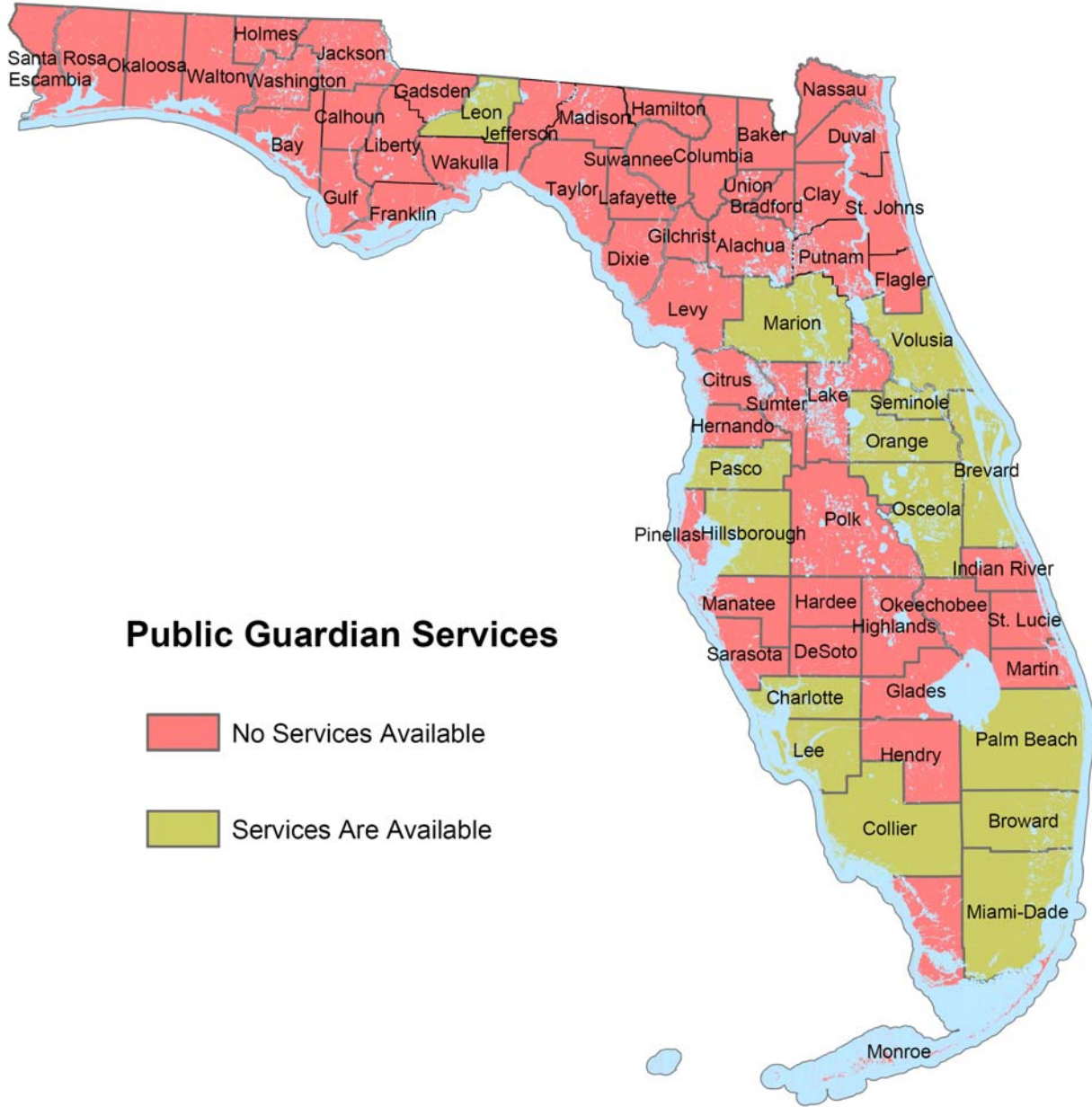
5.2 Survey Instruments

- Initial Survey

- Needs Assessment Survey

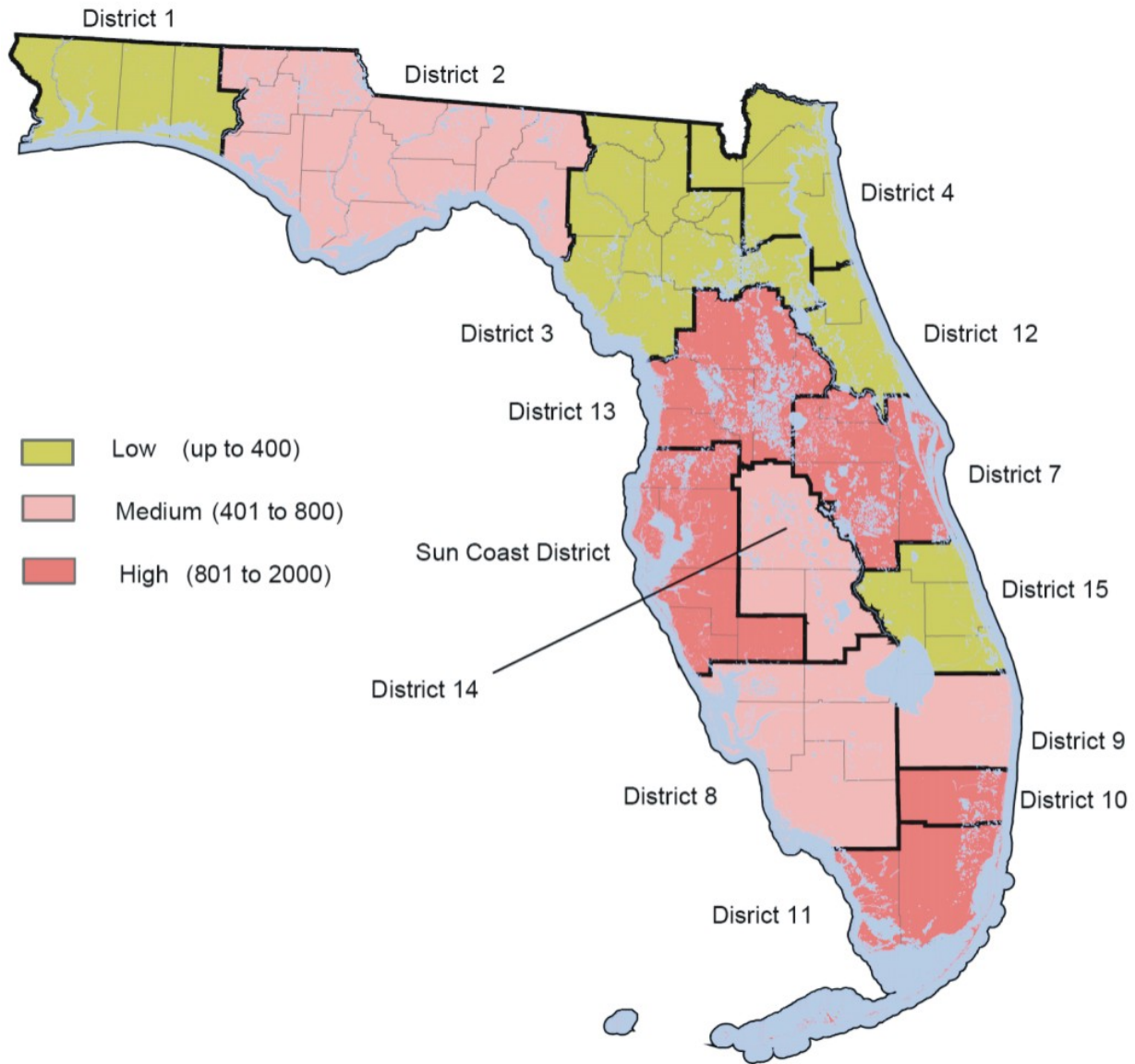
- Funding Survey

Public Guardianship Availability in Florida



Source: DOEA Statewide Public Guardianship Office

Estimated Annual Need for Public Guardianship in Florida by DCF District



Source: DOEA Estimates based on survey of DCF Districts, Adult Protective Services Investigators,, August 2004; estimates valid to DCF District level.

