



2014 Annual Report

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted

*To: The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler, President of the Senate
The Honorable Tim Miley, Speaker of the House
Joseph Minard, Clerk, West Virginia Senate
Gregory M. 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 Services Board (RYPAS) is pleased to present this report to the Governor and the West Virginia Legislature.

The RYPAS program provided the funds to support 22 individuals from 13 counties in FY 2014. The program made it possible for these individuals to receive the support needed to remain in their own homes. These recipients have been on the RYPAS program from as little 2 years to as many as 17 years. At the present time, there are 32 individuals between the ages of 19 and 98 awaiting RYPAS services.

Recipients have said that they like being able to choose their own personal assistants and that they would not be able to remain in their homes without the program. Community-based personal assistance services such as RYPAS not only help people maintain higher levels of independence and productivity but are also proven to save cost.

Always cognizant of our responsibilities for programmatic and fiscal accountability, the board has endeavored to meet the legislative intent of this program.

The continued support of the Legislature and the Governor for this program is greatly appreciated.

Ron Brown



Chairperson 2014

Financial Overview – FY-2014

The appropriation for the RYPAS Program during FY-14 was \$388,698. 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 2014 Budget Appropriation	\$388,698
Fiscal Year 2013 Carryover	\$54,051
Funding available for FY 2014	\$442,749

Expenditures:

FY-14 Funds Available	\$442,749
Recipient Reimbursements	\$375,959
Administrative Costs	\$23,314

Income:

FY 2014 Interest Earned	\$0
FY 2014 Donations	\$0

Balance 6-30-14:

Carried over for recipient services in FY 2015	\$43,476
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Program Recipients FY 2014:

Twenty-two (22) individuals from Thirteen (13) counties are receiving reimbursements for their personal assistance services through the RYPAS program as of fiscal year end 2014.

Total number of recipients	22
Average age	52
Average hours per month (per recipient)	217
Average cost per month (per recipient)	\$1,573

*The average nursing home cost, in West Virginia, is \$7,2395 per month, according to www.SeniorHomes.com

Counties of residence: Barbour (1), Cabell (2), Harrison (2), Kanawha (4), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Mineral (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), Summers (1), Wetzell (1), and Wood (3)

Waiting list:

Total number on waiting list	32
Average age	61
Average hours needed per month (per recipient)	208
Average funding needed per month (per recipient)	\$1,508

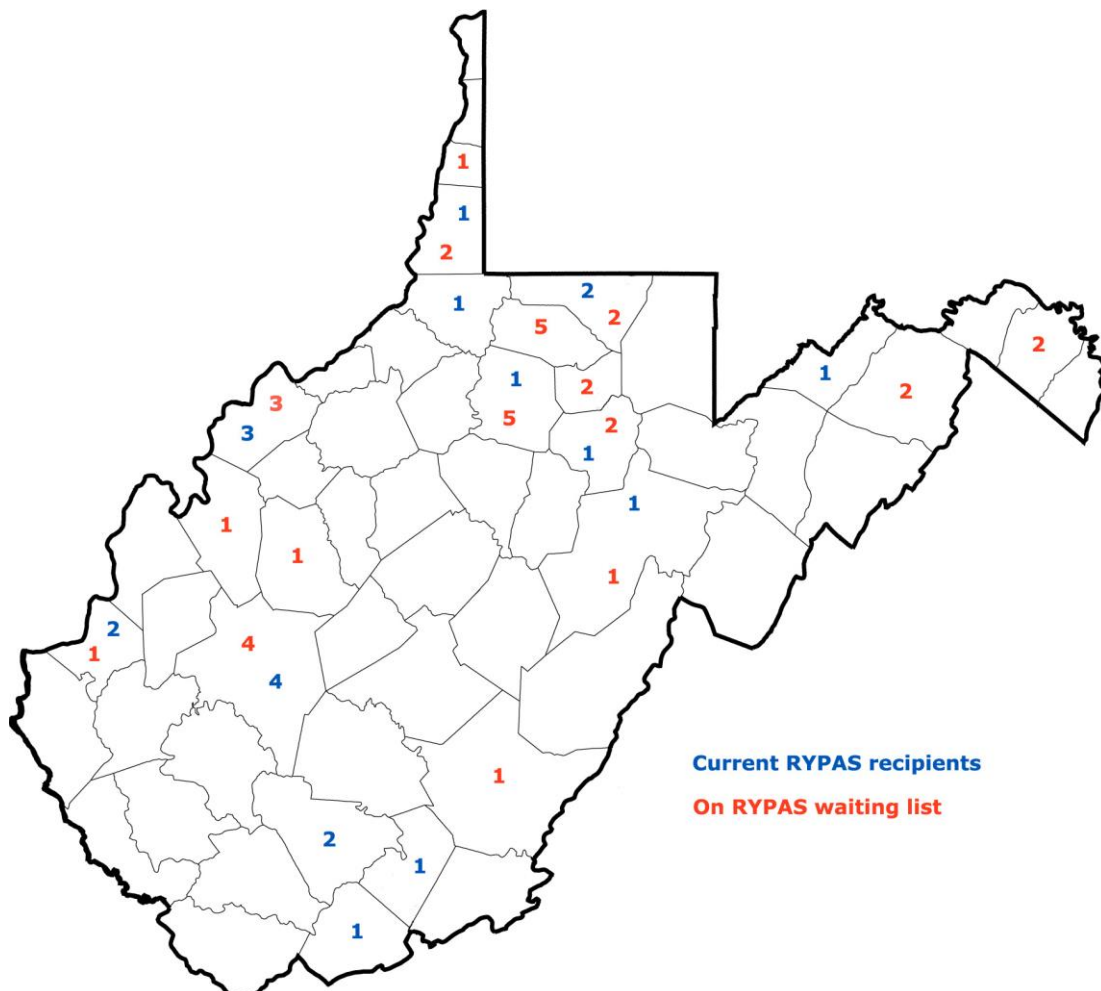
Financial Overview – FY-2014 (cont.)

