

TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDED MEETING

OF

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2025

Committee Members Present:

AINI TJAUW

ANTONY CHARLES MARRON

BENITA SHAW

CAROLA CAMACHO MARANON

FERNANDO GOMEZ

JEANETTE PICASSO-ARGUELLO

JENNIFER CUMMINGS

JESSE WELLER

MARIA IRIARTE

MICHAEL SANTIAGO

NINA SPIEGLEMAN

OTTO LANA

REINA CANALE

SHERRY JOHNSON

SYLVIA YEH

TALEEN KHATCHADOURIAN

WILLIAM DEL ROSARIO

OAH Staff Present:

ADAM BERG

BOB VARMA

MARYJOSEPHINE NORRINGTON

SUSAN FORMAKER

TZER LOR-SNYDER

DDS Staff Present:

DENISE THORNQUEST

KATIE HORNBERGER

SANDRA SANCHEZ

Facilitator:

KARIN BLOOMER

ASL Interpreters:

RENEE SOULERET

RICHARD HAFFNER

Spanish Interpreters:

ALEJANDRA SERRANO

MARC GUTIERREZ

Korean Interpreter:

MINGYEONG JEE

Transcribed by:

NICHOLAS SHUPE

NCCR

Sacramento, California

The record reflects all relevant statements and conversations occurring during the course of the meeting but is not verbatim. For clarity, superfluous words, phrases, verbal pauses and/or inaudible tones have been eliminated.

AUGUST 14, 2025

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Good afternoon, all. My name is Karin Bloomer, and I'm the facilitator of the Advisory Committee meetings. I'm going to turn things over to our interpreters to explain how to access language channels for interpretation during the meeting. Marc?

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ:

Thank you, Karin. We'll begin with providing some language access instructions for the benefit of our Spanish-listening audience. (Speaking Spanish).

For those listening in English, please note that if there's a Spanish comment or question made, you can also hear a live interpretation of it by selecting the globe icon at the bottom of your screen that says "interpretation," and then by selecting English.

We'll now hear from my colleague to provide the same language access instructions for the benefit of our Korean-listening audience. Min?

KOREAN INTERPRETER JEE:

(Speaking Korean). I have a question, though, Karin. When I click on the globe, I don't see Korean selection. Is it just me? Everybody else can see it?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I don't see --

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

(Inaudible) --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I'm wondering --

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

(Inaudible) --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- I'm wondering --

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

-- can I --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- please, go ahead.

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

Sorry, this is Tzer. I believe, once I turn the globe on, or once I've put you in your account, then it should appear.

KOREAN INTERPRETER JEE:

Okay. Okay, thank you. I just wanted to make sure on behalf of the audience who's listening. And thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Please, everyone, select your language channel now. And now, I'll review other ways to participate in today's meeting. Next slide, please.

All right, Advisory Committee members, open meeting laws require that you have your cameras on at all times. If you're having technical difficulties with your camera, please let us know.

Members, please use the raise hand feature if you would like to make a comment. I will call on members in the order that hands are raised. And when I call on you, please unmute and state your name so we can help keep track of it for the transcript and for members of the public who are listening.

We are reserving the chat feature for use by two Advisory Committee members who have requested chat as their mode of communication, Otto Lana and William Del Rosario. After you enter a comment in chat, please raise your virtual hand, and I will read your comments aloud. Next slide, please.

Now, I'll explain how members of the public can provide public comment in today's meeting. Members of the public, during the public comment period, if you want to make a verbal comment, please use the raise hand feature to let us know you'd like to speak. We'll take speakers in the order that hands are raised.

If you're calling into this meeting and want to make a verbal comment, please press *9 to raise your hand, then press *6 to unmute. You will have two minutes to provide comment. Next slide, please.

Members of the public, if you want to e-mail your public comment during the meeting, you can e-mail it to this e-mail address, OAHACcomments@dgs.ca.gov. And the e-mail will be read aloud for two minutes. Next slide, please.

Members of the public, we will also announce when we are reserving public comment for those who need to use the chat feature as an accommodation. At that time, we will ask that you raise your virtual hand to let us know you need to use the chat. When we call on you, we will promote you to Zoom panelist status so that you can enter your comment in chat, and then we will read your comment aloud.

Okay, that concludes the slides on how to participate in today's meeting. And now, we're going to conduct roll call. And since we have new Advisory Committee members that are part of the committee, for this roll call, we'd like all members to briefly introduce themselves.

So, when I say your name, please unmute, and let us know your name, whether you're a new or returning advisory committee member, and your affiliation or who you're representing as a committee member. If I mispronounce your name, please forgive me, and of course, please correct me.

Okay, here we go. I'll be taking roll call in alphabetical order by last name, in case you're wondering. All right, Reina Canale, welcome.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CANALE:

Hi, I'm Reina Canale. I'm new to the Committee. I'm representing the OCRA Division of DRC.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Wonderful. Welcome. Jennifer Cummings.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Hello. I am the program administrator for Inland Regional Center's Fair Hearings and Legal Affairs Unit. I've been with IRC for about 24 years now.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Wonderful. Welcome. William Del Rosario, this is an Advisory Committee member who uses chat.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DEL ROSARIO:

Hello. My name is William Del Rosario, and I am a new committee member. I am a person served by Regional Center of Orange County. A brief visual description of myself, I'm a Hispanic, Filipino, young adult with black hair, brown eyes, and I wear glasses.

