
Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program 2013 Annual Report

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted

**To: The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
The Honorable Jeffrey Kessler, President of the Senate
The Honorable Tim Miley, Speaker of the House
Joseph Minard, Clerk, West Virginia Senate
Greg Gray, Clerk, West Virginia House of Delegates**

**By: The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Board,
The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, &
The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services**

Message from the RYPAS Board

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Service (RYPAS) Board is pleased to submit its 2013 Annual Report to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and to the State Legislature

The RYPAS program provides financial assistance to people with severe disabilities so they may hire personal assistants to help them with everyday tasks that they cannot perform on their own. With this assistance individuals are able to live in their own homes and communities. The services that are provided by the RYPAS program go to individuals who do not qualify for assistance through Medicaid. Recipients of the RYPAS program have said they would not be able to remain in their own homes without the financial support the program provides to them. They would be forced into a nursing home or another institutionalized setting.

RYPAS provided funds to 25 individuals during 2013. The average age of recipients was 60 and they covered 16 counties. We have continually added people from the waiting list to the recipients list as funds are made available. The current RYPAS recipients require \$451,291.62 annually to continue to function in their own homes and communities. The needs of those on the waiting list are estimated to be \$564,253.00, an amount which is verified by a functional assessment prior to being added to the program. "Please fund the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services program at \$1,015,544.62 in order to continue services to the 24 current recipients and to address the waiting list of 32 people."

There have been studies that show it is more cost effective to provide services that allow people to live at home rather than institutionalizing them. Studies have also shown that people living in their own homes are happier and healthier. They also remain part of their community and continue to contribute to the economy by providing jobs for personal assistants, they shop at local stores, and they commute using private and public transportation.

West Virginia has the highest percentage of citizens with disabilities in the nation, totaling approximately one fourth of our population. It also has the fastest growing elderly population in the nation. RYPAS is a good way for West Virginia to help serve the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly.

We are asking that you continue to support this much needed and valuable program for the citizens of West Virginia.

Respectively Submitted,



Paul W. Smith
Chairperson 2013

Financial Overview – FY-2013

The appropriation for the RYPAS Program during FY-13 was \$372,000. Through contracts with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services and the RYPAS Board, the Statewide Independent Living Council administered the funds for the operations of the Board, serving as the fiscal agent processing reimbursements to RYPAS recipients, and provided staff support to the Board and the Program.

Funding:

FY 2013 Budget Appropriation	\$388,698
DRS Supplement	\$11,302
Fiscal Year 2012 Carryover	\$107,658
Funding available for FY 2013	\$107,658

Expenditures:

FY-13 Funds Available	\$507,658
Recipient Reimbursements	\$432,757
Administrative Costs	\$19,709

Income:

FY 2013 Interest Earned	\$0
FY 2013 Donations	\$0

Balance 6-30-13:

Carried over for recipient services in FY 2014	\$54,176
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Program Recipients FY 2013:

Twenty-five (25) individuals from sixteen (16) counties received reimbursements for their personal assistance services through the RYPAS program during fiscal year 2013.

Total number of recipients	25
Average age	60
Average hours per month (per recipient)	192
Average cost per month (per recipient)	\$1,392

*The average nursing home cost, in West Virginia, is \$7,080 per month, according to www.SeniorHomes.com

Counties of residence: Barbour (1), Cabell (2), Harrison (2), Kanawha (6), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Mineral (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), Summers (1), Wayne (1), Wetzel (1), and Wood (3)

Waiting list:

Total number on waiting list	32
Average age	60
Average hours needed per month (per recipient)	200
Average funding needed per month (per recipient)	\$1,469

