

# Public Guardian Presentation



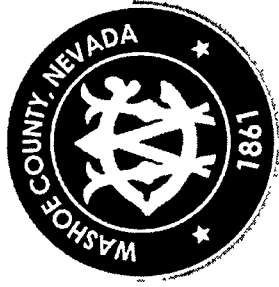
*Board of County Commissioners*  
2015





# Mission

To serve as Guardian, by court appointment for vulnerable individuals who are unable to manage their personal and financial affairs, by orchestrating provision of services, providing informed consent on their behalf, and protecting, preserving and managing their assets.

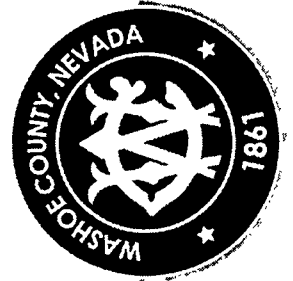
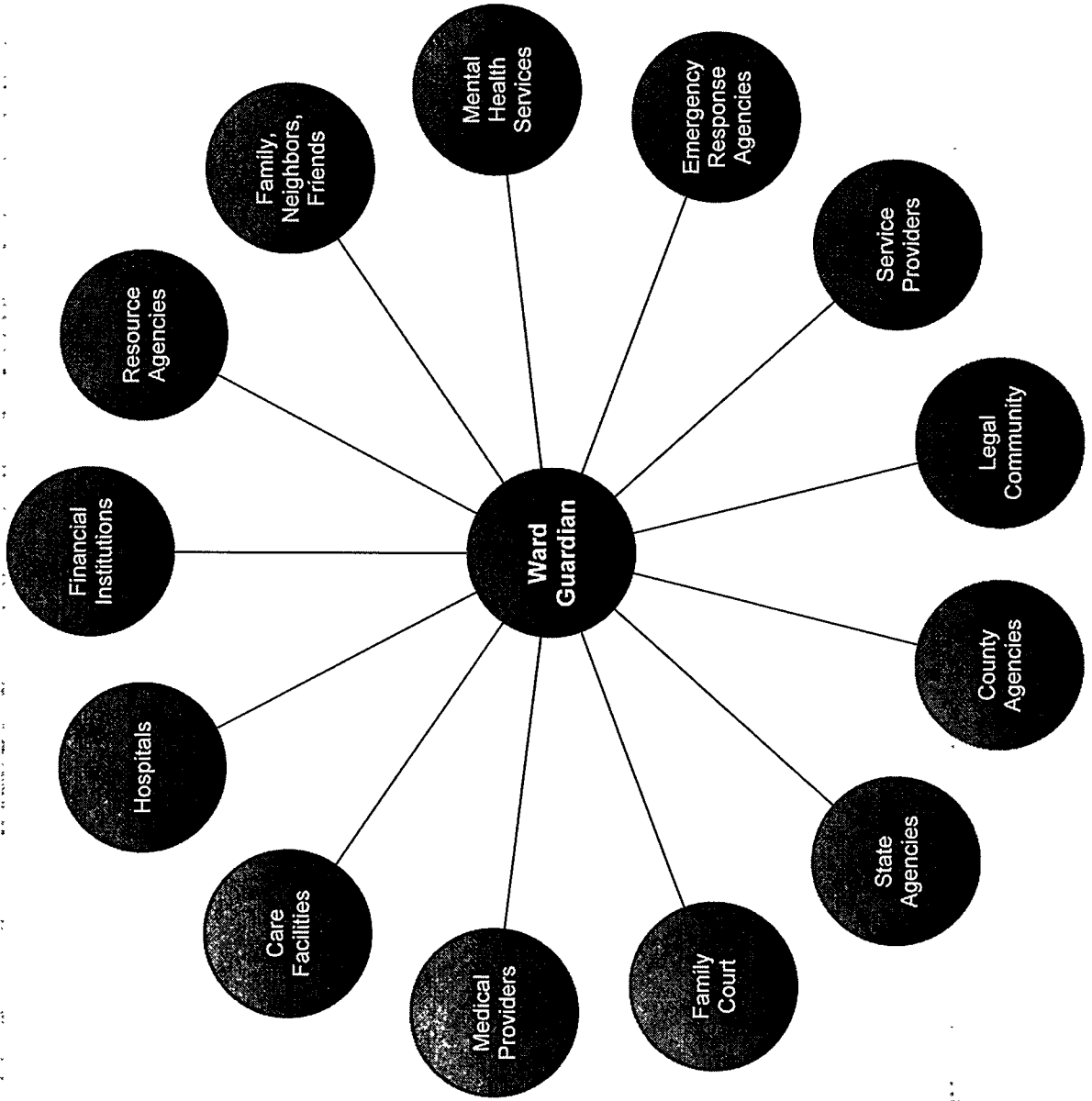


