



Department for Aging and Independent Living State Guardianship Update

Commissioner Victoria Elridge
Guardianship Assistant Director Jessica Wayne

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Department for Aging and Independent Living Overview

The mission of the Department for Aging and Independent Living is to promote the welfare, dignity, and independence of older adults, individuals with physical disabilities, and adults in need of a guardian

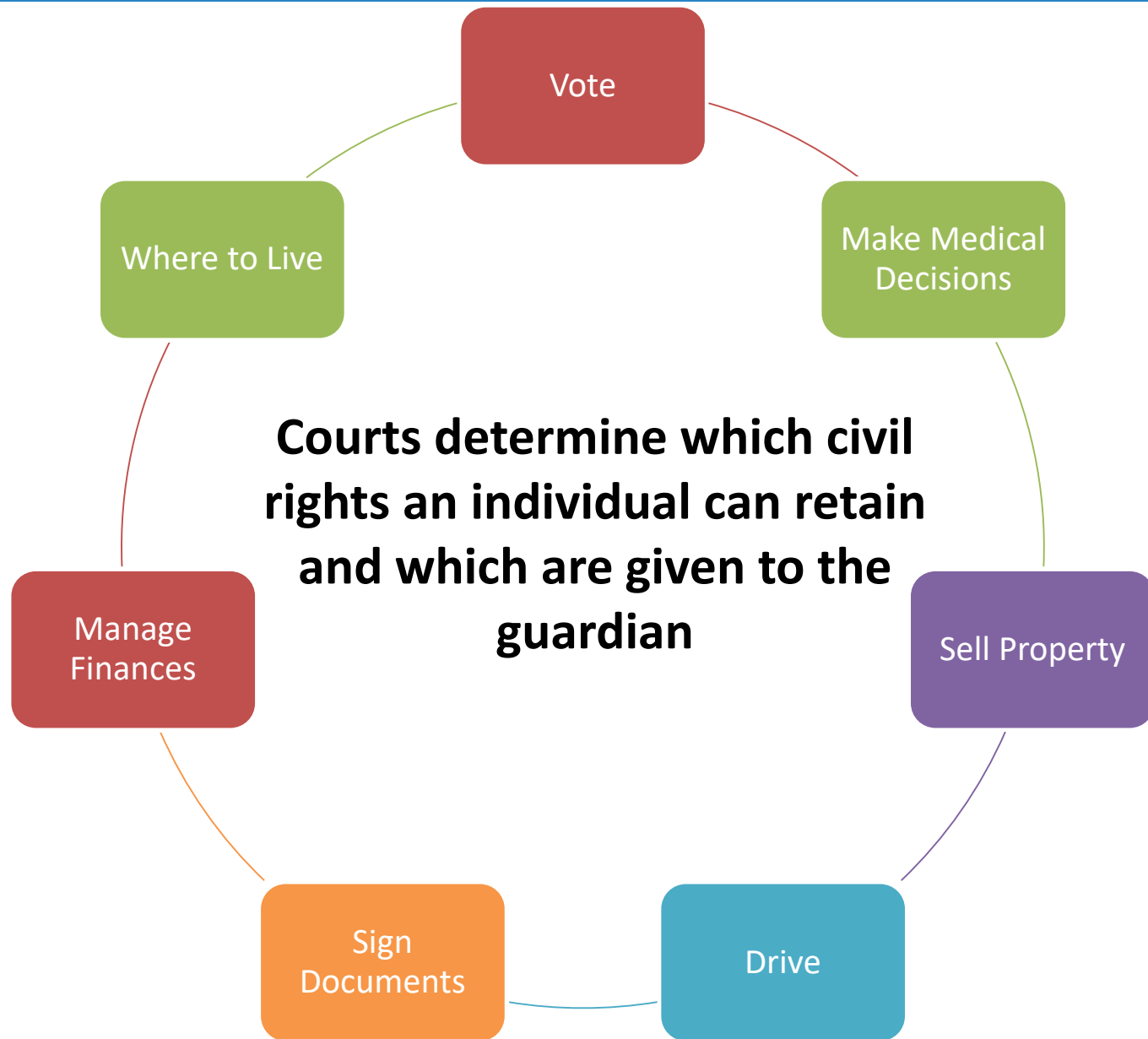
Department for Aging and Independent Living Overview

Programs and Oversight:

- Assisted living communities
- Boards and Committees
- Hart Supported Living
- Homecare
- Ky Caregiver Program
- Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver
- Office for Dementia Services
- Older Americans Act
- Participant directed services for all Medicaid waivers
- Person Centered Attendant Program
- State guardianship
- State Independent Living Council
- Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund

State Guardianship Overview

- State Guardian:
 - For individuals 18 or older with a cognitive impairment that **prevents** their ability to make informed decisions
 - Guardian appointed due to the absence of a willing and suitable family member/friend or the absence of resources to employ a private guardian
 - Individual is declared by court to be either wholly or partially disabled



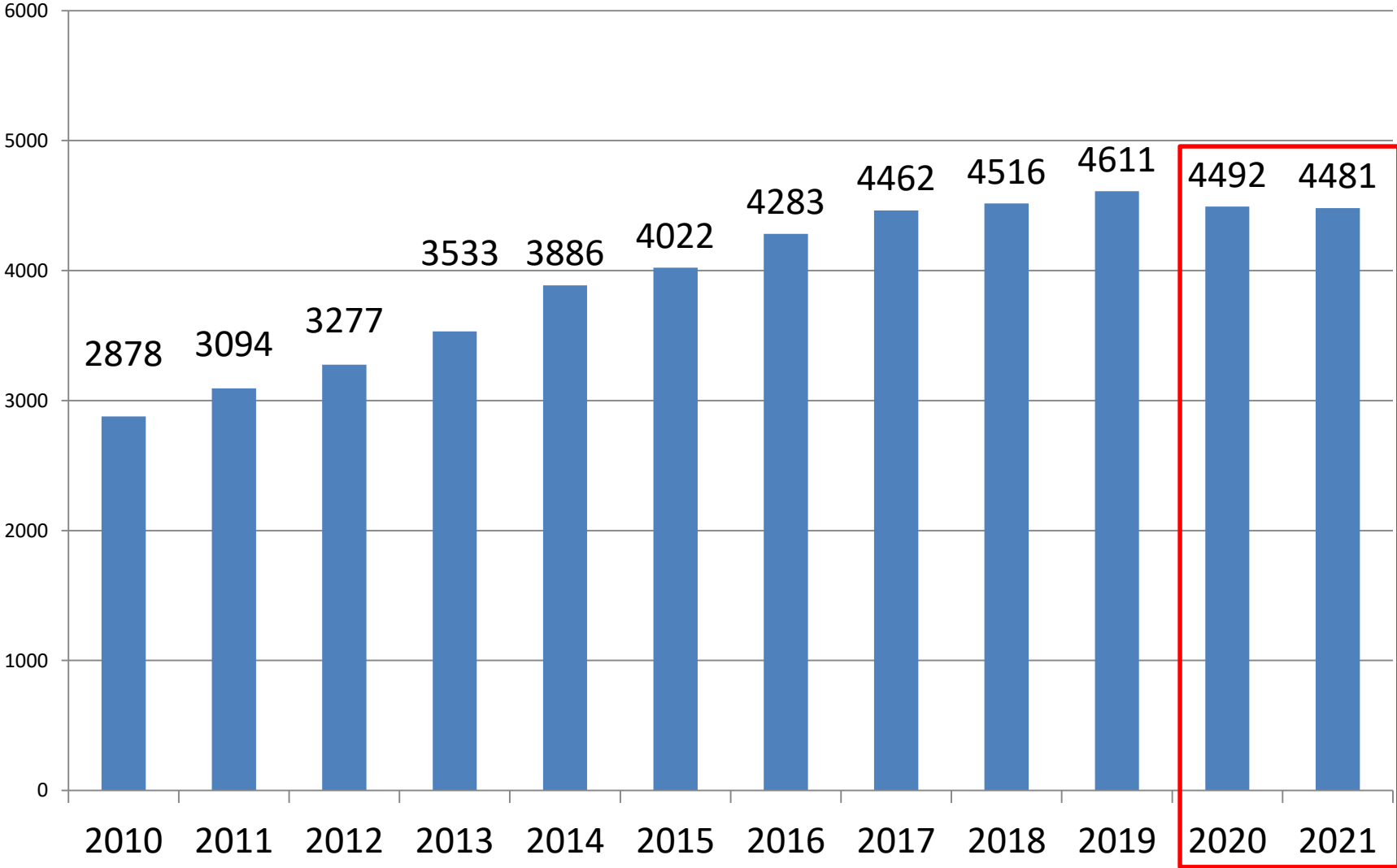
State Guardianship Overview

- By law, state guardianship:
 - *Cannot* force treatment, medications, or control an individual's behaviors
 - *Cannot* lock up or restrain individuals
 - *Cannot* keep a violent perpetrator from harming another person
 - *Cannot* force providers to serve individuals
 - *Cannot* create resources or benefits for individuals
 - Is NOT A FUNDING AGENCY for individuals
 - Guardianship manages any resources the individual has access to, or is entitled to, under public assistance programs