I'm a multi-modal communicator and primarily type to communicate. I will also be using the chat. Supporting me today is my communication partner, Michelle.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, William. Welcome to the Committee. Darlene Dupree. Believe she let us know she's unable to attend. Okay, so we'll note that Darlene is not present today.

Fernando Gomez, welcome.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Sorry, had to unmute myself. Fernando Gomez, reappointed. I have two young boys served by the Regional Center System, and I'm also the cofounder of the Integrated Community Cooperative, ICC. Pleasure to be here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Fernando. Maria Iriarte.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. So Maria Iriarte. I am a returning member, and I'm here on behalf of Disability Rights California.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Maria. Welcome. Sherry Johnson.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHNSON:

Good afternoon, everyone. Sherry Johnson, returning member, mother of a wonderful young man on the spectrum, non-speaking. He's a typer and a community member.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Sherry. Welcome. Taleen Khatchadourian.

COMMITTEE MEMBER KHATCHADOURIAN:

Hi, everybody. Taleen Khatchadourian. I have a 22 year-old son at Lanterman, so I'm here as a parent.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Wonderful. Welcome, Taleen. Otto Lana, I believe you've provided your introduction for Susan to read aloud. Just checking that you're here.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I am not seeing that he is in attendance.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yeah. That's too bad. Susan, would you -- given that Mr. Lana shared with you his introduction, but we can note that he's not present, but shall we still share a little bit about him so other members know?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Sure.

DEPUTY DIRECTORY VARMA:

Actually --

COMMITTEE MEMBER KHATCHADOURIAN:

He's here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

-- actually, he's there.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Oh wonderful

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Oh, he's here.

(Indiscernible crosstalk).

DEPUTY DIRECTORY VARMA:

Yeah, I see him. Yeah, he's here. Hi, Mr. Lana. Go ahead, Susan.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Oh, terrific.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. Mr. Lana wrote, "Hello, everyone. Otto Lana here. I will need the chat as an accommodation, as I have apraxia, a speech-related disability. Can I give you my two to three sentences now to read tomorrow? If so, here it is.

Otto Lana, San Diego Regional Center client for nearly two decades. University of San Diego college student, about to start my second year. The face of the Easterseals Disability Pride Campaign. Disability is not a dirty word.
www.disabilitypride.com.

Basically, I am the baller and the scholar on this committee. I am the funny guy with the great hair, as Tim Jin says."

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Wonderful. Thank you, Otto. Welcome. Good to see you. Carola Camacho Maranon.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARANON:

Hi, everyone. My name is Carola Maranon. I'm the parent of a 16 and a nine-year-old clients of Regional Center, and I am returning member of this committee. Glad to be here. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Carola, welcome. Antony Charles-Marron.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Hello, can you hear me?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yes, hello.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Oh, there we go. Sorry. Hello, everyone. Yeah, returning member. I have a autistic daughter, 31, very high-functioning, and I'm going to continue to advocate for her for as long as I possibly can, of course. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Welcome. Marty Omoto, I am looking for Mr. Omoto. I don't see him. So, we'll make a note that he's not present at this time, and I'll keep my eyes out for him in case he's able to join us.

Jeanette Picasso-Arguello, who is in-person, I believe, at the -- at the meeting site. Welcome.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Hi. My name is Jeanette Picasso-Arguello. I am a parent of four children with various disabilities. I am also an appointed conservator of two adults who are Inland Regional Center consumers, and I am also grateful to be here at this time. Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Welcome, Jeanette. Is Jessica Quesada with us? I don't see Jessica, so we'll note that she's not present at this time. She is a returning Advisory Committee member.

Michael Santiago?

COMMITTEE MEMBER SANTIAGO:

Hello. Michael Santiago. I am a returning member. I'm also the legal counsel for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Welcome, Michael. Benita Shaw?

COMMITTEE MEMBER SHAW:

Good afternoon. This is Benita Shaw. I wear multiple hats. I am a returning member. I have two boys. My youngest has autism, 23. He communicates via iPad, body language, sign language, and I'm happy to return back here with you all today.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Benita. Nina Spiegelman, who I don't see. It's my understanding something unexpected came up. Again, we'll keep our eyes out for Nina, but we'll note she's not present at this time.

Robert Taylor let us know he's not able to attend. In fact, I don't see him. Aini Tjauw?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TJAUW:

Yes, hi.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

HI.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TJAUW:

Aini Tjauw. I'm a returning committee member. I'm a parent to a grade school served by the regional center, and I'm so honored to be here. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Jesse Weller?

COMMITTEE MEMBER WELLER:

Hello, everybody. Jesse Weller. I'm the executive director for San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center and returning as well until next May. So, thank you for having me.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Welcome, Jesse. Sylvia Yeh?

COMMITTEE MEMBER YEH:

Hi. Sylvia Yeh here. I'm the returning member. I'm from -- I'm an executive director for Fiends of Children with Special Needs. It's a advocacy group in the Bay Area, and we're serving majority Asian people with disabilities. Very honored to be here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Welcome back, Sylvia. Okay, now I'm going to turn things over to Susan Formaker for some further introductions and announcements. Susan, I think you're still muted.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Sorry about that. I just wanted to note that in the chat, Otto Lana said, "thank you. Hello, everyone. I feel blessed to be able to be here."