Waiting list (cont.):

Counties of residence: Barbour (2), Berkeley (2), Cabell (1), Greenbrier (1), Hampshire (2), Harrison (5), Jackson (1), Kanawha (4), Marion (5), Marshall (2), Monongalia (2), Ohio (1), Randolph (1), Roane (1), Taylor (2), and Wood (3)

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



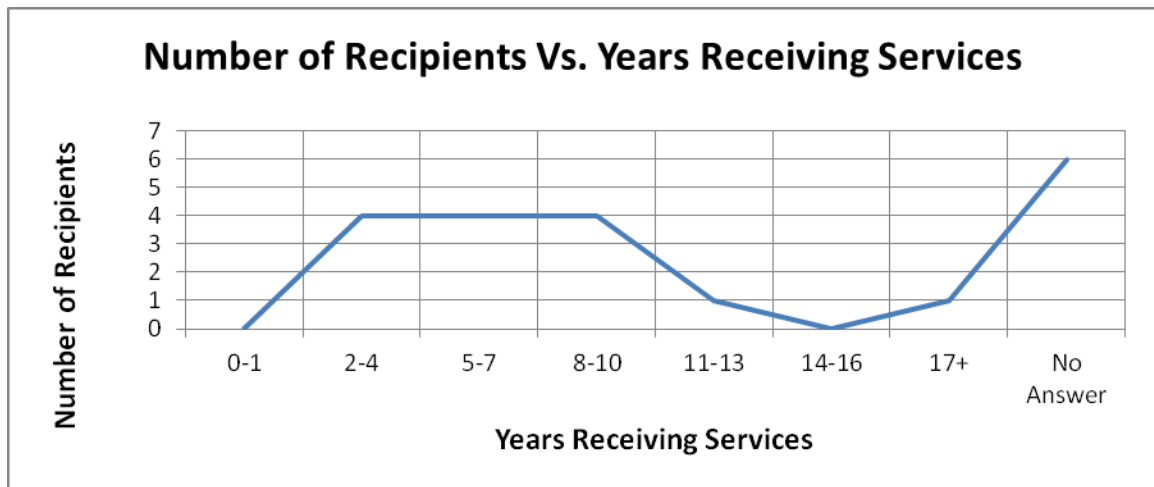
Program Activity – FY-2014

Total New Recipients-**0** (due to inadequate resources)
Total Applicants Approved and Added to Waiting List – **32**
Total Applicants/Recipients Who Left RYPAS – **2**

