ARKANSAS SPINAL CORD COMMISSION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor
Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission

Ronnie Wheeler, Crossett, Chairman
Mike Cranford, Foreman, Vice Chairman
Jimmy Ashley, Jonesboro
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AGENCY HISTORY AND DIRECTION

Agency Mission

The mission of the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission is to administer a statewide program to identify and meet the unique and lifelong needs of people with spinal cord disabilities in the state.

Scope of Services

Each year, nearly 200 Arkansans sustain spinal cord disabilities that are severe enough to limit their abilities to function in their homes, their jobs and their communities. For most of these individuals, the disability is permanent, causing limitations in their mobility, sensation and other functional abilities. These disabilities have a significant impact on the individuals and their families and communities. The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission provides a variety of services to individuals with spinal cord disabilities and their families throughout the state of Arkansas. Fourteen Case Managers in 10 field offices provide services to Arkansans in all 75 counties. Services are tailored to the needs of the individual and family and are as diverse in scope as the families that we serve. The Commission staff work in concert with state and federal agencies, medical and home health services, rehabilitation and educational institutions and community agencies to assist these individuals in accessing the services that they need. In addition, the Commission conducts educational programs and disseminates educational materials on spinal cord disabilities to help individuals, families and healthcare professionals understand the unique medical conditions and complications resulting from spinal cord disabilities.

The goal of the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission is to ensure that all persons with spinal cord disabilities in our state are provided every opportunity to live as independently and productively as possible.

Legislative Mandates

The Arkansas Legislature established the Commission in 1975 to provide a coordinated approach to early identification, emergency care, acute and rehabilitation treatment and long term follow up. Within this system of care, the Commission provides a link between Arkansans with spinal cord disabilities and their families and the multifaceted system of treatment and services available to them.

ACT 311 of 1975 (ACA 20-8-201)
"An act to establish a program for the quality care, treatment and rehabilitation of persons who have sustained acquired or congenital spinal cord injury or damage: To establish a state Spinal Cord Commission to administer said program: to authorize the cooperative development of an Arkansas Spinal Treatment Center and for other purposes..."

ACT 330 of 1977 (ACA 20-8-206)
"...The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission shall establish and maintain a central registry of spinal cord disabled persons: Every public and private health and social agency and attending physician shall report to the Commission within five (5) calendar days of identification of any spinal cord disabled person. Consent of the individual shall be obtained and the report shall contain the name, age, residence and type of disability and other information as needed.

Within fifteen (15) days of the report, the Commission shall notify the individual or family of their right to assistance, services available and eligibility requirements and make referrals to the appropriate agencies and services to assure optimal rehabilitative services."

SERVICES AND INITIATIVES

Case Management Services

Coping with a spinal cord disability is difficult. The newly injured individual and his family face a plethora of questions and concerns about the disability and how it will affect their future. Every aspect of life is affected by this disability. The Case Manager helps the individual and his family find the information they need as well as providing personal and emotional support. Case Managers also assist families in identifying and applying for services to assure that they access every available resource. As the individual progresses through treatment, the Case Manager provides an integral role in assuring that the individual's transition home is a smooth one. The Case Manager is also there long

term for those individuals living in the community who need information, referral and assistance with obtaining treatment or equipment. This life long, community based intervention prevents costly hospital stays and institutionalizations.

In Fiscal Year 2017, 2,564 Arkansans with spinal cord disabilities received services from ASCC. Fourteen Case Managers made 5,226 client visits, providing services to meet their unique needs.

Long Term Attendant Care

Arkansans who live with tetraplegia after spinal cord injury depend on caregivers for all of their daily living activities, like bathing, grooming, dressing, preparing and eating meals, and transportation. For these eligible spinal cord injured tetraplegics, ASCC provides a long term attendant care program allowing individuals to remain in the community with the assistance of a personal care provider who assists them with their basic needs for up to four hours a day. Designed to keep individuals out of nursing homes, this small but cost effective program served 17 clients in fiscal year 2017 at an average cost of $11,623.36 per person - approximately 13-14% the cost of nursing home care.

Regional Loan Closet Program

When a person who depends on a wheelchair for mobility has a flat tire or needs repairs, it renders them immobile. If their wheelchair cushion is damaged, it can cause costly pressure sores. Having access to equipment quickly is important. ASCC is able to recycle wheelchairs and other equipment for emergency uses. The ASCC Regional Loan Closets are storage facilities near each of our field offices where we store new and recycled durable medical equipment and supplies to allow Case Managers to provide loaner equipment to meet emergency needs. These are especially important in rural parts of the state where it may take weeks to get repairs made. Commonly used items such as therapeutic cushions, reachers, replacement wheelchair tires as well as wheelchairs and other durable medical equipment are stored and disseminated on a regular basis, saving money, time and medical complications, as well as keeping our clients mobile.

