

# FRANKLIN COUNTY GUARDIANSHIP SERVICE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT – 2022



Franklin County Guardianship Service Board  
80 E. Fulton Street, 4th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614.525.2279 | [www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov](http://www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov)



Dear Supporter,

In 2022, the Franklin County Guardianship Service Board continued to serve as the guardian of last resort for over 400 of our most vulnerable residents, all while undergoing significant changes. Since the FCGSB's inception in 2015, Jack Kullman led and grew a team of compassionate professionals to ensure all clients are taken care of each day. Under his leadership, the case load grew, processes improved, and staff increased to allow him to retire at the end of 2022 and leave the GSB on solid footing.

In addition to Jack's retirement, total staff count increased to serve the growing caseload and the office physically moved locations to 80 E. Fulton, just across the street from the main Franklin County complex. A variety of challenges arose, but the mission of caring for our clients and continuing to advocate and support them continued without waver.

As we have seen growth in Franklin County and the need for our services, the FCGSB has also been a source of information and guidance to other counties who have begun to establish a guardianship service board in other parts of Ohio. Guardianship service is not limited by our location, and we are happy to share our experience with others with the common goal of helping all people needing assistance.

We are extremely grateful to our supporters who have supported us without hesitation: The Franklin County Probate Court, ADAMH Board of Franklin County, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the OSU Wexner Medical Center, Mt. Carmel Hospitals and Ohio Health.

Visit us on our website: <https://www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov>