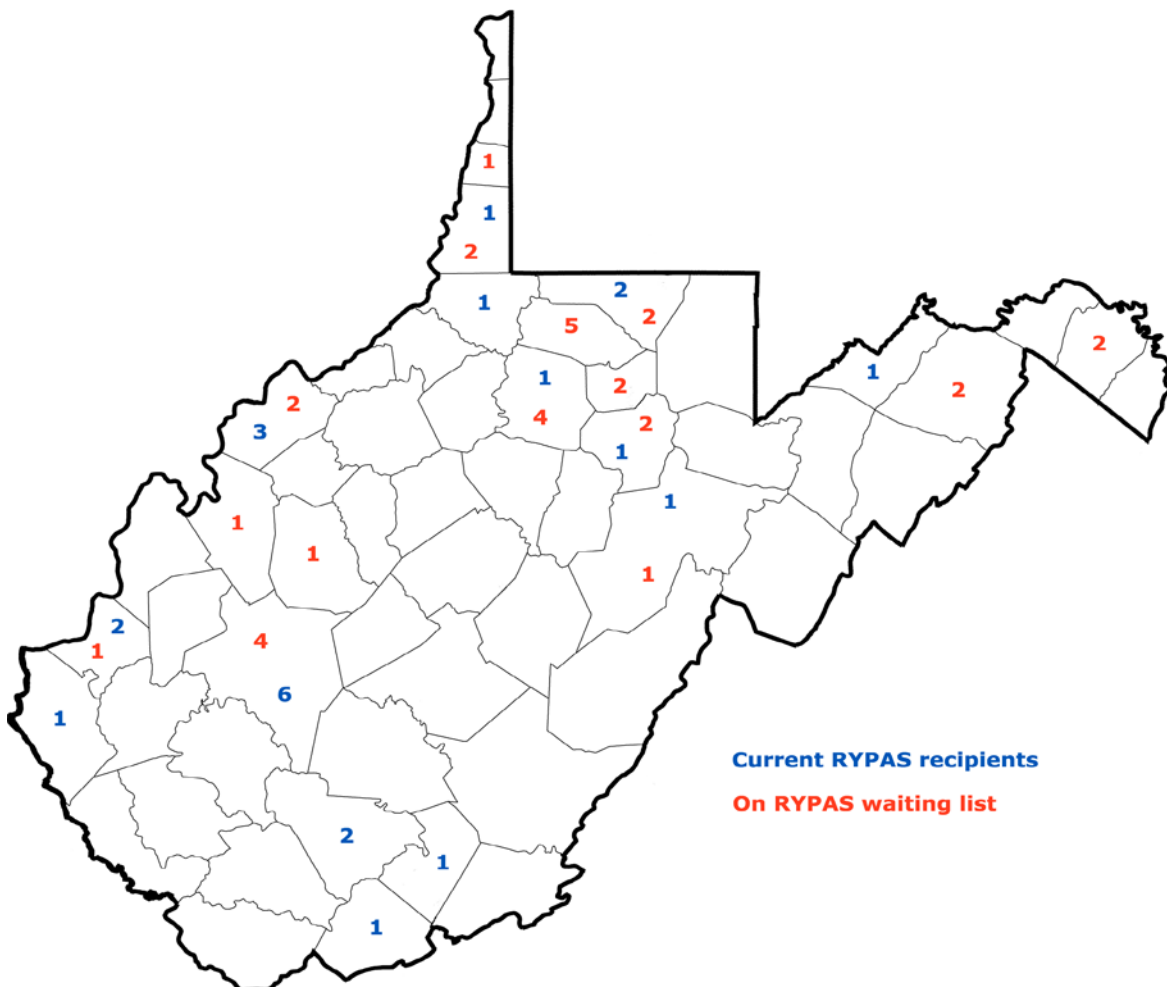
Financial Overview – FY-2013 (cont.)

Waiting list (cont.):

Counties of residence: Barbour (2), Berkeley (2), Cabell (1), Hampshire (2), Harrison (4), Jackson (1), Kanawha (4), Marion (5), Marshall (2), Monongalia (2), Ohio (1), Randolph (1), Roane (1), Taylor (2), and Wood (2)

The waiting list is subdivided to delineate those who have provided documentation of applying for personal assistant services through Medicaid. Those who provide such documentation are afforded the opportunity to advance on the list regardless of service application date. Such documentation is required from each recipient in order to comply with legislative intent that this program increases the availability of personal assistance services by serving individuals not eligible for such services from Medicaid. Once an individual begins receiving such services (or turns down such services) from Medicaid, they are no longer eligible for RYPAS and are removed from the RYPAS program/waiting list.

