



GUARDIANSHIP SERVICE BOARD

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**WHEN THERE'S NO ONE ELSE,
WE ARE SOMEONE**



OUR 10TH YEAR OF ADVOCACY

This year marked Franklin County Guardianship Service Board’s (FCGSB) tenth year of dedicated service to the Franklin County community. The first ten years were a period of significant growth both in number of people directly impacted by services provided, and development of a new government agency.

The social work model of providing guardianship support to those in need has proved to be valuable not only to the over 500 people we serve directly, but to all those who support people in our community. Mental health agencies, hospitals, Adult Protective Services (APS), Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD), Jobs and Family Services (JFS), various housing agencies, first responders and many others benefit from FCGSB staff’s responsiveness and advocacy for some of our most vulnerable adult neighbors.

In 2025, FCGSB also conducted a strategic planning exercise. The process consisted of numerous interviews with internal and external stakeholders, which highlighted and praised the great work done everyday and the need to secure stable funding to ensure future decades of service. Suggestions on how to grow and improve in the coming years were made and the leadership team understands and appreciates the direction given.

As always, there is tremendous gratitude for the support from the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH), FCBDD, APS-Franklin County Office on Aging, Franklin County Commissioners, Ohio State University Hospitals, Ohio Health Hospitals, Mount Carmel Hospitals, and the Franklin County Probate Court.

Jane Higgins Marx
Board Chair

Robert E. Ryan
Board Vice-Chair

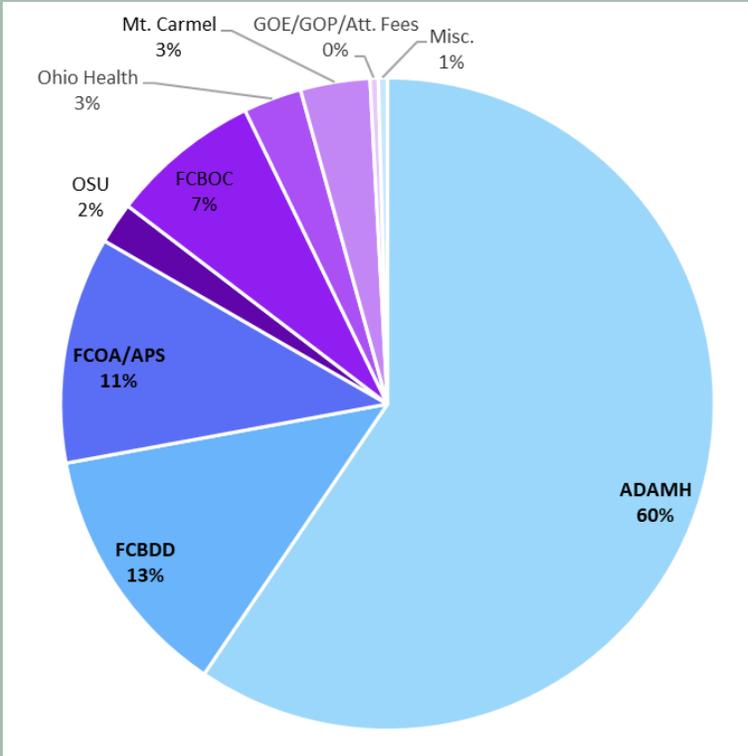
Michael Wilkos
Board Secretary

Melissa Messina
Director

MISSION

The Mission of the Franklin County Guardianship Service Board is to implement the laws enacted by the Ohio Legislature in a professional and dedicated manner to ensure accessibility, fairness and courtesy in the administration of guardianship services to assigned wards in Franklin County.