Sincerely,

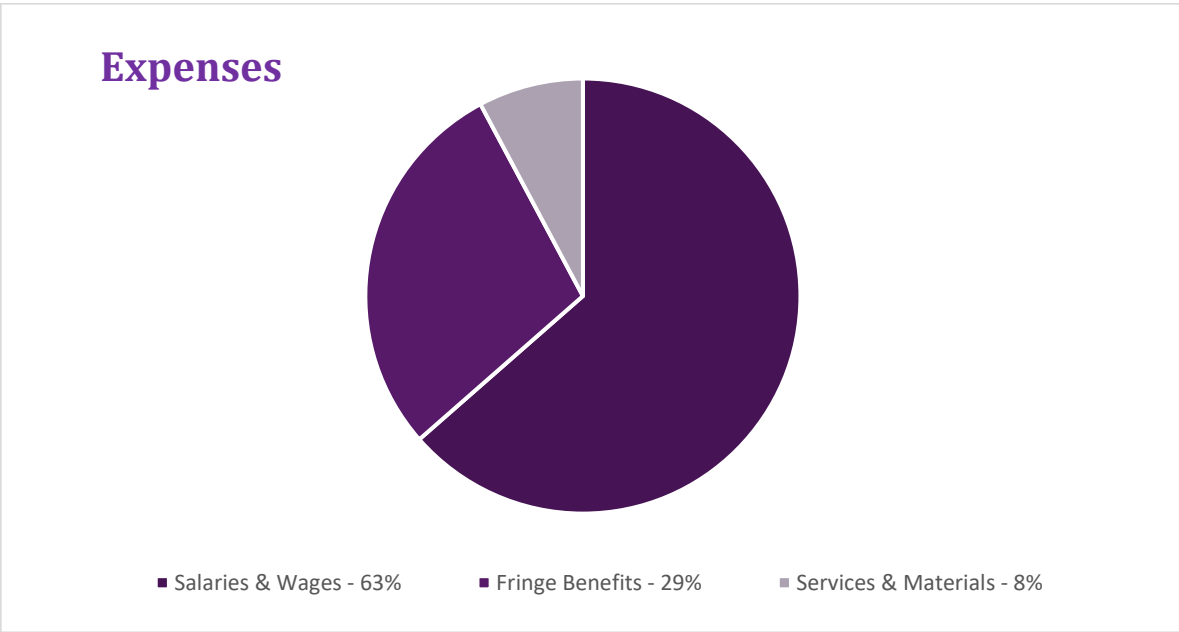
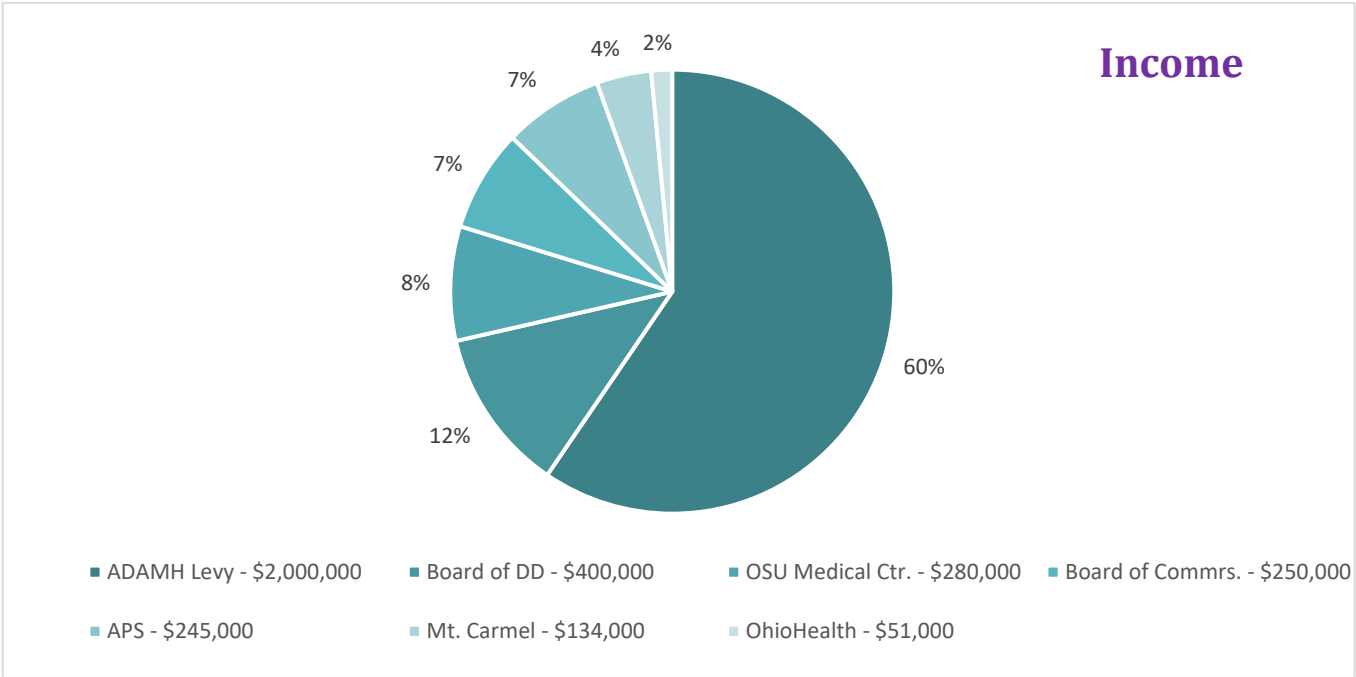
Melissa G. Messina, Esq., MBA  
Executive Director


Jane Higgins Marx, Esq.  
GSB Board Chair

**Our Mission Statement**

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.



**GSB Financial Snapshot – 2022**





**443 active cases by referral source at year end**

- ADAMH - 44
- APS - 68
- FCBDD - 78
- Mt. Carmel - 22
- Ohio Health - 15
- OSU - 101
- Probate Court - 28
- Successor Appts - 87

**3,167 face-to-face meetings with clients**



- Nursing Facility - 47.5%
- Community - 25.5%
- DD Housing - 13.1%
- Group Home - 5.6%
- Transient - 3.8%
- Assisted Living - 2.7%
- Hospital - 1.8%