Special Initiatives

In January 2012 Arkansas the Spinal Cord Commission partnered with the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Trauma System to become the lead agency for the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program. In this role, ASCC doubled our efforts to improve the acute, rehabilitation and community based care and treatment for Arkansans who sustain spinal cord injuries and other traumatic disabling conditions. These efforts, in

coordination with the Trauma Advisory Council Rehabilitation Committee have included the following initiatives.

- The TRIUMPH Call Center is a 24/7 resource to serve patients with a Spinal Cord Injury or a Traumatic Brain injury and their providers in Arkansas. Telemedicine appointments for Arkansans living with Spinal Cord Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury can also be made by contacting the call center. The call center assists Arkansans via Telemedicine Consultations, Provider Education, Emergency Department Services.
- Conducted the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation 2017 Conference on May 18-19, 2017 at the Embassy Suites. Speakers from Model Rehabilitation Systems discussed topics related to the State Trauma System and diagnosis specific treatment modalities to the use of assistive technology. About 265 participants representing emergency medical, acute trauma care, rehabilitation care, vocational rehabilitation, workers compensation and state agencies attended the conference.
- ASCC Commissioners determined to end the contract with the Arkansas Department of Health at the close of Fiscal Year 2017.

Spina Bifida Camp

The Commission, in cooperation with Camp Aldersgate and Med-Camps of Arkansas sponsored Spina Bifida Camp at Camp Aldersgate in west Little Rock on June 18-23, 2017. Thirty-four ASCC clients ages 6 to 16 attended. The Campers participated in activities including canoeing, fishing, swimming, archery, extreme sports, music and crafts. All activities are designed to promote increased independence and mobility. This is the only opportunity for many Campers to interact with other children who live with spina bifida and use wheelchairs. In addition to a great experience for the children, the camp week also provides a week of respite for the parents.

SPINAL TREATMENT SERVICES

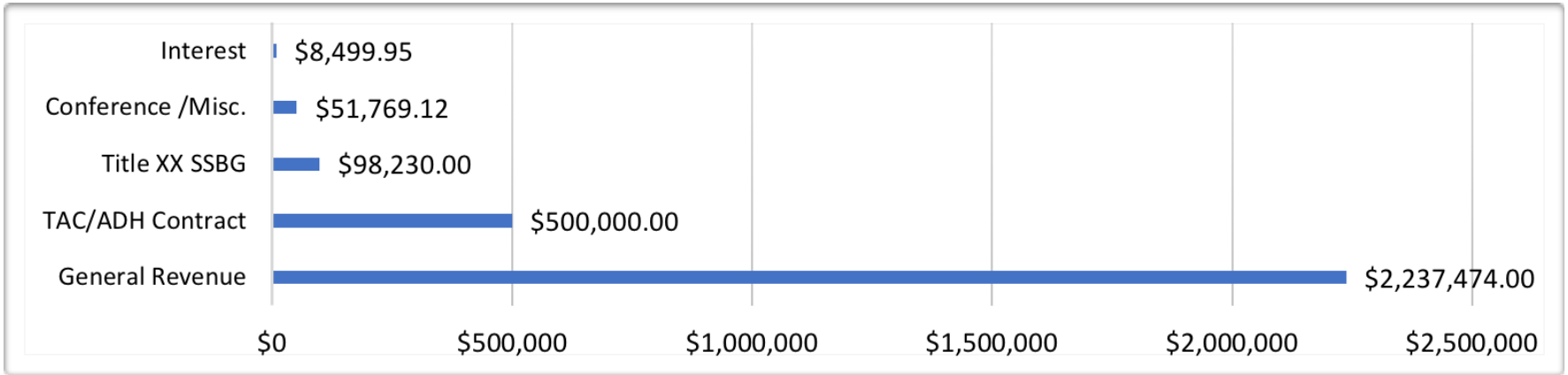
Spinal Cord Injuries are catastrophic and costly disabilities to both the individual and their family. The average lifetime costs vary according to the age at the time of the injury and severity of the injury, estimated to be between 1,000,000 and 4,000,000 dollars. For example, the estimated lifetime cost for a C-6 tetraplegic injured at age 25 would be $3,319,533. Costs continue to rise each year creating emotional and financial hardships for the individual as well as their family. It is a devastating reality that causes each family to wonder who will provide the needed assistance. The goal of ASCC is to provide assistance to individuals with spinal cord disabilities who meet established medical and financial criteria. Purchases are authorized by ASCC Case Managers only after all similar benefits such as insurance coverage, have been exhausted.