Offices of Public Guardian & Active Area

Public Guardianship Offices	Location	2 nd County Actively Served
Office of The Public Guardian, Inc**	Leon	N/A
5 TH Circuit Public Guardian Corporation	Marion	N/A
Karen Patterson	Pasco	N/A
Council on Aging of Volusia County	Volusia	N/A
Osceola County Council on Aging	Osceola	N/A
Seniors First	Orange	N/A
Guardianship Program of Dade County	Miami-Dade	N/A
Guardianship Care Group*	Miami-Dade	N/A
Aging Solutions	Hillsborough	N/A
Aging Solutions	Brevard	Seminole
Palm Beach Legal Aid	Palm Beach	N/A
Barry University School of Social Work	Broward	N/A
Brevard Guardianship Services	Brevard	N/A
Lee County Public Guardian	Lee	N/A
Collier County Public Guardian*	Collier	N/A
Charlotte County Public Guardian*	Charlotte	N/A

Source: DOEA Statewide Public Guardianship Office, 2004.

*Pending contract and/or reappointment

**Serves one or two clients in surrounding counties, but not accepting new clients outside county of location

Public Guardianship Service Accessibility Count

County Name	County Population 60+ Below Poverty Level	# of Probable Alzheimer's Cases/County	Is Public Guardianship Available in County?
Alachua	2,943	3,243	No
Baker	282	266	No
Bay	3,062	2,640	No
Bradford	763	502	No
Brevard	8,895	14,430	Yes
Broward	35,620	45,551	Yes
Calhoun	450	291	No
Charlotte	3,462	7,153	Yes
Citrus	3,745	5,567	No
Clay	1,422	2,075	No
Collier	4,148	9,144	Yes
Columbia	1,613	1,074	No
DeSoto	687	846	No
Dixie	616	306	No
Duval	12,702	12,284	No
Escambia	5,024	5,671	No
Flagler	883	2,084	No
Franklin	391	259	No
Gadsden	1,257	810	No
Gilchrist	375	271	No
Glades	359	246	No
Gulf	414	295	No
Hamilton	337	211	No
Hardee	870	523	No
Hendry	750	482	No
Hernando	3,416	5,750	No
Highlands	2,991	4,272	No
Hillsborough	16,704	18,539	Yes
Holmes	664	417	No
Indian River	2,560	5,085	No
Jefferson	418	277	No
Lafayette	201	121	No
Lake	4,893	8,642	No
Lee	9,240	16,688	Yes

County Name	County Population 60+ Below Poverty Level	# of Probable Alzheimer's Cases/County	Is Public Guardianship Available in County?
Leon	2,223	2,961	Yes
Levy	1,169	8,877	No
Liberty	243	88	No
Madison	903	420	No
Manatee	5,685	10,496	No
Marion	6,906	9,102	Yes
Martin	2,414	5,484	No
Miami-Dade	76,611	45,655	Yes
Monroe	1,625	1,486	No
Nassau	920	939	No
Okaloosa	1,941	2,653	No
Okeechobee	949	796	No
Orange	11,361	13,420	Yes
Osceola	2,513	3,107	Yes
Palm Beach	22,880	43,462	Yes
Pasco	9,551	14,981	Yes
Pinellas	22,448	34,452	No
Polk	10,527	13,326	No
Putnam	2,473	1,707	No
Santa Rosa	1,493	1,712	No
Sarasota	6,269	16,806	No
Seminole	3,762	5,718	Yes
St Johns	1,634	3,016	No
St Lucie	4,709	6,283	No
Sumter	1,744	2,009	No
Suwannee	1,018	895	No
Taylor	621	368	No
Union	232	129	No
Volusia	9,648	15,052	Yes
Wakulla	446	320	No
Walton	1,017	978	No
Washington	801	515	No
Total	350,675	444,253	

Source: DOEA Needs Assessment, 2004.

SPGO Initial Instrument

THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN SURVEY

To assess the need for additional public guardian programs throughout Florida, the *Statewide Public Guardianship Office (SPGO)* would appreciate your help through completing this survey. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(Correct and/or add contact information if needed)

1/ Organization Name: _____

2/ Contact Person: _____

3/ Contact Phone#: _____

4/ Service Area(s): _____
(Counties)

IMPORTANT
Please return
survey by
March 23, 2004.