Recipients and Waiting List Applicants by County



Program Activity – FY-2013

Total New Recipients-**0** (due to inadequate resources)

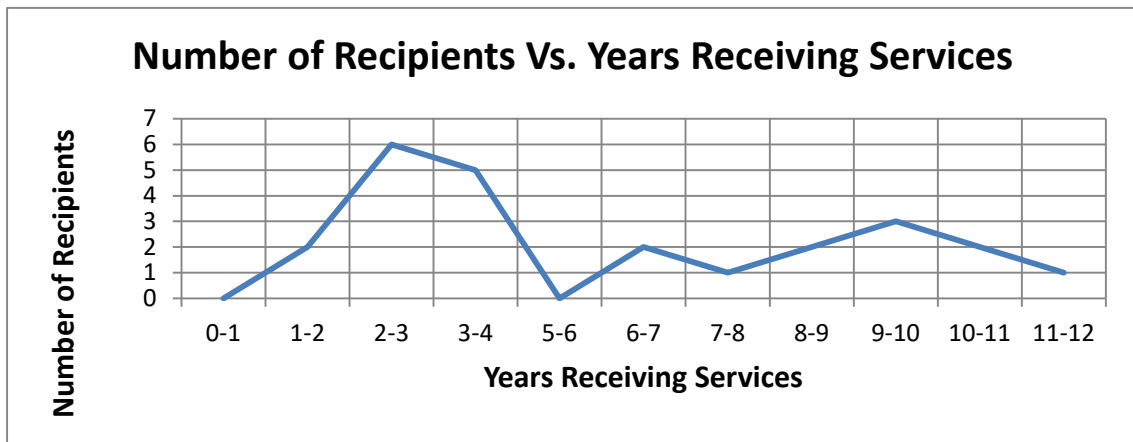
Total Applicants Approved and Added to Waiting List – **32**

Total Applicants/Recipients Who Left RYPAS – **3** (**1 passed away, 1 was not using any allotted hours, and 1 in process of terminating RYPAS Services**)

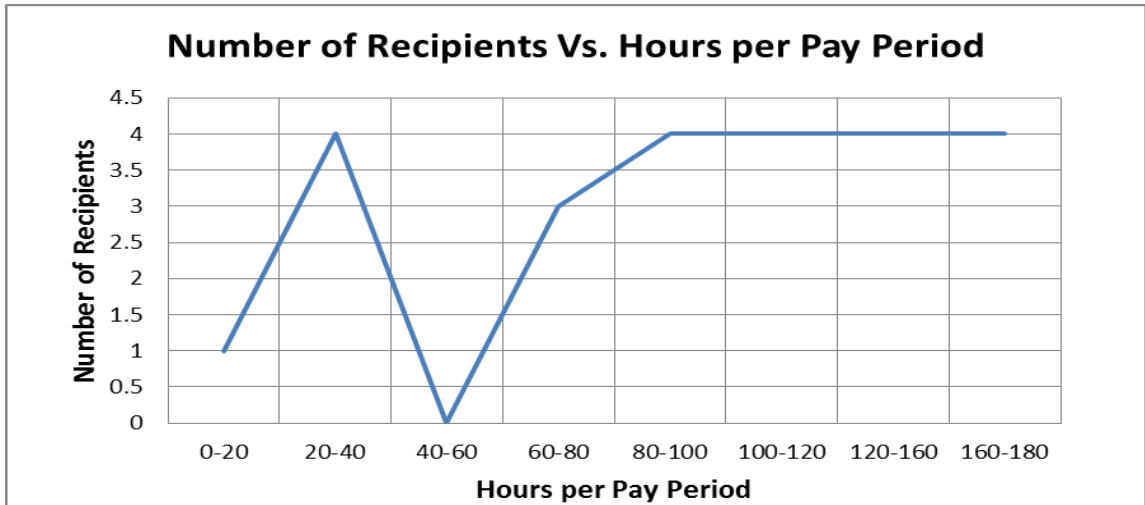
Satisfaction Survey – FY-2013

25 Surveys were sent to current and past RYPAS recipients – 19 returned (78%)

- Age of respondents: 21-30 years – 0 31-40 years – 1
 41-50 years – 1 51-60 years – 5
 61-70 years – 9 71-80 years – 3
 81 years + – 0
- Gender: Male – 7 Female – 10
 No Response – 2
- Length of time receiving services: from 1 year to 13 years



- Range of hours reimbursed per pay period: from 10 to 171 hours (*cont.*)



Counties of residence: Barbour (1), Cabell (2), Harrison (2), Kanawha (6), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Mineral (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), Summers (1), Wayne (1), Wetzel (1), and Wood (3)

Responses regarding Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services:

The hours I receive are adequate for my needs

Yes – 13

No – 5

No Response – 1

Comments:

- My disability has worsened and I need more help, additional hours with everyday activities.
- Ronnie's Alzheimer's is progressing quickly and requires closer, one on one help & supervision.
- Joshua has a lot of doctor and therapy appointments, and needs additional hours.
- She needs care 7 days per week and there are not enough hours for that.