Purchases authorized by ASCC include medically prescribed equipment such as wheelchairs, therapeutic cushions, emergency medical supplies and medications. In addition, the Commission assists with minor home modifications, and ramping and driving adaptions.

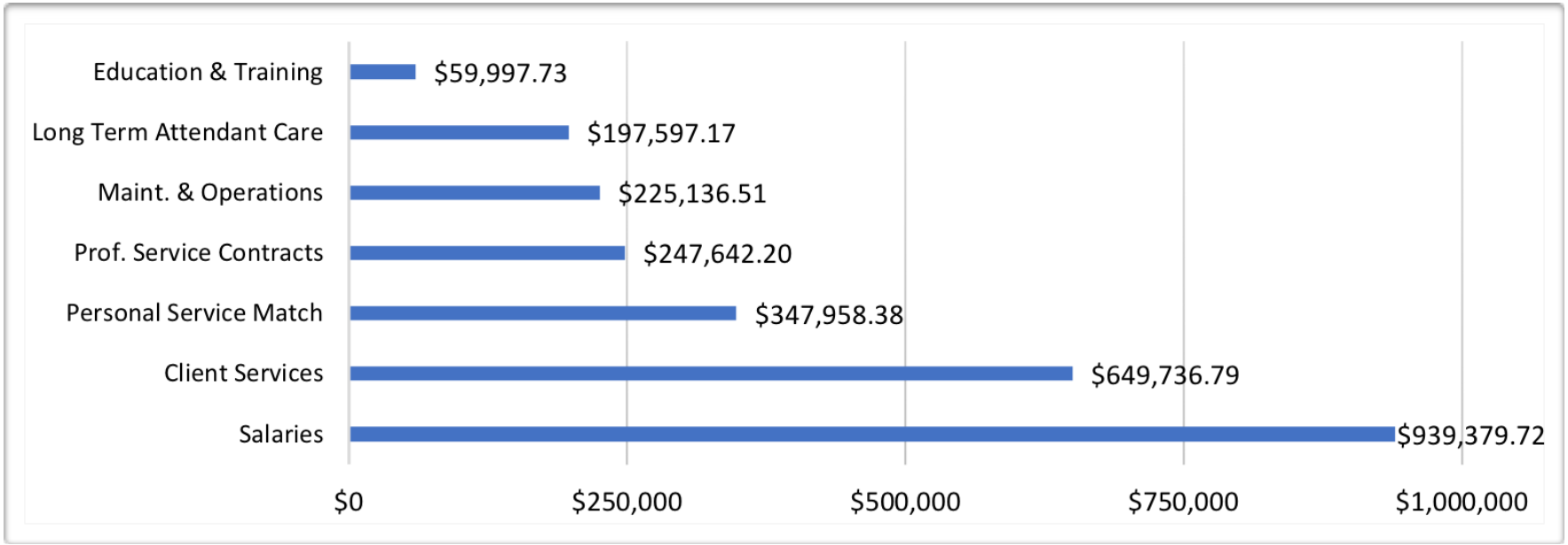
In Fiscal Year 2017, the Commission expended $649,736.79 for these essential goods and services. ASCC Case Managers leveraged $1,346,626.42 in goods and services on behalf of our clients. Though the number of clients on the ASCC registry increases slightly each year, those who meet the financial eligibility criteria continues to increase at a greater rate.