So, I wanted to just extend the welcome on behalf of OAH and the Department of Developmental Services to our new and returning Advisory Committee members with whom we look forward to collaborating or continuing to collaborate on the important work of this committee.

These new and returning Advisory Committee members' terms will now expire at the end of May, 2027. They are Reina Canale, Jennifer Cummings, William Del Rosario, Fernando Gomez, Carola Camacho Maranon, Antony Marron, Marty Omoto, Jeanette Picasso-Arguello, Robert Taylor, and Sylvia Yeh.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation to those Advisory Committee members whose terms expired at the end of May. Thank you for your work on the committee and your dedication to improving mediations and hearings for all people with developmental disabilities.

Those former Advisory Committee members whose terms expired at the end of May are Lillian Ansari , Moniac Becerra , Ryan Nelson, Stacey Shaw, and Yulahlia Hernandez. Again, thank you so much for your service.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Susan. And finally, I'd like to introduce some other individuals who are here with us from the Office of Administrative Hearings and from DDS.

So, from the Office of Administrative Hearings, Bob Varma, Deputy Director, welcome. You just (inaudible) --

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Good afternoon.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Good afternoon.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

I'm going to throw something out there real quick, Ms. Bloomer, because I know you'll do it as we go along. But for the speakers, we have multiple interpretations going on, so as you speak, please kind of watch your speed, so the things get interpreted properly. Thank you so much. Thank you, everyone.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you so much, Bob Varma. And Susan Formaker, who just spoke earlier, Chief Administrative Law Judge of the General Jurisdiction Division.

We have Adam Berg, Presiding Administrative Law Judge of the San Diego General Jurisdiction Division, Maryjosephine Norrington, and Tzer Lor-Snyder, who are Associate Governmental Program Analysts with the General Jurisdiction Division.

And from DDS, we have in attend Katie Hornberger, Deputy Director for the Division of Community Assistance and Resolutions, Denise Thornquest, Chief of the Office of Community Appeals and Resolutions, Sandra Sanchez, Manager in the Office of Community Appeals and Resolutions. Welcome, all. Thank you for being here.

I also want to note that a document was submitted and has been posted on the OAH Advisory Committee webpage. This was the document called, Regional Center's Role in Appeals Process, March 13th, 2025. This version of the document has references added to it of existing statutes, thanks to Jennifer Cummings, one of our Advisory Committee members. Jennifer, thank you so much for that.

And so, if you look under the May 15th meeting list, our last meeting together, you'll find that Regional Center's Role in Appeals Process document that Jennifer added to.

Okay, Committee members, thank you for being here, and thank you members of the public for attending. As you know, this advisory committee was established in law to provide non-binding recommendations about mediation and hearing operations under the Lanterman Act for people with developmental disabilities in California.

As you discuss the agenda items that have been submitted, I encourage you to focus the discussion on items and recommendations that specifically pertain to mediation and hearing operations that are actionable by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

I want to spend a moment noting some key aspects about our agenda today. As you may know, committee members are invited to submit requested agenda items for each meeting. For this meeting, we received eight agenda items to discuss. These are agenda items four through 11 on the posted agenda.

We won't have time to discuss all eight items in the time we have. And as always, any agenda items that we don't have time to discuss will be automatically placed on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting. At the start of an agenda item,

I'll ask the committee member who submitted the item to briefly explain their reason for bringing the item forward.

We will also take two ten-minute breaks during this meeting. The first break will be from 2:15 to 2:25. We'll take the second break from 3:10 to 3:20. And that second break will be followed immediately by a full 40 minutes of general public comment, because we want to make sure there's ample time for public comment.

In addition to that final public comment period, if the Advisory Committee entertains recommendations that will be taken to a vote, we will invite public comment prior to each vote, and we'll be adjourning the meeting at 4:00 p.m. today.

Okay. We are ready to now move into agenda item four, which reads, "whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that OAH develop a brief video for claimants about the hearing procedure."

Could I ask the committee member who submitted this to unmute and state your name and share a little bit about this item and what you're hoping to discuss in its regard?

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Hello. Are you referring to number four? Apologize.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yes.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Okay.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I am. Whether the --

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

So --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- Advisory Committee should recommend that OAH develop a brief video for claimants about the hearing procedure.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Yes. We were recently providing training to psychologists, some new psychologists, who are going to be determining eligibility for our regional center, and in the process of that training, thought that it would be helpful to have a mock video of the hearing procedure, that it would be helpful for psychologists, and I was thinking it would also be very helpful for families and claimants who are going through the appeal procedure.

And as I was doing research for the training, came across the Office of Administrative Hearing videos in other states regarding other departments. Like, for example, waterboards, they have an administrative appeal procedure, and they had, you know, a mock hearing and some information from judges about information that families would need to bring with them to the hearing or submit for the hearing, and just walked them through the process.

And I thought it would be really nice to have a type of video to provide information for our claimants to help them understand the appeal process and what to expect during the appeal process.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Jennifer Cummings, thank you. So, thank you for bringing this item forward, and we'll look for raised hands from committee members in terms of your thoughts on this, on this thought to have a video for claimants about the hearing procedure.