State Guardianship Definitions

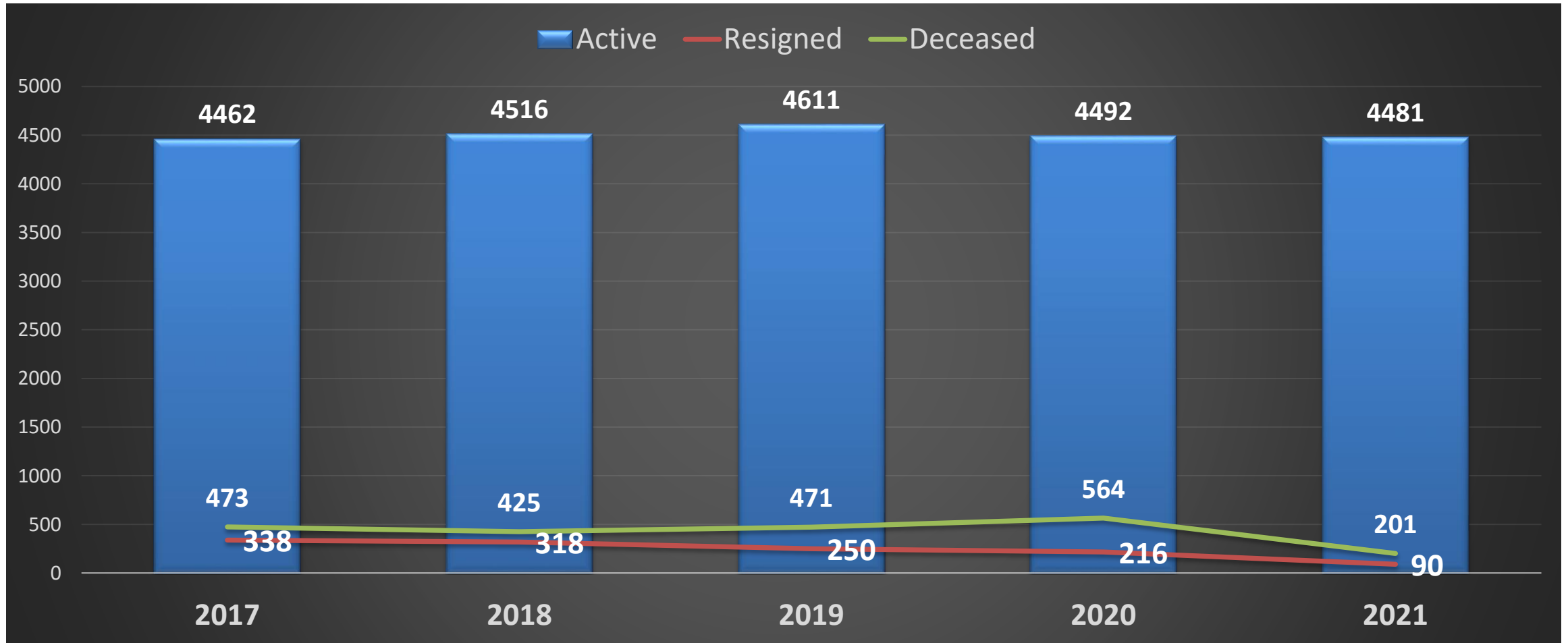
- Full Guardian/Full Conservator:
Guardian responsible for both the personal and financial affairs of individual
- Personal Guardian:
Guardian responsible for only personal affairs of individual
- Conservator:
Guardian responsible for only financial affairs
- Limited Guardian:
Guardian manages some personal affairs and individual with disabilities retains the right to other personal affairs
- Limited Conservator:
Guardian manages some financial affairs and individual with disabilities retains the right to other financial needs