# Mandates

- Nevada Revised Statute
  - Public Guardian Office and Function is mandated and governed by NRS 253
  - Level of service and scope of duties of all guardians are governed by NRS 159



# Impact of Guardianship



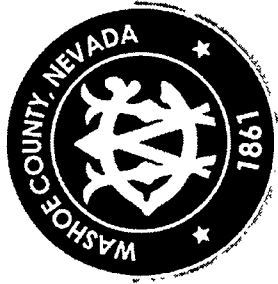
# Fundamental Duty

- “The responsibility of making decisions for another individual on a daily basis both characterizes and sets apart the role of the guardian from that of any other service provider.” NGA - THE GUARDIAN AS SURROGATE DECISION-MAKER



# **A guardian might be needed due to...**

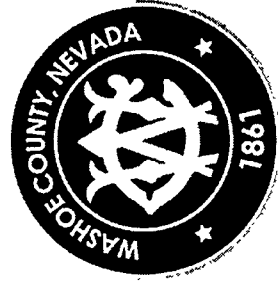
- Alzheimer's Disease, other
- Dementias such as (Vascular, Parkinson's, substance induced, etc.)
- Stroke
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Mental Illness



# Who We Serve

## NRS 253.200

1. A resident of Nevada is eligible to have the public guardian of the county in which he or she resides appointed as his or her temporary individual guardian pursuant to NRS 159.0523 or 159.0525.
2. A resident of Nevada is eligible to have the public guardian of a county appointed as his permanent or general individual guardian if the proposed ward is a resident of that county and:
  - (a) The proposed ward has no relative or friend suitable and willing to serve as his or her guardian; or
  - (b) The proposed ward has a guardian who the court determines must be removed pursuant to NRS 159.185.



# Legislative Change

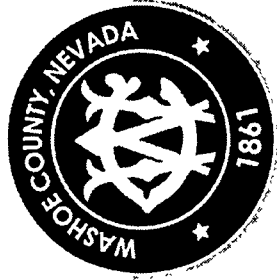
- **Residence requirement of proposed guardian**  
SB 262 – Amended NRS 159 to read in part: “the court shall give preference to a nominated person or relative, in that order of preference: (a) Whether or not the nominated person or relative is a resident of this State...”





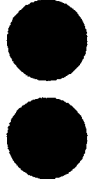
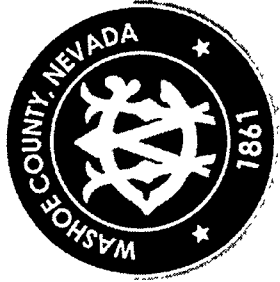
# Legislative Change

- **Licensing for Private Guardians**  
AB 325 – Requirement of licensing for persons engaged in the business of a private professional guardian through the Division of Financial Institutions of the Department of Business and Industry Commissioner of Financial Institutions