FCGSB 2025 FINANCIALS



ADAMH	\$2,000,000.00
FCBDD	\$424,360.00
FCOA/APS	\$378,000.00
FCBOC	\$250,000.00
Mt. Carmel	\$115,500.00
Ohio Health	\$97,000.00
OSU	\$69,062.50
Misc.	\$15,116.43
GOE/GOP/Attorney Fees	\$13,620.74

Total Revenue **\$3,362,659.67**

Salaries and Wages	\$2,397,439.82
Benefits	\$1,188,842.39
Materials and Supplies	\$217,436.24

Total Expenses **\$3,803,718.45***

Revenue Descriptions

ADAMH - annual contribution as provided for in the 2020 ADAMH Levy

FCBDD - annual contractual contribution

Franklin County Board of Commissioners (FCBOC) - annual contribution, both monetary and in-kind

Franklin County Office on Aging/Adult Protective Services (FCOA/APS)- annual contractual contribution - funded with money from Franklin County Jobs and Family Services

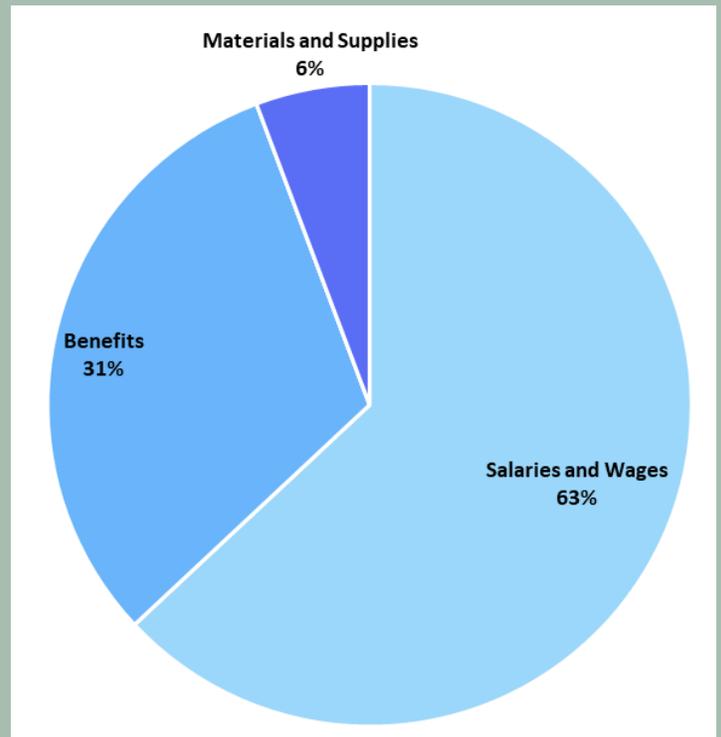
Ohio State University Hospitals (OSU) - annual amount per the 2023-2025 contract

Mount Carmel Hospitals (Mt. Carmel) - amount earned under Guardianship Referral contract

Ohio Health Hospitals - amount earned under Guardianship Referral contract

Miscellaneous - insurance proceeds from vehicle accident

GOE/GOP/Attorney Fees - earned fees for GOE and GOP Services provided to non-indigent clients



*Expenditures supplemented with rollover funds in the Probate Court Mental Health Fund

YEAR IN SUMMARY

20
25

STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

681 CALLS
HANDLED AFTER
HOURS

88 NEW
REFERRALS

79 NEW
APPOINTMENTS

3362
CONSENTS
PROVIDED

3280 FACE
TO FACE
VISITS

503 CLIENTS

AGE 18-59: 223
AGE 60+: 280

84% OF GSB
CLIENTS
HAVE A
MENTAL
HEALTH
DIAGNOSIS

29% OF GSB
CLIENTS ARE
LINKED WITH THE
FRANKLIN
COUNTY BOARD
OF DD

CASE LONGEVITY

LESS THAN 1 YEAR: 136
1-5 YEARS: 218
MORE THAN 5 YEARS: 149

BUDGETED FULL TIME
EMPLOYEES: 38

22 SOCIAL WORKERS
2 ATTORNEYS
12 SUPPORT STAFF
2 VACANCIES

REACHING 100 IN 2025

FCGSB became Maggie's guardian in 2019 at age 94 after repeated calls to Adult Protective Services (APS) with concerns of confusion and diminished capacity. APS attempted numerous times to coordinate in-home care and assistance for Maggie to allow her to stay in her home. Unfortunately, due to her dementia, Maggie would initially agree to the assistance and subsequently deny providers entry when they would arrive to help. During APS's last attempt to assist her, it was discovered that someone had stolen a substantial amount of money without Maggie's knowledge.

