

Kootenai County Board of Community Guardians P.O. Box 1499
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1619
(208) 625-5009

February 2, 2026

Commissioners Duncan, Eberlein and Mattare:

The following is the Board of Community Guardians 2025 recap of performance and financial statistics as required by Idaho Code 15-5-603 (a). On behalf of our Wards, we want to thank you for your continued support.

The Board of Community Guardians currently has 11 Board members and the County contracts with Kootenai Health to provide case management services. The Board currently has responsibility for 10 Wards. In 2025 we had 32 inquiries regarding the services we provide and 8 referrals, which resulted in the Board accepting 2 applications. More applications than normal were declined for various reasons, including: requests from people who were not Kootenai County residents; individuals who were living independently at home; or those who had available family members who were able to assist. Sadly, four of our Wards passed away last year.

The number of inquiries is a relevant statistic since they can often be labor intensive. Multiple inquiries can require ongoing discussions, including a review of the details of the case and identification of barriers for guardianship. We need to determine if the individual resides in the County, has adequate documentation to support a permanent incapacity diagnosis, that we are the last resort and we can represent to the court that we can meet the individual's needs.

When the inquiry does not meet those standards, our Case Manager will provide resource information and educate family members and facilities about other options they may wish to consider. This is an important role for the community and supports our mandate that the Board of Community Guardians serves only as the last resort option.

The complexity of processing, evaluating requests and placing Wards in facilities continues to be challenging. The number of facilities accepting Medicaid is an ongoing problem. Facilities' ability to accommodate the special needs of some of the Wards can affect local placement options. We have needed to place 3 of our Wards outside of Kootenai County for that reason. When possible, we transfer guardianship to those counties. Our Case Manager works very closely with the care facilities and has built relationships that facilitate the placement effort.

The contract between Kootenai County and Kootenai Health for case management services was effective August 25, 2023. The contract had a three-year term and is eligible for renewal this year. The agreement allows the Board to provide excellent care for our Wards and the relationship with Kootenai Health is a valuable one that is mutually beneficial. We believe

extending this agreement is a priority and we will provide updates as we begin our discussions with Kootenai Health.

We are requesting that our FY2027 budget be set at \$30,000, which is the same as it was last year. Our expenses are primarily legal and case management fees. When possible, the Wards will reimburse the Board for those expenses. Unfortunately, a greater number of Wards are unable to reimburse us at the same rate as they have in the past.

Based on the information provided and per Idaho Code 15-5-603 (b), we ask that you approve the continuation of the Board of Community Guardians program for Kootenai County.

Thank you again for your commitment to the most vulnerable citizens in our county.

Sincerely,

Dave Levine, Chair

Board Members:

Beth Garside, Vice Chair

Peggy Fairfield, Secretary

Nancy Edwards, Treasurer

David Atkins

Terri Radford

Trudy Elliott

Chris Wolfe

Gwen Schell

Jenifer Christensen

Brian Loeppky

Emily Jakubek, Case Manager

Kootenai County Board of Community Guardians
Income Statement
Fiscal Year 2025

Beginning Balance		\$ 13,680.96
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Revenue:

Kootenai County Budget	\$25,000.00
Ward Reimbursement-Case Management	\$13,392.16
Ward Reimbursement-Other Expenses	\$2,284.36
Ward Reimbursement-Debit Card	\$3,292.00
Other	\$596.10

Total Revenue		\$ 44,564.62
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Expenses:

Pass Word	\$726.53
Case Management	\$26,957.00
Legal	\$12,562.80
Guardian Services-Visitor Report	\$2,700.00
Debit Card	\$3,340.74
Other	\$960.10

Total Expenses		\$ 47,247.17
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FY25 Ending Balance		\$ 10,998.41
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