ACTIVE CLIENT TREND



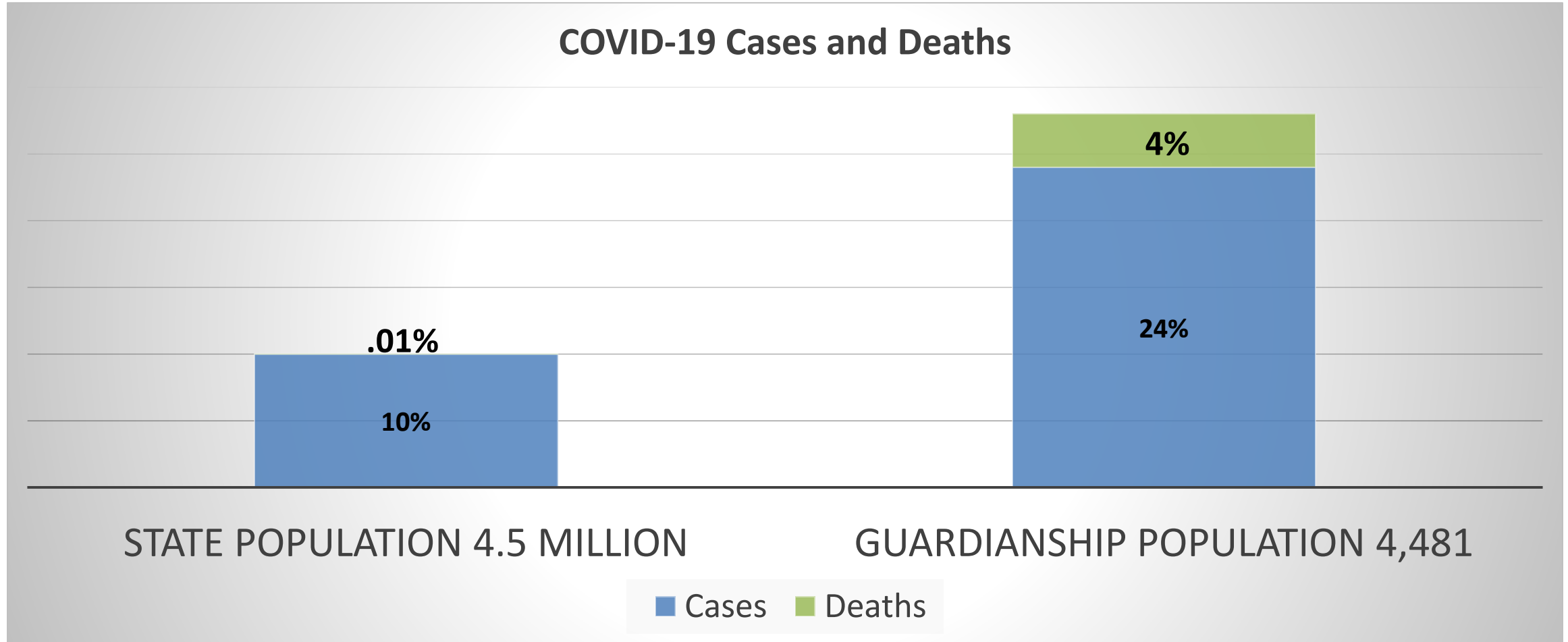
Courts were only open for emergency guardianship appointments and bench trials from 3/20/20 to 5/1/21

Active, Resigned, and Deceased Cases



Impact of COVID-19

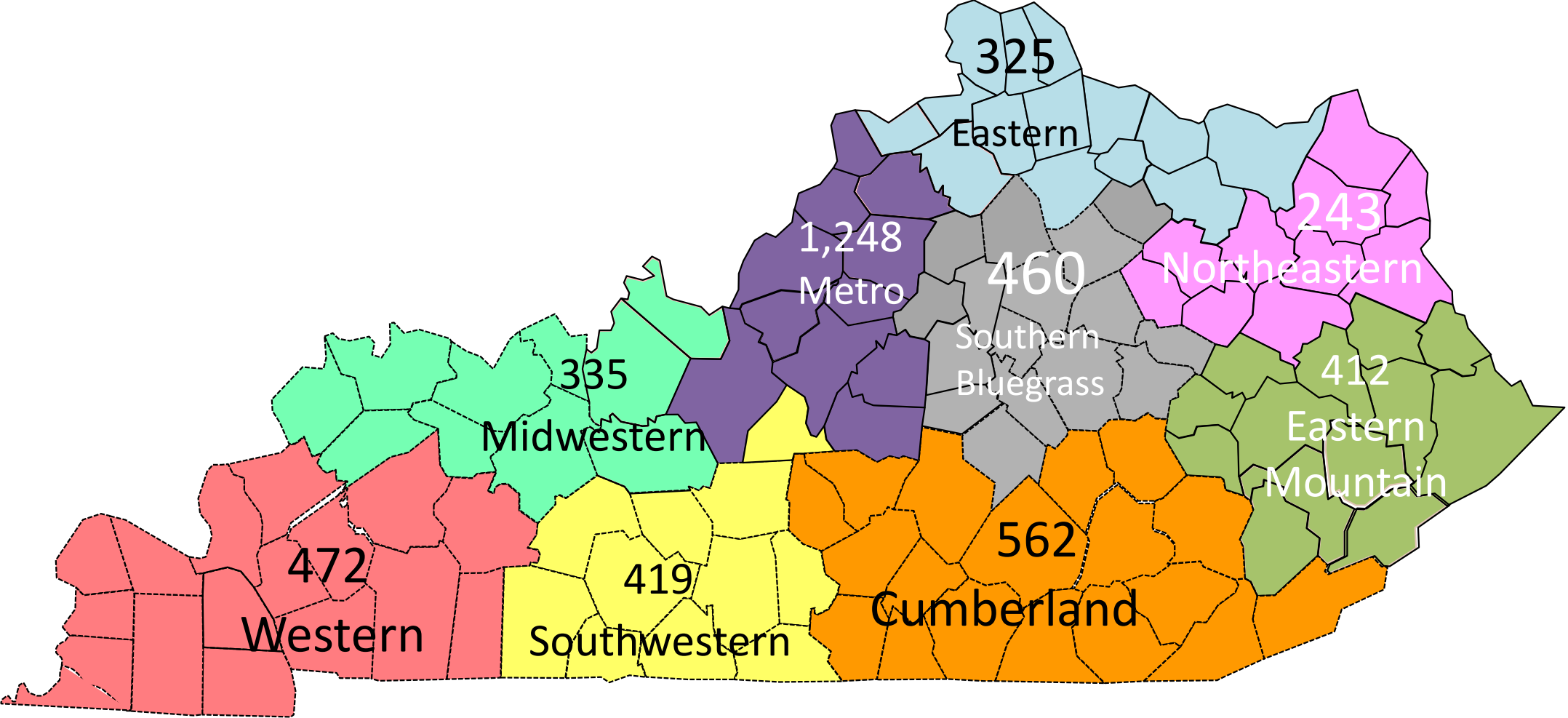
COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



