Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Charge #8: Implementation of Senate Bill 6

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Transfer of Guardianship

• Reforms in the Adult Protective Services program transferred authority for the Guardianship Program from the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).
  - Operation of the Guardianship Program was transferred to DADS through a Memorandum of Understanding effective December 1, 2004.
  - Rules relating to DADS Guardianship Program were adopted on September 1, 2006.

• An Interagency Steering Committee made up of representatives from DFPS and DADS meets monthly to ensure continued cooperation and communication.
DADS Guardianship Staff

- DADS provides guardianship services through regional guardianship staff and has taken steps to ensure the highest standards in service delivery.
- Regional quality assurance visits have been completed to review existing staff evaluation standards and provide for improvements in future staff assessments.
- Twenty-eight DADS guardianship staff successfully completed training related to professional guardianship standards and became Registered Guardians through the National Guardianship Foundation.
  - In addition, all DADS guardians will complete testing for state certification as required by the Guardianship Certification Board by September 1, 2007.
DADS Guardianship Staff (Continued)

- Existing processes and data management tools have been reviewed to provide for effective service delivery.
- DADS is implementing a new internal data management system to provide regional and state office staff with information, including data relating to guardianship referrals, assessments, and placement.
- In order to provide guardianship staff with the most accurate tool available for determining the need for guardianship, a workgroup to study assessment processes and procedures has been appointed.
  - DADS is working to have a new guardianship assessment tool in place by June 1, 2008.
Contracted Guardianship Programs

• In addition to guardianship services provided by regional staff, DADS contracts with guardianship programs for the provision of services.

• DADS worked with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive quality assurance program that will improve future contract monitoring.
  ➢ Training sessions with guardianship contractors relating to new rules and monitoring were conducted on November 7-8, 2006.

• A new contract payment system to reimburse local guardianship contractors has been put in place and has been successfully operating since September 1, 2006.
Addressing Increased Referrals

• The number of intakes to Adult Protective Services has steadily increased and is projected to continue increasing for the next few years. An effect of this, and as a result of the S.B. 6 reform, is an increase in the number of referrals to DADS guardianship.
  ➢ The number of active guardianships increased 24% without a corresponding increase in funding for additional state staff or contract guardians.

• DADS has requested additional funding through exceptional items in its FY 2008-09 Legislative Appropriations Request to provide for additional regional guardianship staff and contracts with guardianship programs.