



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

Benefits to the Community



COGAP
Central Oregon Guardian
Assistance Program

- 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