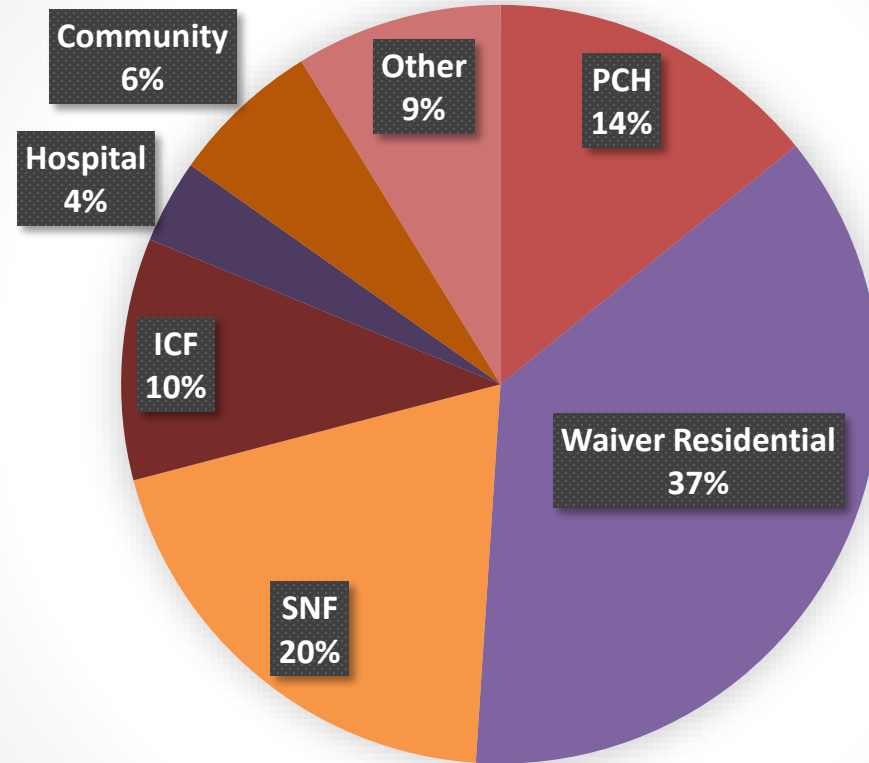
COVID-19 Support for Staff

- Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board
- Kentucky Employee Assistance Program
- Trauma informed care trainings
- Promoting flexibility in secondary and tertiary trauma
- Self-care in leadership trainings
- Upcoming supervisor trainings on trauma and resiliency

