

The Columbus Dispatch

Vulnerable now getting better help

Posted Jul 26, 2016 at 12:01 AM

Updated Jul 26, 2016 at 9:00 AM

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Franklin County Probate Judge Robert G. Montgomery has done a commendable job of putting an end to this abuse by creating the Guardianship Service Board. It uses social workers, not attorneys, to serve as guardians for some of the most difficult cases.

"I inherited a system in which two lawyers were serving as guardians for close to 1,000 people," Montgomery said.

The new board hired its executive director just 13 months ago and now has 137 wards whose needs are met by a team of five licensed social workers. The need is great, so plan is to expand the program.

This is the first program of its kind in Ohio. Montgomery, who took office in 2011, helped to change state law and worked with social-service agencies to create the board. Instead of being preyed upon, some of the county's most vulnerable residents finally have hope.