Fernando Gomez, thanks. I see your hand.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Yes, thank you, Karin. And Jennifer, thank you for bringing this recommendation up. I think I can see its value, and I can see where there is a need for more information to, you know, have that full transparency.

My question is, what are your thoughts on the targeted demographic of this video that it will interface with, and what are your thoughts on the -- what this video may look like?

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Well, it could potentially be posted online on the Office of Administrative Hearings website, available to the public to provide everyone with information about the regional center appellant process, you know, maybe from the beginning to the end to provide information about the different parts of the appellant procedure and individual rights as they go through the appellant process, including their right to have

individuals present with them, to have assistants, the right to an interpreter, the right to present evidence.

You know, what does an informal consist of? What happens in mediation? What does a hearing look like? What do I need to bring to my hearing? How will I know when the judge makes a decision? You know, it -- there's a lot of possibilities as to what that can contain, but I think it would be helpful for everybody.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Make a note that Otto Lana has entered into the chat a comment as well. It reads, "that's great, but who will fund it? I have created several videos, and it's not cheap. It needs to be accessible with captioning, ASL, multiple languages, alternative text, and voice for blind."

Thank you, Otto. And Jeanette, I see your hand. Please, go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Thank you. Again, as a parent of four individuals at different ages of their life, and also, as we know, with person-centered planning, I myself have done videos to frontload and assist each individual that I assist or aid to understand the process as well as to help them read and write their own statements.

I think it is -- it is vital for those that are visual learners and have language impairments and/or any type of difficulty. To connect, you know, again, everybody, I think it needs to be structured and tailored to the individual, and it should be as a hybrid communication and work together as an IPP goal, as well as an IEP goal for early intervention, and also I -- I'm grateful to Jennifer Cummings in making this an issue, and when there is a vote, we should -- I would strongly suggest for other

individuals that it should move forward, and we should have participation from every committee member and maybe share what we have used so that we don't have to recreate the wheel, and also that there is some videos already acceptable through great non-profit organizations.

And again, I think it's a fabulous idea, and there shouldn't be much discussion of whether or not it should be done. I think it could be -- also maybe suggest and offer inputs so that it could move a lot faster if and when it gets voted.

I personally am a parent, I'm educated, and I still have difficulties, so I could only understand how a consumer with any ailment could also -- or language barrier can also find difficulty and anxiety of not knowing their rights and responsibilities. That's all. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Jeanette. Maria Iriarte, I see your hand. Please, go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Hi. Jennifer, thank you. This is a wonderful idea, along with accessibility language-wise. Also, I would like to see these videos posted in each regional center website, DDS' website, OAH's website, and anyone else we can -- anyone else's website that we could use for this information.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Maria. Other thoughts, reactions to this, expressions of support for this before -- I just want to make sure there's sort of full discussion before I -- so far,

there's certainly enough support. Sounds like there's interest in making a motion for the recommendation.

But before that, any other aspects of this that someone wants to elevate? Yeah, Reina, please.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CANALE:

Yeah, I also wanted to thank Jennifer for bringing this to the agenda today. I think it's a very good idea. I think a lot of people, when they're navigating the system for the first time, they get a lot of anxiety of the unknown.

And so, being able to remove that barrier of this is what to expect when you're going through the process is very valuable, and some people learn differently, so auditory or listening to it or seeing it verbally can absorb the information better for them. I think also with being and make sure that it has language capacity so that people, regardless of what language they speak, whether it's -- there's closed captioning in any language so that they can access this information will be valuable.

Also, the ability to share it with non-profits that serve the community so that they can also provide it to people who seek information would also be valuable. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Reina. Fernando?

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Yeah. Expand a little bit on what Reina just touched, I was going to say that as we move forward into a vote or consideration of this becoming a reality, that it really

will be prudent that this video or a video series, if you will, be able to depict the targeted demographics, the audience, and not just a visual capacity, but also in a language-specific capacity, meaning that if we produce this video in English, are we also looking to produce it maybe, like, in Spanish or some of the (inaudible) languages that are used.

I know that sometimes you say, well, you could do half the translation or the caption, but it's really not the same. So, I just wanted to bring that up as a point of discussion as we go into maybe a potentially discussing the specifics of that video.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Well so it seems that there's this question on the table of making a motion for a recommendation and what that motion would include. Maybe before someone makes the motion, they might -- they might wonder out loud or share, you know, what they're -- what they're thinking, so we -- there can be some contributions to, you know, sort of elaborating and evolving that motion.

So, Jeanette, I see your hand.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Again, thank you, Ms. Cummings. I apologize to the Board. I have, in the past, filed Welfare and Institution complaints, and the fact that it's -- this is necessary. So, I'm grateful that it's now moving forward.

I would love to make a motion to take that vote; however, I would ask this board to consider perhaps opening a subcommittee that we can discuss pros and cons in order to make it more efficient, and then come to an agreement as to timelines to share, and also references of what's already out there in order -- because maybe

we'd -- it doesn't have to be recreated; it can just be shared what was proficient to certain committees and to certain individuals with certain ailments.