Guardianship Individuals by Region

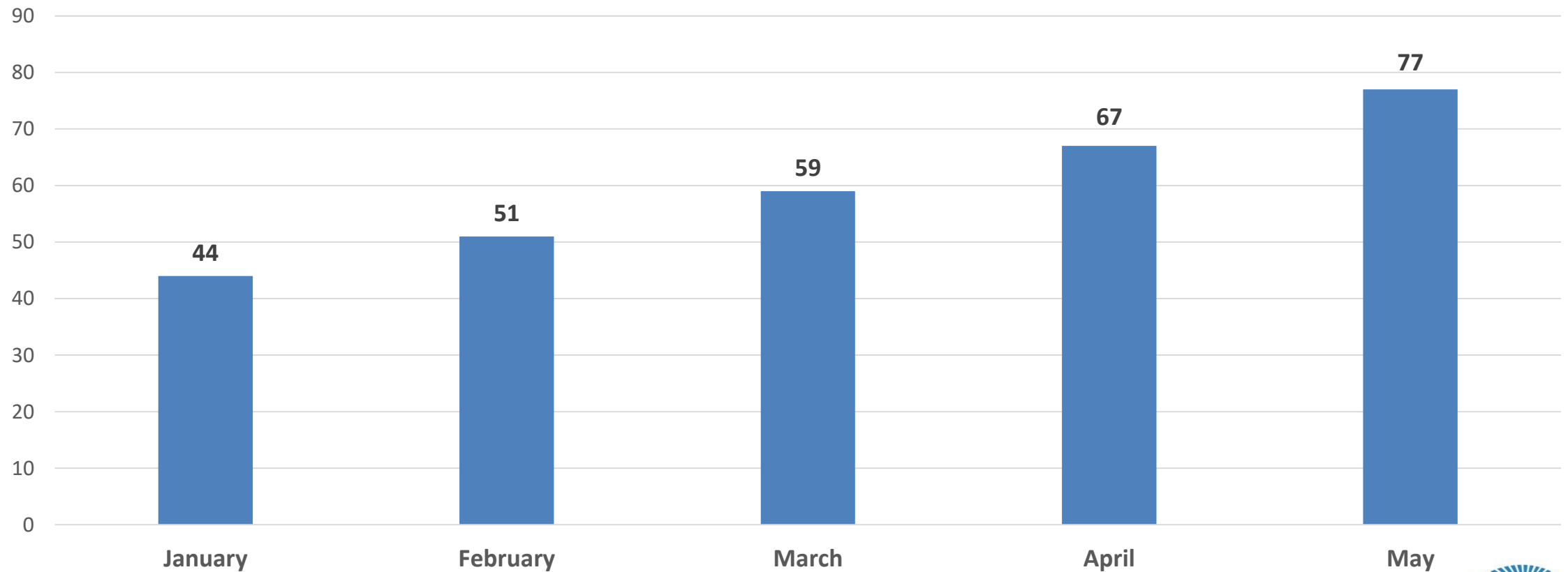


State Guardianship Level of Care

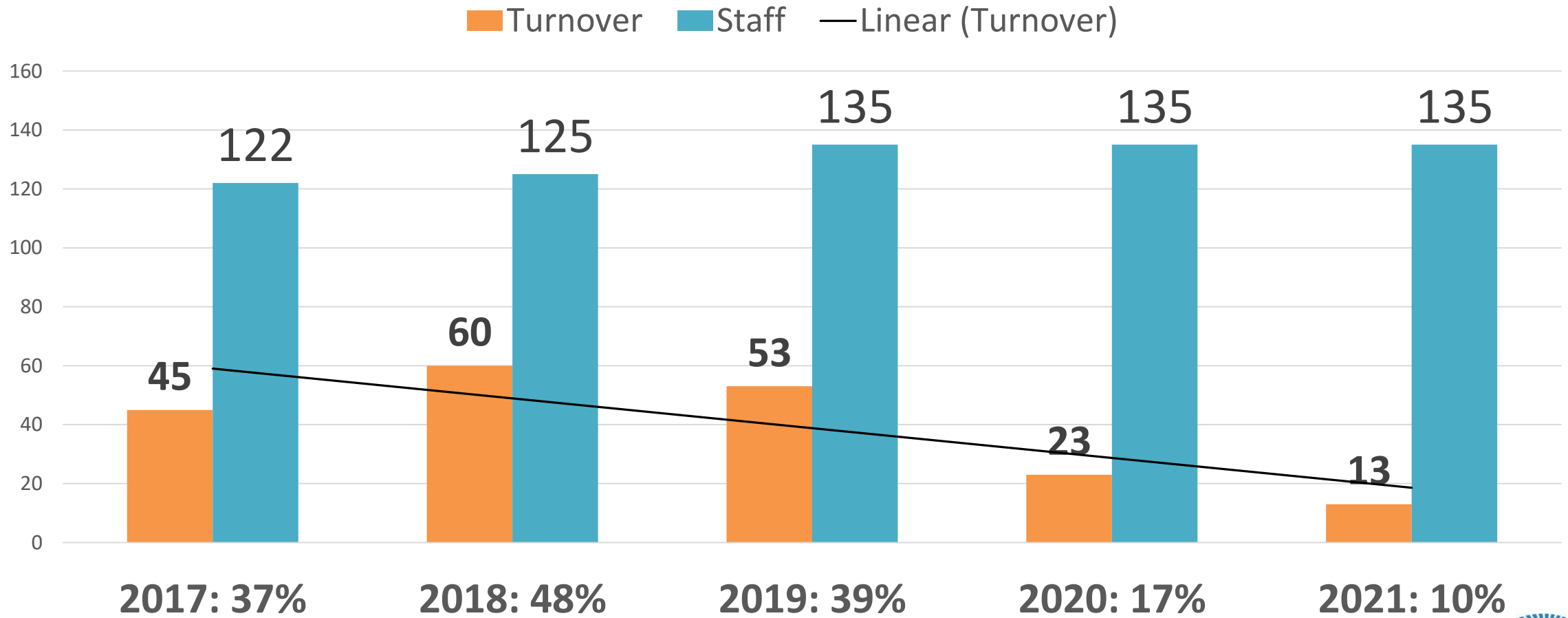


New appointments for 2021

of State Guardianship Appointments



Guardianship Staff Turnover



Current Situation: 135 Guardianship staff for 4,481 state guardianship individuals

103 Field Staff

- Maximize independence in least restrictive manner with:
 - Attendance at court hearings
 - Making medical decisions
 - Completing court reports
 - Managing personal properties
