### The Oregon Public Guardian & Conservator

Presented to

House Committee on Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Law February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Chris Rosin, The Oregon Public Guardian & Conservator

#### **Guardian of last resort**

- No other viable option is available
  - No less restrictive alternatives to guardianship
  - No appropriate alternate guardian is available

- High-Risk of serious harm is required
  - Limited resource
  - Guardianship should only be exercised when truly needed

## How do we serve?

Person centered guardianship and advocacy

- All guardianship plans are centered around the values, goals and desires of the protected person
- Personal advocacy
- Rapport building and trust

National Standards

OPGC follows all National Guardianship Association Standards

#### Who do we Serve?

- Caseload is highly complex and varied
- Primary reason for incapacity
  - 32 Major Neurocognitive Disorder
    - 14 With behavioral disturbances
    - 13 With co-occurring severe and persistent mental illness
  - 30 Severe and persistent mental illness
    - 13 with a significant medical issues needing ongoing management
    - 2 suffer from a brain injury
  - 20 Intellectual or developmental disability
    - 11 with significant medical issues needing ongoing management
    - 4 with co-occurring mental illness
  - 4 Brain injury
    - 3 co-occurring Major-neurocognitive disorder w/behavioral disturbances

#### Who do we Serve?

- 53% Homeless at the time of OPGC intervention
- 12% Veterans
- 30% Abuse by others was the primary cause of their high-risk
- OPGC clients live in 26 different Counties

# **Major Impacts**

- Increase in quality of life for those we serve
  - Often life saving
  - Always positive
- Reduction in utilization of vital community resources
  - Interactions with law enforcement & arrests
  - Hospitalizations
  - ER Visits
- Reduction in utilization of the Oregon State Hospital
  - Significant reduction in OPGC clients returning to OSH

#### **Program Current Structure and Resources**

- Created in 2014
- 6 total FTE
  - OPGC
  - 4 Deputy
  - 1 Support staff
- Regionally based deputies
  - Huge districts
    - Inefficient
  - Lack supports

Chris Rosin, The Oregon Public Guardian & Conservator <u>Chris.rosin@Oregon.gov</u>