And I as a parent, I can share what worked and what didn't. I can also share what is working and what isn't. And again, also for the subcommittee, if there -- if I can make a motion to open up to a subcommittee or somebody, the guidelines that should be addressed through Inland Regional Center consumers and other regional center consumers so that if and when there is Welfare and Institution complaint or an administrative hearing request, protocols and policies that actually could be assisting the individuals, and perhaps, you know, kind of like a little course of taking this, and then decide before you get to mediation or a sit-down meeting with Inland Regional to see if perhaps it could mitigate instead of taking the time from Office of Administrative Hearings.

Again, I'm just sharing my experience, roughly. But I would -- I think if we get together as committee members to join and conciliate the pros and cons that we may have experienced, I think it would be much, much more beneficial to then see what is working and what isn't working, and also how we can make it accessible to all communities and all languages in the near future.

I hope I'm making sense. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Jeanette. And I just want to note that Otto Lana is asking in the chat, "where will the funding come from?" So, great question.

So, just process-wise, appreciating that, if there's a recommendation passed by vote by this advisory committee, if that recommendation is for OAH to make this video

with input from stakeholders or what have you, I imagine, and then OAH provides a written response to all of these non-binding recommendations, perhaps we could learn at that time, you know, again, how that would be funded or how this recommendation could move forward. So, appreciate the question, Mr. Lana.

Maria Iriarte, some more on this, trying to flush out what this recommendation might be.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Fits in line, Karin, with what you just said and what Mr. Lana commented. I would want to know from DDS/OAH what would be helpful, because at the end of the day, I suspect that they would be funding this and would have to have the stamp of approval from these agencies to have these videos.

So, what would be helpful for you guys so that we could think about what the next move would be?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, a question to OAH on --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- (inaudible) and DDS around, like, what would be helpful in terms of details to include to the recommendation.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

The process, yes. I mean, what it -- what would be helpful to these agencies as we move forward with this?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, presuming a recommendation on establishing --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Right.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- video on -- to educate about the hearing procedure, hearing process, your -- I'm hearing you ask, you know, what would be helpful for OAH and DDS to know in --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

To recommend to the advisory group. I mean, I just don't want all this work to be done, and then OAH or DDS say to us, we don't have the funding. You know what I mean? So, are we -- is this really something that we -- is there a possibility of funding for this, because this is -- you know, this is going to cost money, or are we just sort of dead on the -- dead in the water here?

I don't know. I just want to hear from DDS or OAH as to, you know, what would be helpful, and is this -- because at the end of the day, they're going to consider, right? And so, would it be helpful for us to establish a subcommittee, if that's even possible, to flesh this out a little more, which seems like a good idea, and if so, what would you want to see?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And I'm -- and forgive me, Susan and Barb, Bob. Is it -- is it the case that what would be most helpful is just sort of a clear, at least, initial recommendation that the Advisory Committee would submit for OAH to, again, sort of think about and respond to in writing?

I'm seeing Susan nod, yeah. Bob?

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Yes.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Yeah, that's what we -- you know, if you're going to make a recommendation, make it as clear, precise as you can, and we will look at it, and we'll respond to it.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Okay, so that's helpful. Fernando?

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

And I think, of course, the question about funding, right, who's going to ante up the money that it would take to produce this? We don't even have an idea what amount of money we're looking at.

But whatever the cost may be, I think it's important that we look at it through, what lens will this video be perceived? I think the -- I can see, obviously, importance

to OAH. So, is there a budget that they may have that can say, well, to disseminate information, which is part of maybe their mission objectives, then yes.

I see Katie Hornberger here, and her responsibilities of the agency as, like, the ombudsperson's office, I think would also align with getting the information out so that it can help people as they experience engaging regional center and the service delivery.

And also, know that we have a department of -- that's under the chief equity officer, and that department also, I think, would have a vested interest in disseminating this type of information and the type of input that it can have.

So, those are opportunities that could maybe come together or separately or however which way that can say, hey, we see the value, and maybe we can help support it.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Fernando. And before I take Jennifer's hand, I see from Otto Lana, "will RC or DDS even show it just because we think it's a good idea? If they don't, it's a waste of time."

So, appreciate that, which I think Otto speaks again to my wondering out loud if maybe there's a recommendation that might be generated here that is just helping to move through those questions and steps to OAH, you know, such as, like, the desire to have a video and some information back from OAH of, you know, feasibility.

Again, this is just humbly me brainstorming out loud, but so with that, I'll pause and turn to Jennifer Cummings for your comment.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Thank you. I was just going to add that the production of the video, I believe, could be done at -- you know, in a cost-effective way. I've seen a variety of different training videos online be as simple as a PowerPoint presentation with some visual, with individuals speaking and providing the information, and that can be translated, the -- any text on the screen, and the audio can be translated.

I've seen individuals being filmed in a video where they're, you know, roleplaying a hearing scenario. I've seen judges on camera, administrative law judges, who would be providing information. I think there's a number of ways to do it, and it could be just as simple as a PowerPoint presentation with the -- with the content that's important and in plain language, and then also translated.

So, the recommendation would be for, you know, OAH to consider the idea, and then perhaps consider how it may be done in a cost-effective way.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Jennifer, thank you for sharing that, and again, starting to put some words to what this might look like. And I want to turn back to a comment from Otto Lana. "SDRC is creating training videos relating to AAC users and clients' service coordinator's interactions. I am part of that training videos." So, some -- you know, Otto himself is part of a process right now in developing a training video.