 - Making home visits
 - Attending care plan/team meetings
 - Completing inventories
 - Signing documents
 - End of life decisions

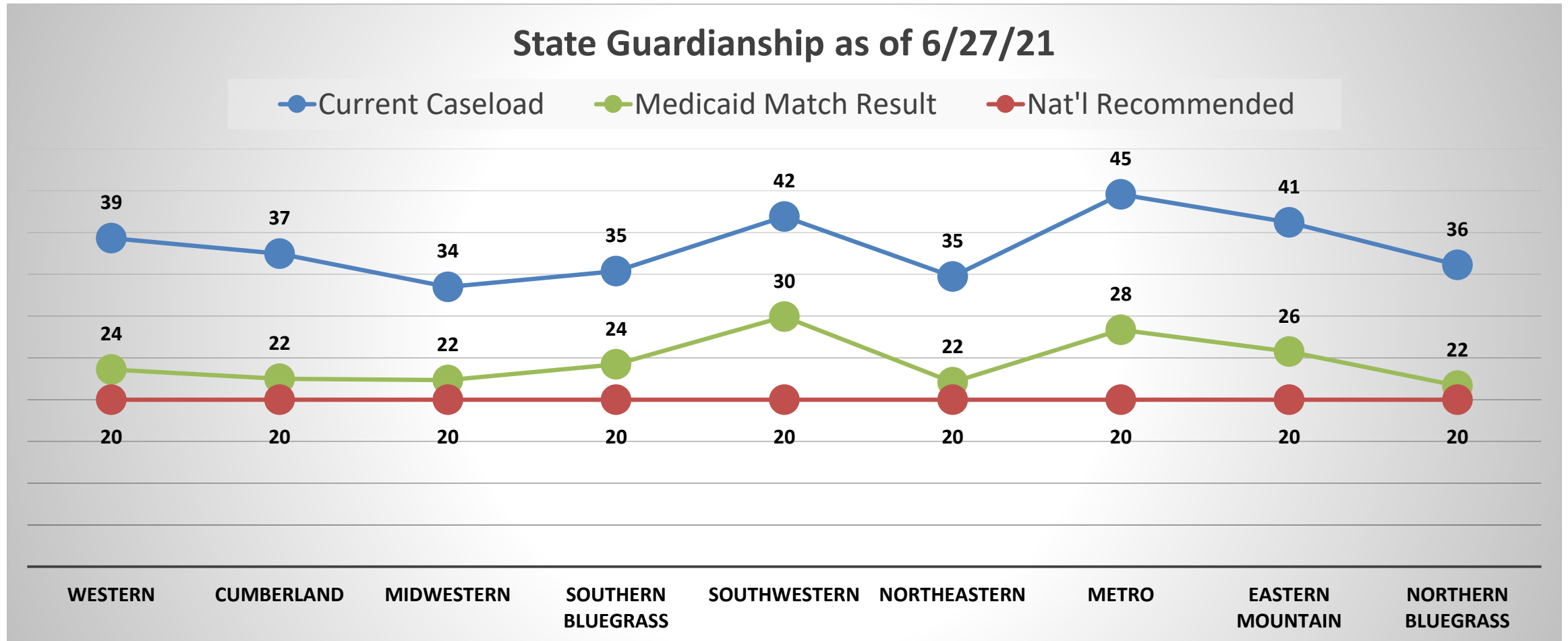
32 Benefits and Fiduciary Staff

- Manage applications and payments to ensure benefits and financial needs are met:
 - Pre-need burial policies
 - Medicaid & SNAP applications
 - Social Security applications
 - Facility payments
 - Medical and pharmacy payments
 - Personal needs payments
 - Recurring bill payments
 - Medicare Part D applications

