Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. is an independent organization, which advocates for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and enhanced quality of life for individual persons with developmental disabilities.

Guardianship
County probate courts appoint APSI to serve as guardian of the person, which means APSI makes decisions about where the person lives, what medical care they receive, and who will provide services to them. The court must first find the person to be incompetent based on a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the person’s capacity to make decisions.

Alternatives to Guardianship
When a person needs assistance with making decisions but does not need a full guardian, the person can make a voluntary agreement with APSI to provide this assistance. These alternatives to guardianship may include supported decision-making or acting as a chosen representative as part of the person’s team.

Trusteeship
APSI continues to assist a small number of people with financial matters as a trustee. Trusteeships are established by the county probate court, generally for amounts less than ten thousand dollars. As trustee, APSI is also designated as the representative payee for the person’s benefits.

Technical Assistance
APSI is available to serve as a resource on guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, and advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. This assistance can be provided to family members, professionals, self-advocates, or anyone else with these questions.

Serving critical needs, one person at a time.

Cover photo: APSI client, Bobby, hard at work collecting cans for recycling at Tiffin Developmental Center
For over 36 years, APSI has proudly supported individuals with developmental disabilities through advocacy, guardianship, and other protective services. We know that our support makes a profound impact on the individuals we serve, their families, and our communities.

But we also know that we don’t do it alone. We are one part of the network of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. And we are supported by people like you who care deeply about the individuals we serve.

We know how important it is to adapt our services to the changing needs of the individuals we serve. Our strategic plan focuses on individualizing the supports we provide, with an emphasis on helping the individuals we serve become more independent. We were thrilled to celebrate with 15 individuals whose guardianships were terminated this year, and we expect many more over the next few years!

We also know it’s important to strengthen our partnerships and share our expertise on guardianship. That’s why we started our APSI Institute series, which brings together APSI staff, county boards, providers, advocates, and family members. At our Institute on Supported Decision-Making, we were inspired by national expert Jonathan Martinis to think creatively about how we support the individuals we serve.

At APSI, we are grateful for your support and for our partnerships with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio DD Council, county probate courts, county boards of developmental disabilities, service providers, families, and advocates. Thank you for helping us serve our clients’ critical needs, one person at a time.

Kristen Henry
APSI Executive Director

Edward Sterling
President, APSI Board of Trustees
When APSI brought up the idea of restoration with TJ, she was ecstatic. TJ, her team, and APSI began to form a plan and get supports in place to set TJ up for success. TJ had been having back and hip pain and had been going to physical therapy regularly, and it was determined her aunt could act as a medical POA if needed. With TJ’s physician and the rest of the team on board, she approached the court a few months later. Then the waiting began. During this waiting period, TJ’s pain worsened and she became ill. She found herself at the hospital where her doctor ran tests and then delivered the news: She had stage 4 bone cancer. No one is ever ready to hear this news, but TJ had a great team of supporters surrounding her who helped talk her through it and explain everything the doctors were saying. The next day, TJ’s provider, Kathy, brought her a letter that had come in the mail. TJ had been restored to competency. This news was all a lot to process, but there was never any question that TJ could fight cancer with her team, friends, and family by her side. TJ recalled the time saying, “APSI could have changed their mind, but they believed in me and my support team.” Since being restored, TJ has enjoyed her increased independence and said “I am living my best life ever. Traveling to see my family in North Carolina but always wanting to come home to my life I have built here.” TJ is a fighter and a great example that with the right support, no situation is too big to handle. TJ still has regular communication with APSI and has a great relationship with her team. “I am happy that I have people that help me out and care about me.”