Okay, Fernando?

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Yeah. You know, I think that there's more questions than answers at this point, but I think that it's definitely a very viable recommendation, and I want to come back to what Maryjosphine had recommended earlier, that the Committee consider creating, similar to what we did with the Regional Center's role in the -- in the appeals process, a subcommittee, if you will, that can help field all these questions, look deeper into it, and then be able to provide more information.

And of course that will be helpful to OAH and any other stakeholder who may be part of that production part, and to better understanding what is it that we're dealing with.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Fernando. And just to be clear, Advisory Committee member, Jeanette Picasso-Arguello is at the meeting site, and so Josephine -- Maryjosphine Norrington's name is there because she is managing the room.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Oh.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Just so we're clear, it's coming from Jeanette, and I see Jeanette's hand, so I think what we're -- what I'm starting to hear is there's one thought sort of being generated that I thought I was hearing from Jennifer that might be sort of recommendation to OAH to get some initial -- to make recommendation about this concept and request certain feedback.

I'm hearing another possible concept for a motion that is recommending to create a subcommittee to explore this further and bring more information back to the Committee, as I understand it, and then to OAH. So, kind of different flavors here of how to move this forward.

And so, with that, Jeanette, please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Again, as a parent, but also as an advocate in my community, there is a need. I would love to make a motion to open up to the Board to make a recommendation to start a subcommittee.

I would also like to participate in that subcommittee and work together with any regional center that would like to have that assistance. More importantly, it's never going to be effective to chime in on what Mr. -- what one of our members made a comment.

It's never going to add up, and consumers are not going to be taking the advantage of the information that's there unless if it's known to them, and then my experience has been if it's not written as an independent personal goal or person-centered plan goal or advocacy, an introduction working together from young age to adult and even after, it kind of falls on the way -- on the -- it just falls.

It's not heard, and the consumer feels their voices can't be heard, regardless if they have a speech and language impairment or a language barrier. So, I -- again, I would love to open up to make a motion as a committee member to ask OAH and take a vote to open a subcommittee to get further information and meet so that it could be then placed for a vote at a future time.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, Jeanette, thank you for that. I want to pause and acknowledge that Advisory Committee member, Nina Spiegelman, joined us sometime ago, Nina, welcome.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPIEGELMAN:

Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Glad you're here. And so, Jeanette, I hear you formulating a motion. Just to also catch you up to speed, you may already be familiar with some of the parameters around subcommittees in this -- there's -- public bodies like this are subjected to.

We'd be looking at a subcommittee of no more than two Advisory Committee members to move that process forward as we've had one other subcommittee formed for this advisory committee.

I want -- I see Maria's hand. I want to -- I guess I sort of want to ask a process question and may need OAH's help with this in terms of a vote. I think I'm hearing Jeanette formally make a motion.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Correct.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And so, Jeanette, it -- could you -- could you say one more time the motion you're making? Because we need to sort of have it on record.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Is it open?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yes, go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Okay. I, Jeanette Picasso, hereby make a motion to take a vote by committee -- by all members present at this -- since we have quorum, to make a recommendation to appoint a subcommittee to address all questions and concerns unanswered to then put it before the Board for a vote, and then have OH -- OAH give us a response to then find whether or not anything financially or whatever needs to be done later.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And Jeanette, when you mentioned to a subcommittee to address questions and concerns, is that in regard to developing a video regarding -- to educate claimants regarding the hearing procedure?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I thank you for asking me that question. I don't know at this point in time. I'm just one person. I'm not representing everybody, and I want to make sure that we're doing our due diligence to those that are -- we're here to represent and aid, so if it requires a survey, if it requires collecting data, if it requires reviewing how many OAH complaints and reviews and hearings have been held, perhaps a subcommittee member can give that information to see how it would be more cost-effective and more -- have more advantages to the consumers moving forward so that resources -- so it doesn't -- so it doesn't end in -- my goal would be finding solutions in order to stop inundating hearing dates and hearing processes.

And so, I think a subcommittee member knowing how to read data, having the fiduciary duties to do that, can actually get that information, and then we'll know, you know? We have 78 percent of complaints and appeals being done in Spanish, then perhaps we should be making more efforts to allocate for Spanish.

If it's more ASL, then we should also make videos in ASL. If it's more Mandarin, Farsi, or any other language, we don't know that right now. So, I -- again, I think those are some of the questions. And perhaps a survey to consumers. I don't know.

I think when we get together as a subcommittee, we can then best decide that, given our responsibility to represent and holding, you know, our duties to this Board. I hope I made sense.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And I'm just trying to make sure I'm following, so that -- because what we would ask next is if someone would second your motion, and then there would be discussion, then we would invite public comment, and then we would take a vote.

And so, just so there's clarity all along the way, and that was initially raise was contemplating a recommendation of developing a video to educate claimants around the hearing procedure. I just want to clarify. I think I'm hearing your motion be that a motion to appoint a subcommittee of this committee to address questions and concerns.