5/	<u>Type of Agency</u>	6/	<u>Your Position</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lead Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	CARES	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Service Worker
<input type="checkbox"/>	DCF Adult Protective Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Administrator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please Specify) _____

7/ Do you know if there is currently an office of the public guardian within your county and/or judicial circuit? Yes ___ No ___

8/ On average, how many consumers/clients do you encounter (If you are a supervisor, the response should include direct and indirect counts) in a typical month? _____

9a/ Through your work, do you know of adults (age 18 and older) who may need to be adjudicated incapacitated? Yes ___ No ___
(If "No" go to question 10)

9b/ If Yes, how many adults have you encountered in the past six (6) months? _____

9c/ Of the above number, did any of them have
a court appointed guardian? Yes____ No____ Not Sure _____

9d/ That you know of, how many of those had a court appointed guardian? _____

9e/ Of those who did not have a Court Appointed Guardian, how many needed one? _____

9f/ Of the above number that may need a court appointed guardian, how many have?
(Answer as many as apply.)

- 1) Family or friend available and willing to act as guardian _____
- 2) The resources to pay for a professional guardian _____
- 3) No family willing, able or available _____
- 4) No friends willing, able or available _____
- 5) Don't know. _____

10/ For individuals who do not already have a guardian, how does your agency respond to the situation?
(Select as many responses as apply.)

- 1) Agency has no established response _____
- 2) File a court petition _____
- 3) Refer to a prospective professional guardian _____
- 4) Contact family or friends _____
- 5) Referral made to adult protective services _____
- 6) Don't know _____

11/ What funding sources are available in your area for an office of the public guardian?

12/ What suggestions do you have for the statewide public guardianship office in providing public guardianship services? (Attach additional sheet(s) if needed)

SPGO Needs Assessment Telephone Survey Instrument

Public Guardian II

Respondent Name: _____ Key Number: _____

County: _____ District: _____

Hello, my name is _____ from the Department of Elder Affairs. We are conducting a survey addressing the need for additional public guardianship programs throughout the state. It is a brief, four-question survey that takes five minutes or less to complete. Would you have time to do the survey now?

1. How many cases are you responsible for in an average month? _____

2. Which counties do you serve? _____

****For the next questions, if respondent says none in a month, then ask: in an average 6-month period****

3. How many of your adult clients do you refer, petition, or recommend that a public guardian be appointed in an average month? _____

4. If the resources were available, in your opinion, how many of the clients you have contact with during an average month would you refer for public guardianship?

5. In your area, what is the procedure for filing for public guardianship?

Notes:

SPGO Funding Survey Instrument

Public Guardian Program Data Collection Sheet			
Please complete the <i>blue shaded</i> areas and return to neue@elderaffairs.org by May 7, 2004 Placing your mouse cursor over a blue cell will provide additional instructions for that cell If you have any questions contact Ed Neu at (850) 414-2136 or neue@elderaffairs.org			
Agency	Name of Agency		
	Counties Served		
Revenue	Total Income for SFY 2003-2004		
	Funding Received from the Public Guardianship Office for SFY 2003-2004		
Expense	Salary Expenses for 2003-2004		
	Total Expenses for SFY 2003-2004		
Wards	Total Wards served SFY 2003-2004		
	Average Monthly Caseload SFY 2003-2004		
	Number of Potential Wards currently waiting for service		
	Current Caseload		
	Number of Wards on Current Caseload		
	Number of Wards over Age 65 on Current Caseload		
Staffing		Number of Staff Persons	Average Number of Hours per Month
	Total Staff		
	Attorneys		
	Number of Attorneys acting as Administrator		
	Number of Attorneys providing Pro-Bono Service		
	Number of Attorneys paid by other sources		
	Number of Salaried Attorneys		
	Case Workers (Non-attorneys)		
	Number of Salaried Case Workers		
	Number of Case Workers paid by other sources		
	Number of Volunteer Case Workers		