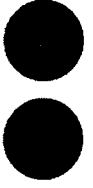
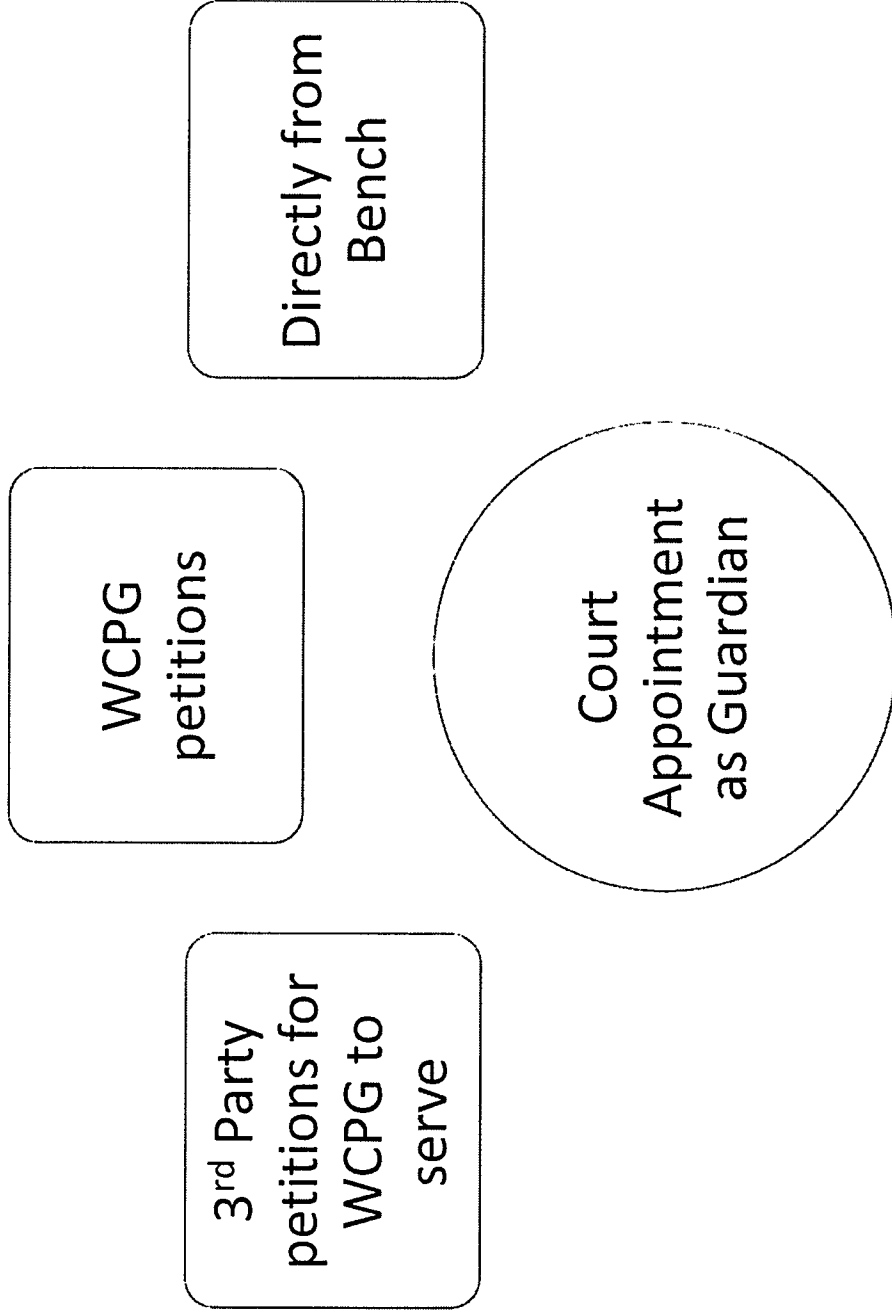


# Guardianship Review

- **Supreme Court Guardianship Commission**  
<http://nvcourts.gov/AOC/Committees and Commissions/Guardianship/Overview/>
- **Guardianship Task Force**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Court lead by Judge Doherty



# How we receive cases



# Case Numbers

**Referrals investigated in 2013 = 114**

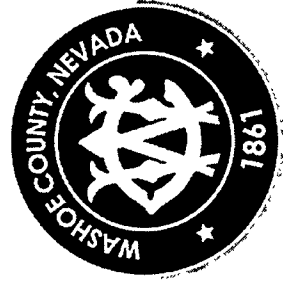
**2014 = 92**

**Appointments of new cases in 2013 = 48**

**2014 = 41**

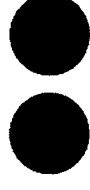
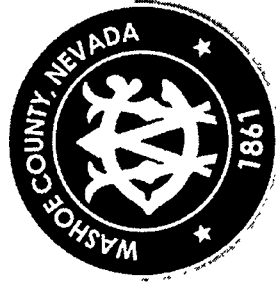
**Average monthly total number of cases in 2013 = 288**