And could you say about the hearing and mediation process?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

No.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I apologize if --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

My apologies, too.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I think a subcommittee outside of these -- of this hearing or future hearings, because we have other things, too, on the agenda, and be more efficient. Maybe the subcommittee can do the legwork to gather information regarding what type of video and what is out there and what isn't out there, and also discuss that already offsite before the next meeting with Inland Regional Center -- I'm sorry, not Inland. With any regional center, as well as with OAH, because there are all already some videos out there.

More importantly, see where the deficiencies were, and more important, if we really want checks and balances and transparencies, perhaps as a subcommittee, we can make recommendations that regional centers can adopt to incorporate as an independent or person-centered plan goal for those individuals that we see are already utilizing OAH either in the LEA, in the local educational sector when they're filing and/or against their regional centers.

So, again, there's a lot of unanswered questions. I would like, again, make a motion that we take a vote that we open it up to a subcommittee to take those, and then for us, as committee members, maybe if we have concerns and questions, to reach out to those two designated subcommittee members to discuss and review and investigation, and then maybe in the future, open to another open discussion and/or vote, because of, again, questions of financial -- it might already be covered under the Lanterman Act.

I know that there is under another thing on the agenda, so that's what I'm saying. It's a lot of -- I think a subcommittee can have those answers so that if and when we have questions, it could already be addressed.

It's a great idea. It is needed. I, as a parent, know that it is needed. As a advocate for my consumers or that I am a parent of, it is needed. As an advocate for consumers that I am appointed as a conservator, it is needed. So, there is --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Jeanette.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

-- need. That's what I'm --

(Indiscernible crosstalk).

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, so to make it a concise motion, again, let me play -- I mean, I would imagine keeping this pretty brief, and I'm going to play this back to you to ask or a second, is that you're making a motion to appoint a subcommittee of this committee to do the legwork on the facets of the video to educate claimants on the hearing procedure that you would bring back to this committee for a vote.

So, to have a subcommittee research and --

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Inaudible) --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- bring back to this committee recommendations on aspects of the video to develop.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Correct.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Forgive me that I wasn't all that efficient in my description. Susan?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yeah, I just -- I was thinking about how perhaps to word this. So, I'm going to throw this out and maybe you tweak it as necessary, that this is a motion to appoint a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to research and consider what is needed to create a video or videos or distribute existing videos about the hearing and mediation process.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And Jeanette, are you comfortable with that as a characterization of your motion?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I would only add, and/or other unmet needs, because it could be that the information is just not clearly being -- again, no judgement on any specific regional centers, but it's interesting to me as a parent how some information is so accessible at other regional centers other than the regional center that is assigned for the consumer that I'm trying to assist.

And it should be -- it should be transparency whatsoever. And sometimes, if we can -- as a -- if there is a subcommittee, and if somebody does open it, there might be

other ailments that, hey, it's already there. We just need to disclose that information to one another. And maybe that would be a recommendation.

So, it's not just the video. It could be recommendations to facilitate and bridge the gap towards consumer rights, you know, and using and accessing OAH to get that determination that needs and to fulfill those needs that are being unmet.

So, I would just add other, because it could be that the subcommittee determines that it's not so much that a video would be sufficient; it might actually need a designated POS with a Spanish interpreter to interpret the information, or might be a POS to an educational rights or a -- you know, a referral to DD -- I -- again, we won't know that until we discuss as a subcommittee, I would think, what has been the threshold or the problems in navigating OAH at this time.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. So, I'll just add one more piece to this again, and then we'll be looking for a second to that motion. I do appreciate that Maria and Fernando have their hands up, just in terms of making sure I do this process correctly.

It's a motion for a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to research and consider what is needed in a video or videos or distribution of videos regarding the mediation and hearing process and/or other possible recommendations to support consumers in the hearing and mediation process.

Does that same fair, Jeanette?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Yes.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, wonderful.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

And as committee members, I want you to understand. I can only share my experiences as a parent, my experiences as a conservator appointed by court, and also as a -- as somebody just trying to get information in navigating just the internet.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. No, I appreciate that. I do want to make sure that -- I know many want to contribute to this conversation, too. I also just want to note so that others can hear what Otto has contributed.

"If PowerPoints were effective for demonstrating scenarios, we would not need a video. If we do this, it should be people acting in roles of what it looks like. Is the subcommittee for a video, first and foremost? What is the focus of this subcommittee? It seems too broad now."

So, thank you, Otto. Okay, I would like to ask if there is someone here who seconds this motion, which would then trigger discussion. Is there someone who seconds this motion?

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

I was going to ask, see if we can make an amendment to the motion, but if you like, I can wait until there is a second, then we can amend it then.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Do I hear a second to Jeanette's motion? Okay, I don't hear a second, so what I'd like to do is look to Maria's hand. It was up first. And then Fernando, and we'll continue working through this to see where we can find support to further contemplate a recommendation. So, Maria?

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Thank you. My head is spinning. So, it sounds like a very daunting task for a subcommittee of only two people, which is what we're allowed to have. And I think about, you know, the use of our resources and what we're going to do, you know, moving forward, where we want to put our focus.

I mean, Fernando and Dr. Weller have put a lot of energy into very important things. Is that where we want to focus our attention? Is this where we want to? I really like Jennifer's recommendation of going back to OAH and saying, well, what's the feasibility of this?