Upon becoming her guardian, FCGSB learned that Maggie's home had significant code violations. Attempts were made to remedy the issues to bring it up to code and to reinstate services to allow Maggie to stay in her home. These efforts allowed her to stay in her home for nearly two more years.

Unfortunately, despite FCGSB efforts and assistance from in home services, it became evident that Maggie could not continue to live safely in her home. In a routine visit, FCGSB arranged for Maggie to be transported by ambulance to an area hospital where she was evaluated. After a short stay, nursing facility placement was located, and Maggie has been living comfortably there ever since.

In 2025, Maggie celebrated her 100th birthday at her facility surrounded by family, facility staff, and residents. She received a blanket with a picture of all her grandkids on it and a large printout of a Columbus Dispatch article written about her professional impact on her community through her work as a daycare provider. FCGSB is glad that we were able to step in and assist when we did and are delighted to see Maggie reach 100 years old!



HOLIDAY WISHLIST

A new approach to our holiday gift drive was attempted this year. Social Workers selected a specific gift for each client considering each person's likes and personalities. While this approach brought more detail to the public about those we serve each day, we unfortunately did not meet our goal of giving a gift to everyone. We were able to provide something unique to many of our clients and witness genuine smiles with each gift. We are deeply grateful to all those who contributed this year and are looking forward to making additional changes next year to ensure we can provide holiday cheer to every person we serve.



2025 BROUGHT STABILITY AND SELF AWARENESS

Matthew has been under guardianship with the FCGSB since 2018. He has had many ups and downs with managing his mental health symptoms and has experienced periods of significant instability, homelessness, substance use, and suicidal ideation. He regularly presented in the middle of the night at various Central Ohio emergency departments, often visiting multiple hospitals in the same night.

In May 2025, Matthew was asked to leave his boarding house due to engaging in substance use and becoming aggressive with other residents. At that time, Matthew decided to seek treatment for his alcohol and drug use, with the continued encouragement of FCGSB. He has dedicated himself to meeting the expectations of the program and has worked diligently on his recovery. He has been compliant with his medications, has been an active participant in individual and group treatment, and has been offered a spot in their supportive sober living program. Matthew has been clean from all substances since his admission to the program in May. He has increased his self-awareness around his mental health symptoms and takes pride in how far he has come. He recently commented “No one is keeping me here but me” – showing immense self-determination and an understanding of how hard he has worked to maintain his sobriety. FCGSB is tremendously proud of the obstacles he has overcome and is honored to continue to support him on his journey.

A NEW HOME IN 2025

When FCGSB was given guardianship of Shari in June of 2023, we were given one goal: move her into her own home so she could experience independence. In the two years since, FCGSB struggled through housing shortages, roommate mismatches, and strict location barriers to find Shari the perfect home. FCGSB had numerous conversations and viewed several places alongside Shari’s supportive FCBDD team. The team would take a few steps forward in locating a place, ultimately to be sent back to square one. While frustrated at times, FCGSB stayed diligent in its search.

Finally in summer of 2025, a home that checked all the boxes became available. In preparing for Shari’s transition, FCGSB facilitated multiple outings with her and her new potential roommates.



She was delighted, immediately bonding with her roommates over a shared love of crafts, shopping, and Uno. In addition to ensuring the roommates were a fit, it became apparent that furnishings and other household needs were missing for Shari to feel immediately at home upon her arrival. FCGSB used its advocacy to facilitate donations to meet Shari’s need in a very short timeframe. Upon seeing her new home, Shari’s reaction, an astounding “WOW! Awesome! Best guardian ever!” made all the hard work and time worth it!

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our individualized approach to serving our clients allows for meaningful interactions and relationships, making our annual Memorial Service an important time for reflection and celebration of those we said goodbye to in the previous year. This October we honored 56 people, 11 of who were Veterans from various branches of our Armed Forces. Families and friends were able to watch via Facebook Live as we announced each person's name, presented a rose, and shared stories. It continues to be a special day for us each year.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



KEEP IN TOUCH

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