AGENCY FINANCIALS

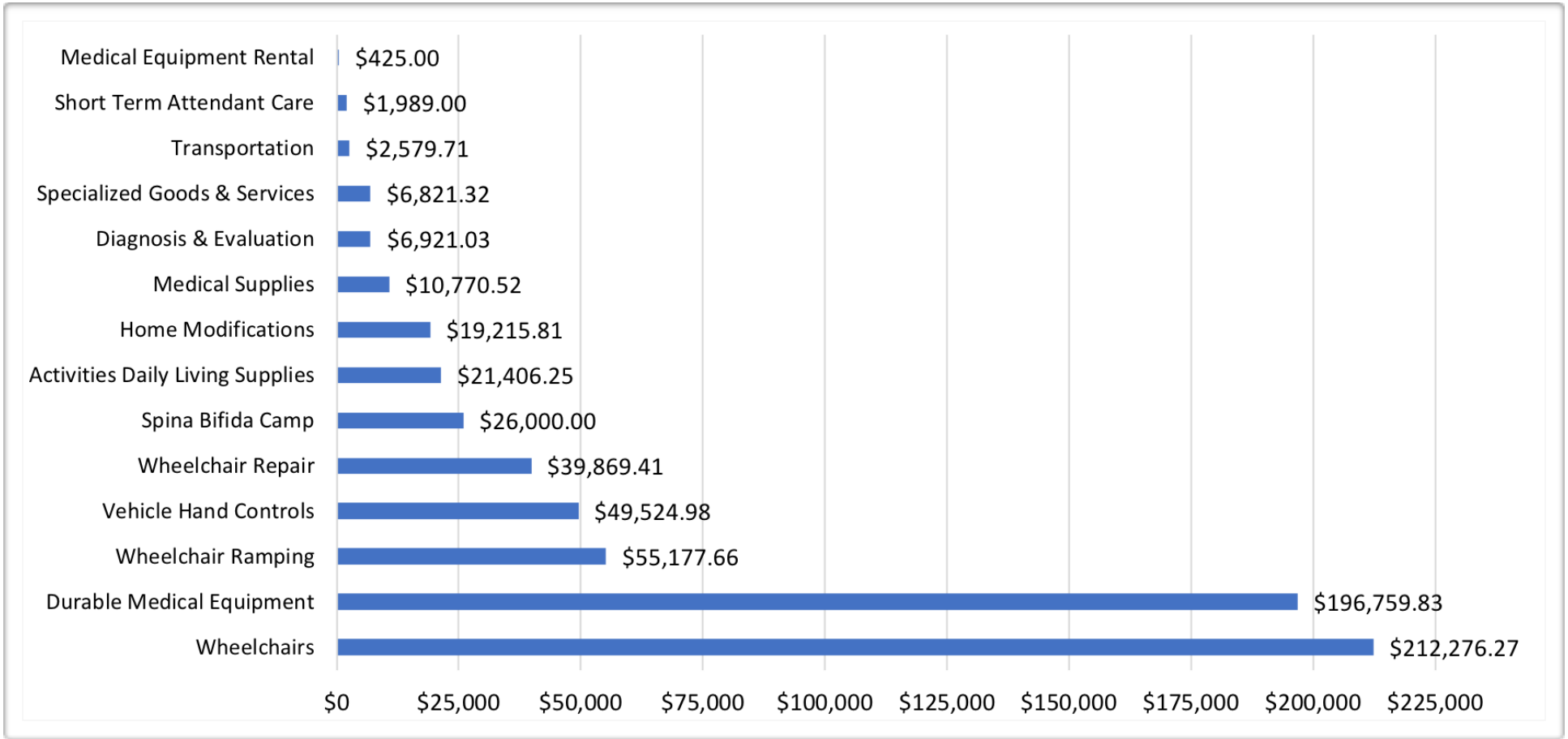
Revenue (Total = $2,895,973.07)



Expenditures (Total = $2,667,448.50)



Client Service Expenditures (Total = $649,736.79)



AGENCY REFERRAL SERVICES

FY2017 New Cases by Etiology

Traumatic (n=109)

Cause	Count	Percent
Motor Vehicle	34	31.2%
Falls	30	27.5%
Other Transportation	12	11.0%
Gunshot	10	9.2%
Diving	5	4.6%
Hit/Objt	4	3.7%
Motorcycle	3	2.8%
Fight	3	2.8%
Medical/Surgical Mishaps	3	2.8%
Other Trauma	2	1.8%
Unknown Trauma	1	0.9%
Sports/Contact	1	0.9%
Sports/Noncontact	1	0.9%

Non-traumatic (n=88)

