



**COGAP**

Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program



**COGAP**

Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program

# Mission

- To provide pro bono and sliding scale fee-based court appointed guardianship services to indigent and low-income adult incapacitated Central Oregonians
- To assist community members who, because of cognitive and/or physical impairment, are unable to make medical, housing, and/or financial decisions for themselves
- To provide long-term solutions to immediate needs of incapacitated community members who lack representation



**COGAP**

Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program

## Initiated By

- Collaborative group of legal, health care, judicial, law enforcement and professional fiduciaries
- Round Table Work Groups
- Community Guardianship Summit



**COGAP**

**Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program**

# Issues Targeted

- To alleviate burden on court system, county attorneys, law enforcement, health care system, hospitals and behavioral health care workers
- To provide timely and cost-effective professional third-party decision making for incapacitated community members to implement and ensure long-term care and housing plans
- To coordinate services among health care professionals and public agencies to ensure equitable access to medical care, housing and basic services
- To coordinate, facilitate and authorize safe and appropriate hospital discharge plans for those who lack capacity or a legal representative to act on their behalf
- To foster, train, educate and mentor future professional guardians to fill increasing need for these services in our community especially rural areas of Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties



**COGAP**

Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program

# Benefits to the Community

- Quicker implementation of recommended discharge and care plans from hospitals, health care providers and local agencies
- Reduce the number of civil commitment hearings
- Reduce the number of incapacitated persons in local hospitals by coordinating, authorizing and implementing discharge plans
- Reduce interactions with law enforcement and incarceration
- Reduce number of psychiatric holds
- Enable incapacitated adult mentally ill and senior population to thrive in their community
- Reduce redundant use of services



**COGAP**

**Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program**

# Operation

- Board of Directors and Advisory Committee made up of community professionals to facilitate and determine long-term planning and strategies
- Executive Director to provide outreach to agencies that are impacted and develop a referral system and outreach to target groups as well as continued fundraising efforts
- Intake specialist to facilitate and streamline application process and appointment of guardian in emergent cases
- Court Appointed Legal Guardian will be assigned to each case to assess needs, formulate, and implement care plans
- Support staff to assist Guardian with day-to-day activities and general tasks



**COGAP**

Central Oregon Guardian  
Assistance Program

# Community Partners

- Deschutes County Behavioral Health
- Adult Protective Services
- St. Charles Health System
- Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook County Judges and Courts
- Central Oregon Health Council
- Older Adults Behavioral Health Initiative
- Horner Law, LLP