My experience with the RYPAS program has been:

Very good – 15

Good – 3

Adequate – 0

Poor – 0

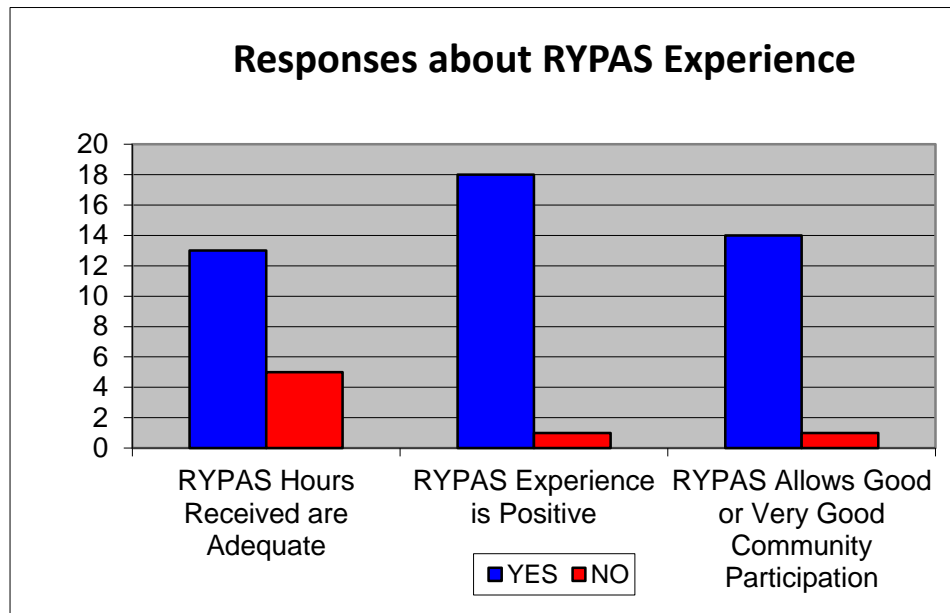
Very Poor – 0

No Response – 1

I like being able to direct my personal assistance program:

Yes – 19

No – 0



The employer responsibilities I have in directing my own personal assistance program:

- Are not a problem for me – 14
- Cause me some concern – 5
- Present a real problem for me – 0

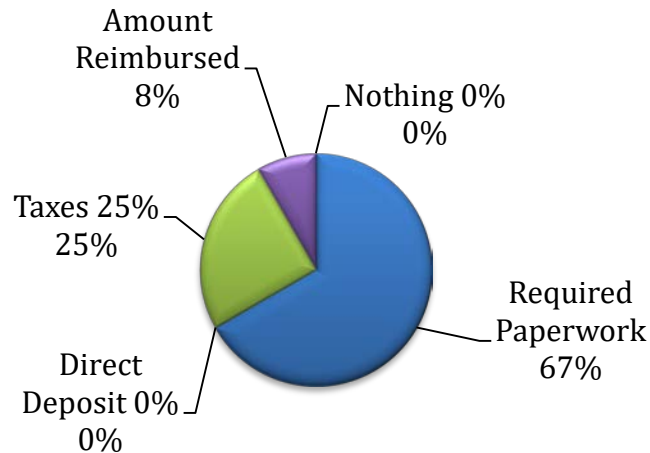
Because of the RYPAS program, my ability to actively participate in the community is:

- Very good – 8
- Good – 6
- Adequate – 3
- Poor – 0
- No Response – 2
- Comments:

What I like least about the RYPAS program is:

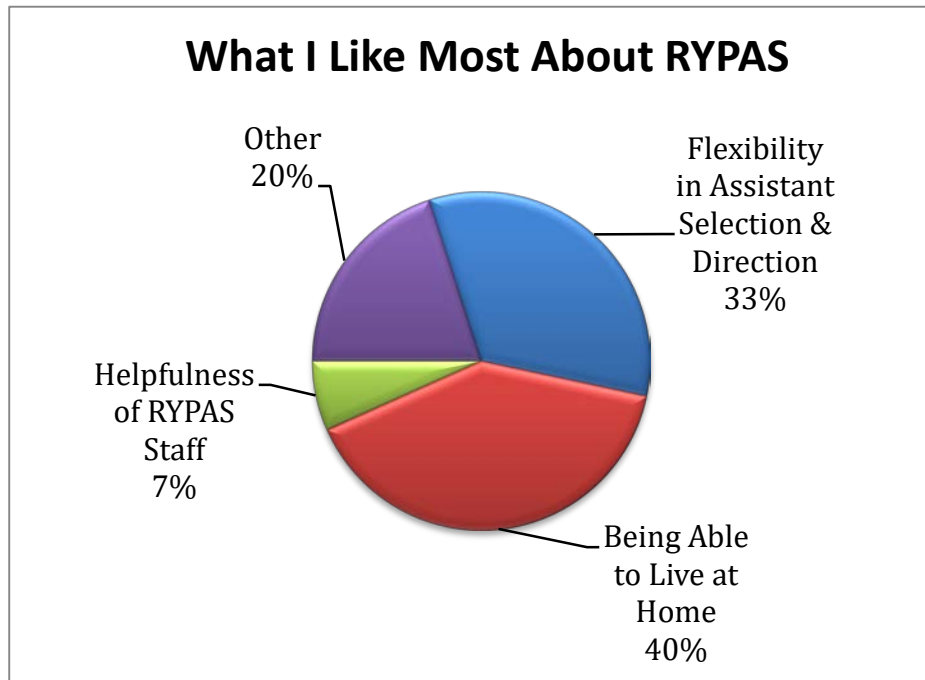
- Paperwork – 8 (Eight recipients stated that all the required paperwork is something they like least about the RYPAS Program.
- I do not like doing the Workforce, Brickstreet, & Taxes out of my own money.
- Reviews for more help in hours needs to happen on a bi-annual basis.
- Unable to pay Personal Assistant more money. / Low pay
- Getting RYPAS paperwork in on time.
- Nothing.
- I need more hours.
- Taxes
- Not being able to get assistance from someone to do taxes. I am blind.

What I Like Least About RYPAS



What I like most about the RYPAS program:

- I can hire and choose my own personal assistants. Direct deposits.
- I enjoy staying in my home. Thanks.
- That it exists. Genuine help is almost non-existent. The financial support allows my dear wife a measure of relief from caring for me & allows me to remain in my home instead of having to go to a nursing home.
- Can send forms by email.
- Gives me the control.
- The program allows me to stay in my home. Independence
- The employees
- Being able to pay my spouse for taking care of me.
- Being able to direct and control my own care & what time my assistants come in. Not having to leave my home to be cared for.
- Being able to stay at home.
- The absence of bureaucratic bru-ha-ha
- The income has made it all bearable for me.
- It came to my family's rescue and allowed me to participate in more activities.



What could be done to improve personal assistance programs you have had experience with?

- Increasing the pay to personal assistants.
- More assistance to dealing with problems of administering program.
- Get a copy of when all paperwork is due.
- More hours. – (3 responses)
- Less Paperwork
- Have taxes taken out before receiving check.

My greatest concern for the future regarding my personal assistance services and supports is:

- Getting all the paperwork done.
- That RYPAS won't exist, or that someone else other than me & my wife will make decisions about me, for me, without me.
- The WV government decreasing the funding and budget changes.
- Programs ability to meet individual needs & circumstances.
- No support, at all!
- I would be forced to go to a nursing home if I didn't have this program.
- That I will have to lose or give up my home.
- RYPAS will be discontinued / the programs continuation / ineligibility
- What we will do when this is not enough. .
- The program will be cut, and then I will be stuck at home all the time.

What would happen to your living situation if you lost RYPAS?