**(active cases, referral cases, and termination cases) 2014 = 283**



# Accomplishments

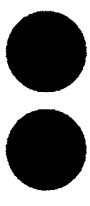
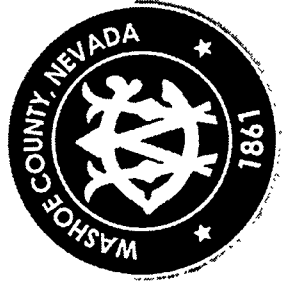
- Facilitated, monitored, advocated, and provided informed consent for the medical care, medications, treatment plans, living placements, and social activities for approximately 200 wards on a monthly basis
- Medicare-D December deadline met for all wards. Approximately 200 wards' Medicare prescription plans reviewed and registered
- Management of wards' assets on monthly basis, facilitating the protection of those assets; the pursuit and receipt of income, additional resources, and benefits; and the payment to community vendors, service providers, medical providers, property insurance & taxes, federal income taxes, Medicaid reimbursement, funeral expenses, and various other creditors
- Tax review and filings for approximately 200 wards
- Completed the Estate closure of approximately 35 deceased wards





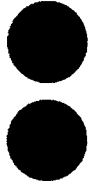
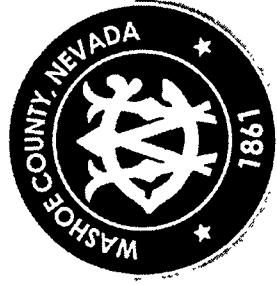
# Accomplishments

- Provided quarterly Family Guardianship Program trainings
- All wards adopted and received Christmas Gifts through donation efforts of Home Instead, Sertoma Club, The Bridge Baptist Church
- Participation in Second Judicial District Court Guardianship Task Force
- Served on Center for Guardianship Certification (CGC) committee formulating testing for guardians and evaluation of Master Guardian candidates nationally
- Continued partnership with UNR Social Work Internship Program
- Continued participation on Senior Issues Review Team (SIRT) – members local and state agencies
- Hosted multiple in-house trainings for employees



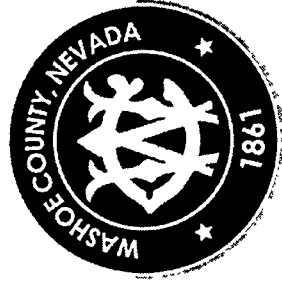
# Emerging Issues

- Succession Planning
- Case management software replacement/update
- Case complexity
- Increasing appointments in existing guardianship cases as a result of private guardian retirements and/or inability or discontinuation of service by private and/or professional guardians
- Aging population – Increasing need guardianship and other resources
- Placements – Out of state/area placements
  - Persons with dual diagnosis of mental health and a dementia needing placement as they are aging
  - Persons with dementia diagnosis with related behaviors



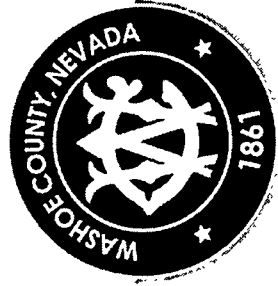
# Music & Memory

- *Alive Inside – A Story of Music & Memory*
- Research showed evidence that giving people access to their favorite music had a calming effect on behavior and a stimulating effect on cognition.
- Less aggression & less behavior-controlling medication = improved behavior.
- Improved behavior equates to a possible reduction in Out-of-state placements.
- May not benefit all individuals with dementia or prevent all Out-of-state placements.



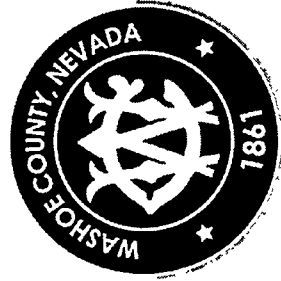
# Music & Memory

- Pilot Program – demonstrate the effectiveness of using music to reduce dementia-related behaviors & then engage local facilities in the program
  - Identified 2 long-term care facilities
  - Identified 20 wards within those facilities
  - Identified necessary equipment & determined the cost
  - Coordinated the purchase from the ward’s assets
  - Downloaded the songs on to the individual iPods



# Music & Memory

- This task was accomplished through the dedication, perseverance and caring nature of all involved.
- Great Thanks to:
  - Washoe County Technology Services
  - Best Buy
  - Manor Care of Reno
  - Mountain View Care Center and Rehabilitation in Carson City
  - The staff of the Public Guardian department





# Questions??