Partnerships Make Progress

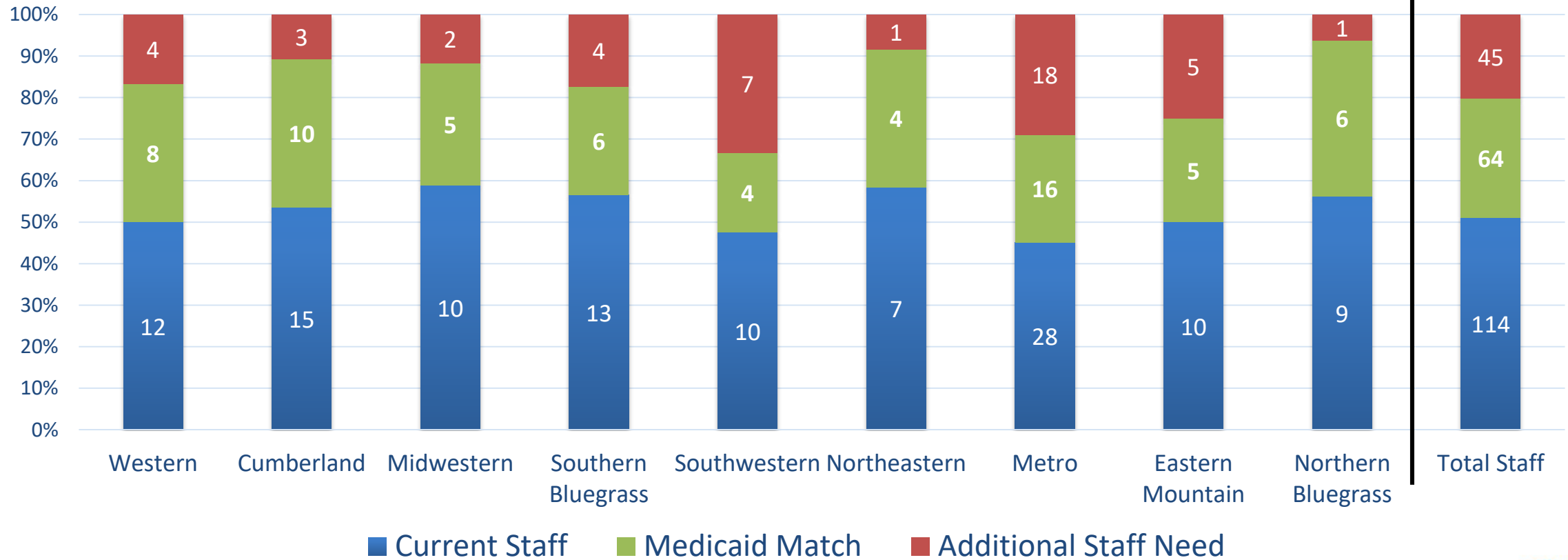
- December of 2020 DAIL signed contract with DMS for 50/50 Match
 - 96% of guardianship individuals receive Medicaid
 - DAIL can receive up to \$5.7 million in additional funds
 - Creates 64 new guardianship positions (\$5.5 Million)
 - Positions now starting to be posted
 - Remaining funds go towards staff training

Current Caseload, Medicaid Match Caseload, and National Recommended Caseloads



DAIL Guardianship Dream Team

Number of Staff Needed to Meet National Recommendations



Guardianship Modernization

- Focus Group
 - Staff representation from field, benefits, and fiduciary
 - Deputy Commissioner Lala Williams moderates and serves as liaison to leadership
- Multi-Division Monthly Conferencing
 - Connect field staff with benefits and fiduciary staff
- Staff Training
 - Develop and implement training series
- Strategic Plan
 - 18 month internal work group

Guardianship Staff Training

Pre-Service Training Modules

Person Centered Planning

Supported Decision Making

Implement Flexible Schedules

Revise Standard Operating Procedures

GFIS Training Modules

KEAP Quarterly Trainings

Guardianship Strategic Plan

Goal #1: Guardianship will support each client's full human potential utilizing a person centered approach to promote independence and self-reliance.



Goal #2: The department will invest in guardianship staff by implementing policies to support resiliency, retention, and inclusion.



Goal #3: Increased outreach and education to community stakeholders about state guardianship.



Goal #4: Streamline processes for the betterment of guardianship staff and individuals served under guardianship (courts, WINGS, private guardianship, KGA)



Goal #5: Continuously evaluate and reassess state guardianship processes to identify program inefficiencies and implement quality improvement.

Thank You

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