Joey was referred to APSI twenty years ago because he needed support managing his physical and mental health decisions and developing coping strategies. Through the years he worked closely with his team to develop tools and supports necessary to live a life with fewer restrictions. One of the keys to his success has been the adoption of his dog, Mara, who he works hard to provide for. In taking care of Mara, Joey learned he could use the same skills to care for himself. His team also agreed that he was ready to take more responsibility over his own life and began discussing the possibility of being restored to competency. When approached with the idea, Joey had some questions and concerns, but once answered, decided he was ready. Soon after this conversation, Joey found himself in a medical emergency that required him to think and act quickly on his own behalf until help was available. Joey rose to the occasion better than anyone could have anticipated and took the necessary steps to get the help he needed and advocate for himself. Joey’s experience with this situation gave him the confidence he needed to realize supported decision-making was something he was fully capable of. The court was presented with examples of Joey’s strengthened decision-making skills and could see how far he had come over time. That day, Joey was restored to competency. He is now leading a fulfilling life living with a friend and Mara and enjoying his increased independence.
Over the years, Richard has worked to develop a support system that has enabled him to become fully integrated into his community. Richard has established many friendships through his bowling league and on his basketball team, and he has made many connections by competing in Track and Field in the Special Olympics. Richard has a voice in his community by serving on a county-wide leadership council, making sure the input of those with developmental disabilities is heard in his area. Richard gives back to his community by being very involved in his church where he assists with the youth programs, aids in school supply drives, serves food during bible study, and helps with the athletic activities. He is currently seeking community employment so he can save up enough money to go on a mission trip with his church. Jen, Richard's APSI representative, describes Richard as “very ambitious, caring, and a go-getter.” Richard has great support from his foster family, his day program, his team, and his church. When asked about Richard’s involvement and the great network he has built, Jen said, “It’s amazing. Richard loves the community and they love him back.” Richard’s goal is to be restored to competency and to live more independently in the community he has worked so hard to become a part of.

When Kelly was referred to APSI nearly 10 years ago, she was experiencing some struggles in her life. Over the years, Kelly's willingness to work with her team and her parents while addressing her medical needs enabled her to begin to regain her independence. As a result of her hard work, Kelly has recently taken a big step. With assistance from Kelly and her family, the team worked to determine Kelly's needs and put appropriate services in place to empower Kelly to be supported in making her own decisions. Kelly has now filed her paperwork to be restored to competency and is hoping to set a date for her hearing soon. APSI looks forward to Kelly's restoration and is confident her team will encourage and assist her as she navigates life without a guardian.

A few years back, Paul was living in a home with roommates who were not a good fit for him and his environment was taking a toll on his health. Through supported decision-making, Paul's APSI representative and his team were able to help him make the decision to move into a new home with an independent provider who had many years of experience.

Since his move, Paul has made huge improvements in his life and his APSI representative describes him as a “completely different person.” He has adopted a much healthier lifestyle, maintaining his hygiene, exercising regularly, eating better, quitting smoking and, most impressively, losing 140 pounds. As a result of these changes, Paul has also diminished or eliminated his need for many medications, including his inhaler and blood pressure medication. In his new home, Paul is able to go out into the community more often, take more trips, spend time with his girlfriend, and have much more independence.

Paul's many accomplishments would not have been possible without support from his team. Going forward, Paul and his team are discussing restoration to competency as his biggest goal for the next year.
Expenses

$7,077,072

- Program Staff $4,108,754
- Professional Fees $1,218,833
- Donated Space $153,130
- Miscellaneous $13,730
- Administrative $617,952
- Payroll Taxes/Benefits $1,238,306
- Rent & Utilities $228,532
- Mileage/Travel $365,631
- Other Program $242,904

Revenue

$6,562,274

- State of Ohio Funds $5,710,518
- Donated Facilities $153,130
- Interest Income $41,261
- Title XX $834,000
- Donations and Grants $23,385

Special thanks to:

- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
- Harry C. Moores Foundation
- Individual Supporters

Financial Highlights:

- 25% increase in donations and grants
- 74 Protective Service Representatives
- $1,965 annual cost to serve an individual
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APSI and our clients thank you for your support!
FISCAL YEAR 2019 Impact

- 24,597 client visits
- 3,602 clients served
- 495 client moves
- 684,000 miles traveled to provide protective services
- 20 successor guardianships
- 48 clients per Protective Service Representative on average
- 22,304 consents
  - 14,242 medical consents
  - 8,062 service consents
- 69 appointments to serve as guardian
- 15 emergency guardianships
- 7,672 after hours calls responded to

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