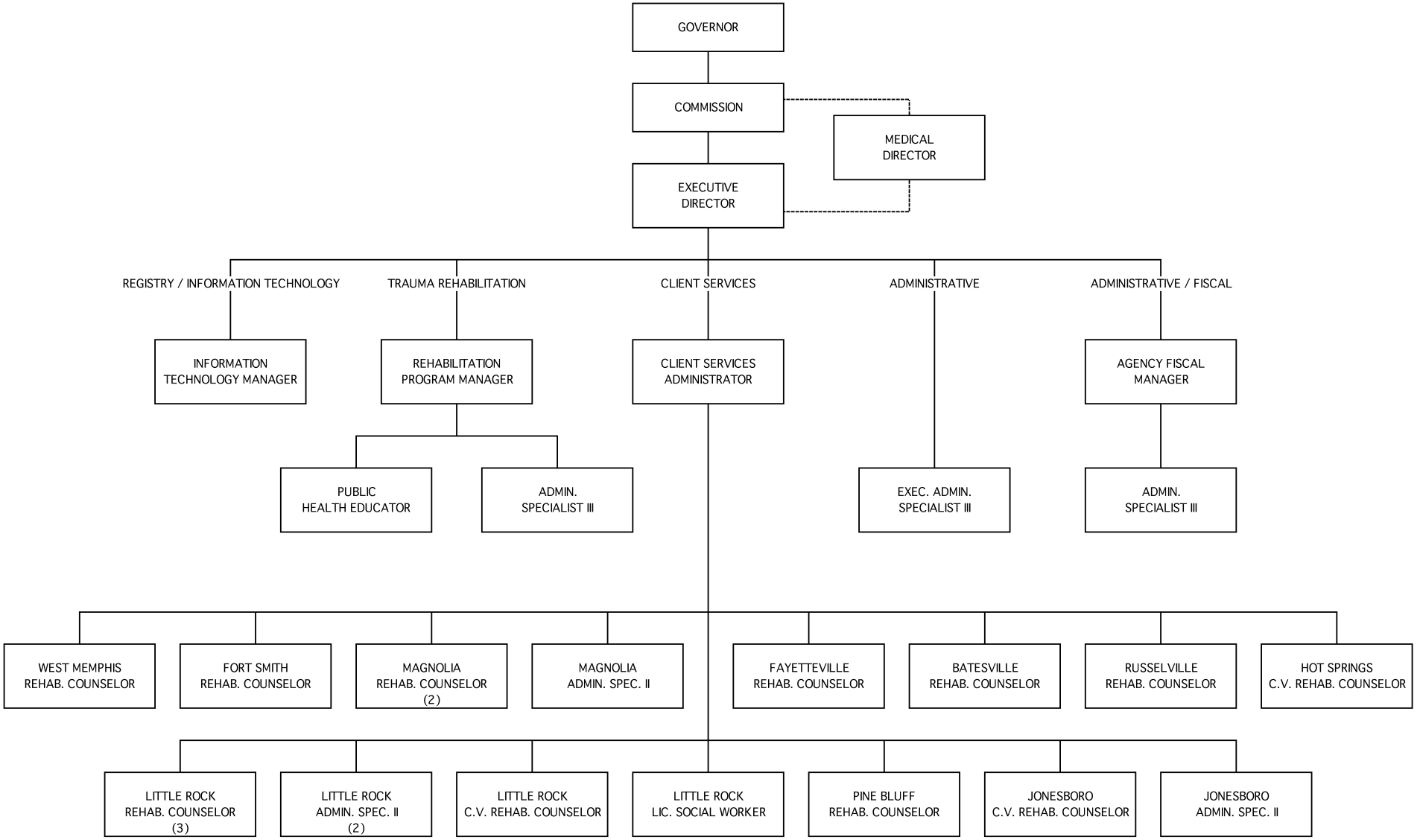
Cause	Count	Percent
Spondylosis (Stenosis)	20	22.7%
Spinal Cord Tumors	16	18.2%
Spina Bifida	13	14.8%
Multiple Sclerosis	11	12.5%
Hemorrhage/Thrombosis	11	12.5%
Other Disease	8	9.1%
Spinal Abscess	6	6.8%
Unknown Disease	2	2.3%
Guillain-Barré	1	1.1%

Referrals for FY2017 numbered 277. Of these, 197 met the Medical Criteria. ASCC staff have worked diligently over the past year with referral sources to education them to the ASCC criteria.

Arkansas Spinal Cord Disability Registry

The Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission maintains the oldest legislatively mandated spinal cord registry in the nation. It is also one of the most comprehensive in the elements collected, as well as in the scope of spinal cord disabilities (including traumatic, disease and congenital cases). The intent of the Registry is to ensure the referral of all persons with spinal cord disabilities to assure they receive appropriate rehabilitative and other needed services.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CASE MANAGER LOCATIONS

Batesville Office
111 North 12th St.
Batesville, AR 72501
870-612-1656

Fayetteville Office
4058 N. College, Suite 150
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-521-2903

Fort Smith Office
400 Rogers Ave.
Fort Smith, AR 72901
479-755-3307

Hot Springs Office
105 Reserve St.
Hot Springs, AR 71902
501-701-6591

Jonesboro Office
2920 Longview
Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-268-0425

Little Rock Office
1501 N. University, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72207-5233
501-296-1792

Magnolia Office
1314 East Main
Magnolia, AR 71753
870-234-6219

Pine Bluff Office
2703 West 28th Ave.
Pine Bluff, AR 71603-4918
870-534-2993

Russellville Office
1010 N. Arkansas Ave.
Russellville, AR 72801
479-890-5751

West Memphis Office
206 Shoppingway Blvd
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