**12 clients regained competency and no longer require a guardian**




**GSB YEAR IN REVIEW**





**FCGSB found alternative guardians for 12 clients**

**560 after-hour calls responded to**


**2,961 consents given**

**Client Diagnoses**



- Mental Health - 35.5%
- MH and DD - 20%
- MH and AOD - 19%
- Medical only - 10.1%
- DD - 7.4%
- MH/DD/AOD (Comorbid) - 4.5%
- Alcohol or Drug (AOD) - 2.9%
- DD/AOD - .2%

62 clients located out of county across 29 counties in the state of Ohio

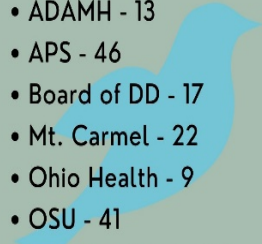


**Adults aged 20-97 served by FCGSB**

60 and below: 208  
60 and up: 235



**175 Total Referrals**



- ADAMH - 13
- APS - 46
- Board of DD - 17
- Mt. Carmel - 22
- Ohio Health - 9
- OSU - 41
- Probate Court - 25
- Successor Appts - 2



### A Success Story\*

In 2017, the GSB became guardian for KB because of the need for a successor guardian. At that time, he had a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder. Despite being only 30 years old, the expert evaluation indicated that he was not anticipated to improve, therefore the need for continued expert evaluations were dispensed.

It was discovered that prior to GSB involvement, KB was unstable and frequently in and out of the hospital. When we first began working with him, he had difficulty maintaining housing due to his illness, had a significant addiction, and was being manipulated by family members.

Then in 2018, KB was found wandering in the streets and was hospitalized for a month as a result. Upon his discharge, his team at North Central along with the GSB had a conversation about his future and what he hoped for. He stated that he wanted to go to school and live independently and with the team's help goals were set.

KB began attending classes at Columbus State, taking his medication as prescribed, advocating for his needs, and addressing his addiction. Despite his hard work, he relapsed in 2021 which resulted in placement in a recovery focused home. This group home was crucial in changing his life.

While at the recovery home, KB focused on maintaining his sobriety by working a 12-step program, staying consistent with his medication, and helping others along the way. He returned to Columbus State to work towards his business degree.

When we began the discussion of getting KB off guardianship, he was able to advocate for himself and express that he still needed support to continue to move positively forward. After many conversations with the team, KB had the self-confidence in handling his own affairs and welcomed the termination of his guardianship in August of 2022.

\*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of GSB clients



## Community Partners

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board  
of Franklin County  
Visit: [adamhfranklin.org](http://adamhfranklin.org)  
(614) 224-1057

Franklin County Board of Commissioners  
Visit: [commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov](http://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov)  
(614) 525-3322

Franklin County Probate Court  
Visit: [probate.franklincountyohio.gov](http://probate.franklincountyohio.gov)  
(614) 525-3894

Ohio Health  
Visit: [ohiohealth.com](http://ohiohealth.com)  
(614) 788-8860

Franklin County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
Visit: [fcbdd.org](http://fcbdd.org)  
(614) 475-6440

Franklin County Department of Job and  
Family Services  
Visit: [jfs.franklincountyohio.gov](http://jfs.franklincountyohio.gov)  
(614) 233-2000

Mt. Carmel Hospital System  
Visit: [mountcarmelhealth.com](http://mountcarmelhealth.com)  
(614) 546-4000

Ohio State Wexner Medical Center  
Visit: [wexnermedical.osu.edu](http://wexnermedical.osu.edu)  
(614) 293-8000

### 2022 - 2023 Franklin County Guardianship Service Board Members

Jane Higgins Marx, Chair  
Nikki Mesnard, Secretary  
Bob Ryan, Vice Chair

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**GAIN INDEPENDENCE.  
GET SUPPORT FOR YOUR DECISIONS.**

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**Feel at home again.  
Make progress toward goals.**

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**Find safety and security.  
Support individuals and family members.**

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