- Nursing home – 7 (Seven different recipients answered they would be forced to go into a nursing home if they were to lose their RYPAS.)
- Retirement Home
- Would need other program for household assistance.
- I would have no way to pay for caregivers.
- It would not be good.
- Most of my support would be gone. I would spend 95% of my day in one room, alone.
- It would be necessary for me to rely on the unreliable!
- A lot of my abilities would stop and I might have to leave my home.
- I would become depressed because I wouldn't be able to do much.

Are you willing to contact your state legislators by phone, mail, or e-mail to share your views on the RYPAS program and/or other personal assistance services?

Yes – 15

No – 3

No Response – 1

Responses regarding Medicaid personal assistance services:

I was a RYPAS recipient but now I am receiving Medicaid Services through the:

Aged and Disabled Waiver – 1

MR/DD Waiver – 0

Personal Care Option – 0

Other Medicaid Services – 1

The hours I receive from Medicaid are adequate for my needs:

Yes – 1

No – 1

Comments: There are still times the hours prohibit me from doing other activities.

I am satisfied with my personal attendant services through Medicaid:

Yes – 1

No – 1

Comments: Yes & No, because they use to provide taxi service to doctor appointments and now they don't.

I think the Medicaid Waiver and other personal assistance programs should be consumer directed:

Agree – 2

No Opinion – 0

Disagree – 0

No response – 0

RYPAS Program & Board

Governor Cecil H. Underwood signed the **Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Act** into law on April 1, 1999 to establish a consumer directed, personal assistance services program to meet the needs of individuals with severe disabilities who are not eligible for other programs

The Role of the **Division of Rehabilitation Services** in the RYPAS program is to administer the program, either directly or through a contract, in accordance with the state plan for independent living; and provide training, information, and referral services relating to state and federal payroll taxes, deductions and withholding, and wage withholding for child support and workers' compensation, to recipients as necessary.

The role of the **West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)** in the RYPAS program is to appoint members to the consumer controlled, RYPAS board; to hear any appeals of the decisions of the board; and for the executive director to serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board.

The role of the RYPAS Board is to:

- Determine eligibility and approve hours of service for all applicants based on functional assessments conducted using the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Program Functional Assessment Tool. Each determination shall be in writing, a copy of which shall be provided to the applicant;
- Monitor disbursements and utilization of the program;
Survey consumer satisfaction and recommend program revisions to the Division of Rehabilitation Services;
- Develop and maintain a waiting list for those eligible individuals who cannot be served immediately;
Contract with public or private entities to assist in fulfilling the functions of the board and approve contracts proposed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services with a public or private entity for the fiscal management of the program; and
- Establish operating procedures.

No member of the board is eligible to receive personal assistance services through the program provided for in this article.

Recipient's Responsibilities include:

- Apply for services through Medicaid and provide a copy of that determination to the board;
- Comply with the employer responsibilities of hiring, supervising and, if needed, terminating the employment of a personal assistant;
- Manage his or her own financial and legal affairs regarding the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services; and
- If necessary designate an individual to assist in fulfilling these responsibilities.

2013 RYPAS Board Members

- **Paul Smith**, Chairperson, Elkview, WV
- **Cindy Spinks**, Vice Chairperson, Summersville, WV
- **Darla Ervin**, Secretary, Morgantown, WV
- **Ron Brown**, Charleston, WV
- **Karen Davis**, Charleston, WV
- **Merilyn Sleet**, Huntington, WV
- **Vicki Shaffer**, Morgantown, WV
- **Cari Stone**, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Rehabilitation Program Specialist, WV Division of Rehabilitation Services
- **Ann McDaniel**, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Executive Director, WV Statewide Independent Living Council

Who Is Ron Yost?



Ron Yost was an advocate for disability rights in West Virginia for fifteen years.

This program was named in his memory by the legislators who sponsored the bill that created it. Ron was an individual with a severe disability himself, a spinal cord injury resulting in quadriplegia. He understood the need for such services and how much difference having an attendant or personal assistant can make in the independence and quality of life of a person with a disability.

He was involved in establishing the Employment Attendant Care Program, operated by the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, and advocacy for the PAS program that would later be named for him. He had a great impact on his community (Huntington) and on the disability community across West Virginia.

Thank you, Ron, for your advocacy efforts and service to the disability community in West Virginia.

RYPAS
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