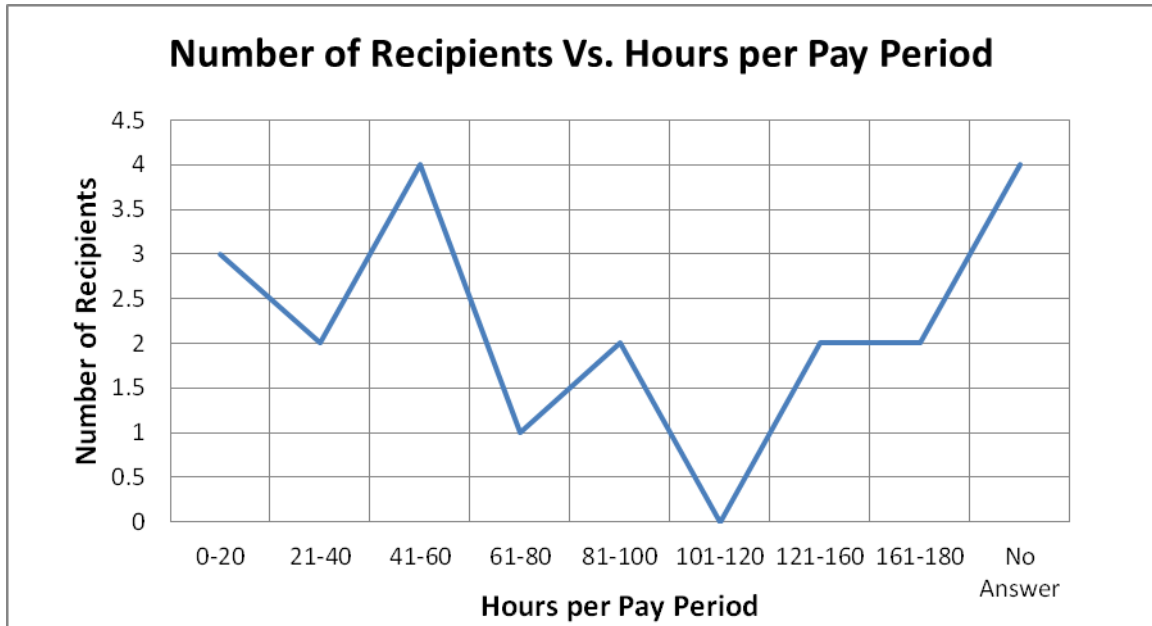
Satisfaction Survey – FY-2014

23 Surveys were sent to current and past RYPAS recipients – 20 returned (87%)

- Age of respondents: 21-30 years – 0 31-40 years – 1
 41-50 years – 2 51-60 years – 6
 61-70 years – 7 71-80 years – 4
 81 years + – 0
- Gender: Male – 8 Female – 12
- Length of time receiving services: from 2 years to 17 years



- Range of hours reimbursed per pay period: from 10 to 167 hours (*cont.*)



Counties of residence: Barbour (1), Cabell (1), Harrison (2), Kanawha (4), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Mineral (1), Monongalia (1), Raleigh (2), Summers (1), Wetzel (1), and Wood (2), No Answer (2)

Responses regarding Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services:

The hours I receive are adequate for my needs

Yes – 15

No – 5

Comments:

- I asked for a couple hours more per day. Thankful for this program.
- My Alzheimer's/dementia has entered late stages. I don't recognize my family and my wife still works. It's exhausting on my family.
- I am now legally blind. Need much more extended care due medical issues. 8-16 more hours would help.
- My hours don't cover all of my needs.
- I have become progressively worse over time.

My experience with the RYPAS program has been:

Very good – 17

Good – 2

Adequate – 1

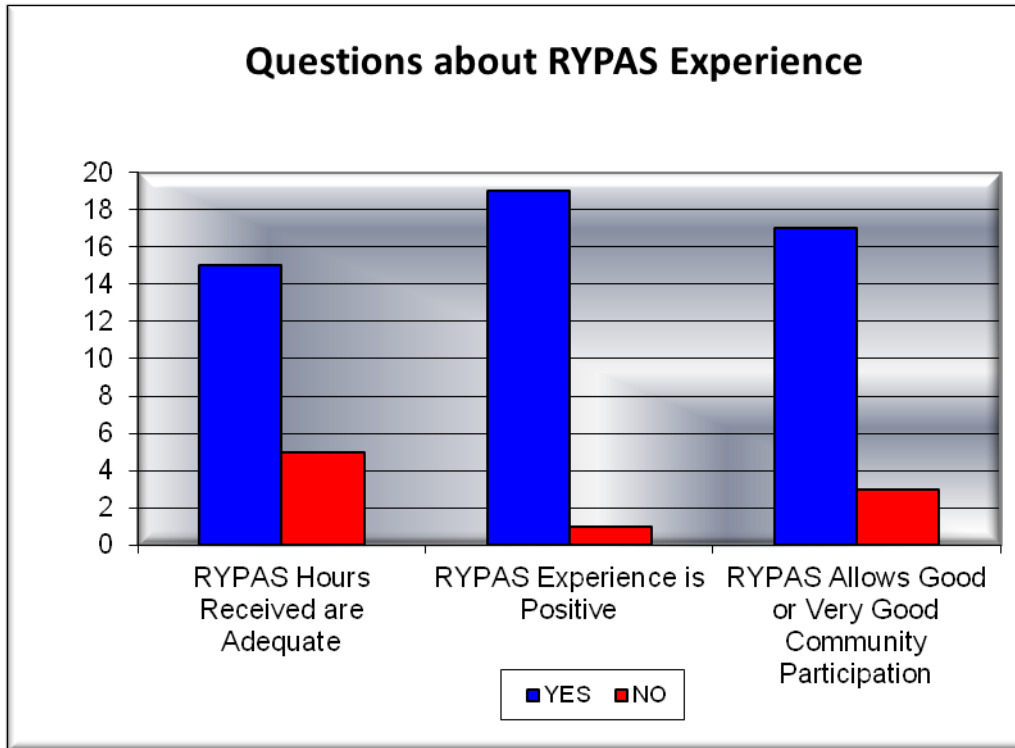
Poor – 0

Very Poor – 0

I like being able to direct my personal assistance program:

Yes – 19

No – 1



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

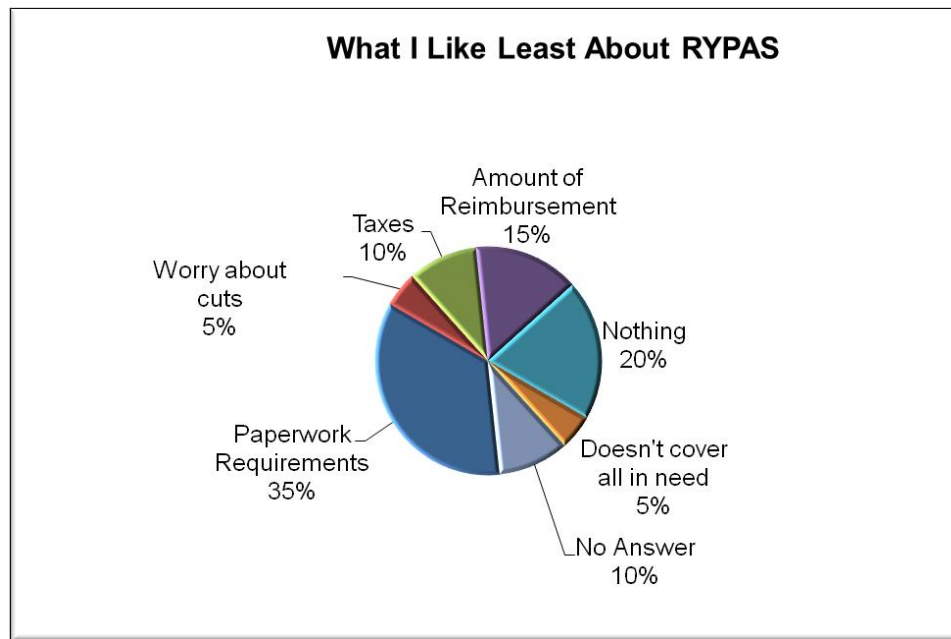
- Are not a problem for me – 16
- Cause me some concern – 3
- Present a real problem for me – 1

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

- Very good – 10
- Good – 7
- Adequate – 2
- Poor – 1

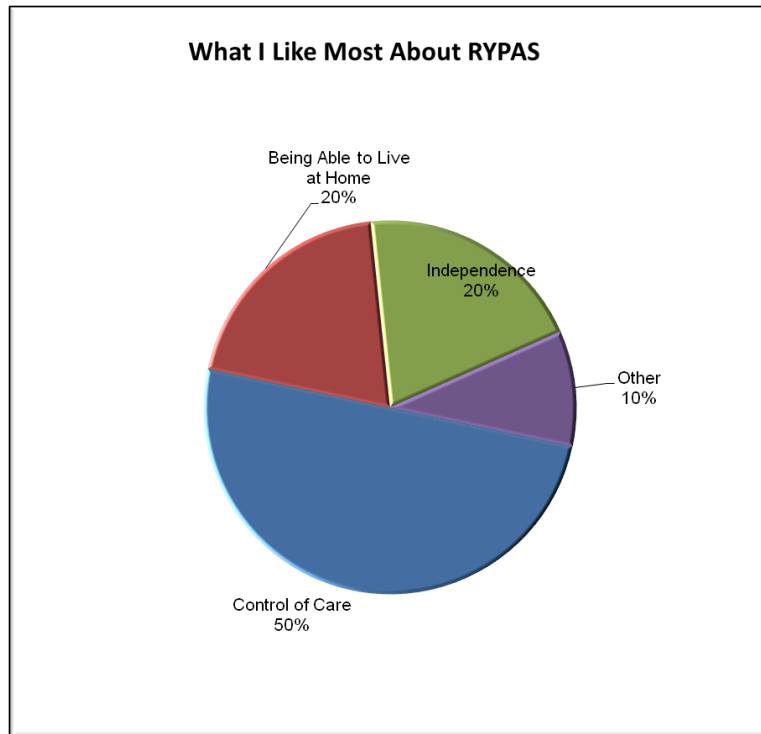
What I like least about the RYPAS program is:

- Paperwork – 8 (Eight recipients stated that all the required paperwork is something they like least about the RYPAS Program)
- Unable to pay Personal Assistant more money. / Minimum wage
- Nothing/Satisfied with program
- Paying taxes
- Worrying the program may be cut
- The program doesn't cover all those in need



What I like most about the RYPAS program:

- Directly being able to have my choice for care so I can be active in the community. Professionalism of the staff.
- Ability to make my own choice in my personal assistant.
- The independence and security it provides.
- The ability to actively participate in decisions about my care and stay in my home and remain in my community.
- Money regularly to help my family care for me at home.
- Allows me to come and go as I please. Entertain in my home. Have a kitty. Do my health routine as I need.
- My husband is able to stay home and help me live here rather than an institution.
- Being able to direct hours, hire my own caregiver and have more than one to take care of me.
- Being able to hire employees myself.
- Versatility in controlling duties of workers and schedule.
- Don't have to live in a nursing home.
- It helps me go out in the community.
- It has made a difference in my finances and living situation.
- Ability to have aids to help me get out of bed and in my wheelchair.
- Flexibility, availability.
- It prevents a person from going into a nursing home.
- Ability to be independent.
- Able to hire who I want.
- The self-directed aspect of the program and it restores my independence.
- Having complete control.



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

- Increasing the pay to personal assistants – (5 responses)
- More hours – (3 responses)
- Less Paperwork

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

- RYPAS will be discontinued/cut – (5 responses)
- Funding will be cut – (9 responses)
- No being able to choose my personal assistant

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)
- Would lose or have to leave my home – (4 responses)
- Health would suffer
- Would have to find long term care arrangements
- Lose ability to have any help as I could not afford it
- It would not be good
- Lose independence
- More difficulty and possible relocation

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 – 14

No – 1

No Response – 5

Responses regarding Medicaid personal assistance services:

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

Aged and Disabled Waiver – 0

MR/DD Waiver – 0

Personal Care Option – 0

Other Medicaid Services – 0

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

Yes – 0

No – 10

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

I am satisfied with my personal attendant services through Medicaid:

Yes – 0

No – 0

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 – 0

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.

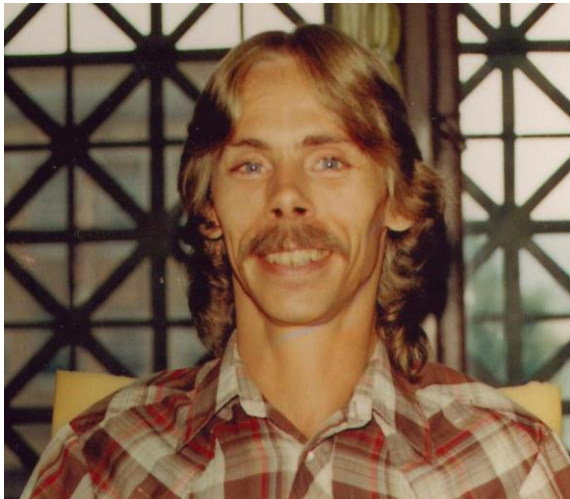
Recipient's Responsibilities include:

- 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

- **Ron Brown**, Chairperson, Charleston, WV
- **Cathy Hutchinson**, Huntington, WV
- **Beverly Jones**, Hurricane, WV
- **Karen Davis**, Charleston, WV
- **Charlotte Roth**, Morgantown, WV
- **Vicki Shaffer**, Morgantown, WV
- **Michael Meadows**, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Assistant Director, Program Development, 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
c/o WVSILC
P.O. Box 625, Institute, WV 25112-0625
304-766-4624
1-855-855-9743
wvsilc@wsilc.org