Not only OAH, but DDS, because at the end of the day, you know, DDS is involved. And if they say, well, you know, yeah, we do have some funding, and we're interested in, you know, like, what it would look like, then we could think about a subcommittee, but it just -- it -- yeah.

And I don't know, Karin, how to do this, because if a committee member is not -- when someone votes -- this is just a procedural question, because I don't know. So, if there's a motion and a second on something where a subcommittee is going to be formed and you're not in agreement, do you just abstain? Is that what you do?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Well, so we are -- we take -- we take a vote after there's been -- a motion needs to be seconded to then have --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Right.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- it advance to discussion, then we invite --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Right.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- public comment, and then there's a vote. And at that vote, if a majority of the attending committee members approve it, it moves forward. So, there'd be either support or opposition as an abstention are your three options. So, I think --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Okay.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- without hearing a second, I think we're back to contemplating, are there other motions on the table? And I -- my thought is maybe to -- now that, Marie, you sort of -- you sort of surfaced some of the things you're thinking, I wonder if we

turning to Fernando, and then -- and then ask if someone has a different motion along -- again, whether it's you, Marie, or someone else along the lines you're talking about.

So, Fernando, please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Thank you. I definitely think we're in the right path. I just think that maybe to some degree we're overthinking it, and then of course, we don't want to oversimplify it.

So, somewhere in the middle, it is, I think, the right answer. The subcommittee that we currently have with Dr. Weller and myself is, in my opinion, evergreen. The fact that we both still are on the committee, we're able to continue to work on the appeals process for the regional center's involvement, so it's continuous.

And I think a subcommittee like this one that we're discussing would be similar. So, instead of just focused on a video and not being too broad of saying all this other collateral material types, why don't we refer to it as an awareness campaign centered on a video, or a series of videos and whatever the committee decides?

So, I believe that if we can agree to a subcommittee and we agree to an awareness campaign centered on a video, that gives this subcommittee the ability to capture the different elements and conversations, and then come back to the committee, and we can, you know, look at it and vote on it.

So, I would like to make a motion, Karin, if appropriate at this point, that we do move forward with a subcommittee that would look at an awareness campaign centered on a video.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

To look at an awareness campaign centered on a video?

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

On a video campaign.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO:

(Speaking Spanish).

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

(Inaudible) campaign centered on (inaudible) --

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO:

(Speaking Spanish).

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, so we're hearing -- I'm hearing Fernando Gomez has just made a motion to appoint a subcommittee to look at an awareness campaign centered on a video, and I'm wondering if there's someone who seconds that motion. Okay. Jeanette?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

We're still in discussion, correct? Because --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Well, I'm --

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

-- (inaudible) --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- asking if -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

-- if we're taking a vote.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

We're not taking a vote right now.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Okay.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Looking for someone to second Fernando Gomez's motion.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I'll second it.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Oh, Jeanette, you second his motion?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I'll second it; however, when we open up for discussion, I just don't want to confuse it. I think there is a need. I think as one -- I would like to second it, but when we open it up for discussion regarding a vote and an appointing, if I could be allocated one minute so that I can voice my opinion and my experience.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Jeanette. Of course. So, this motion is to establish a subcommittee to look at an awareness campaign centered on a video. And Jeanette Picasso-Arguello has seconded that motion, and now we open it up for discussion.

Are there committee members who'd like to speak to -- sorry, Jeanette, absolutely I see your hand. Just one moment. Just also if others could raise their hands as well in regard to concerns you have about this, support you have about this, and then we'll open it up to public comment and take a vote.

So, I do -- in terms of diversity of voices, I would love to hear from Jennifer Cummings, and then back to Jeanette. Jennifer?

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Hi. Thank you. I can support a subcommittee to dive into this deeper, but I think that a vote at -- on this motion at this time would be premature. I think that we do need to find out if OAH can first consider a -- the development of a video and whether it's feasible before we form a subcommittee to start planning more detailed recommendations around it.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Jennifer. I appreciate that. Jeanette?

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

So, Jennifer, Ms. Cummings, as it's listed on the agenda, it says, "whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that OAH develop a brief video for claimants about the hearing procedure."

This has been my difficulty in understanding and navigating and utilizing OAH. What is -- what is offered in writing leads to different interpretations, and it's not always what is understood, especially by any consumer directly affected and needing to access OAH.

So, I think there is a need for some individuals and some consumers, and also those that are not represented and not understanding, or those that have language barriers and/or communication barriers, and also those that suffer from mental illnesses and anxiety disorders and others.

It's so many unknowns. For a video to frontload individuals is instrumental in diffusing in order to be able to access and litigate, to have their rights known and heard in any process. However, there's a huge gap from facilitating and utilizing it, more importantly because there's no early intervention and no early -- in my experience as a parent, for the bridge to support a consumer before the age of maturity to access that information and/or limit it and understanding their rights in every process.

And then, as an adult, once they are conserved, it's very difficult since there's no script to guide them and understand with, yes, there's laws. If I was to walk over to

any one of my children or the people that I -- that I am their conservator, and I say, here's the Lanterman Act, these are your rights, let me explain to you, it's very difficult and time-consuming, and sometimes it's, you know, my points.

So, I --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Jeanette, I want to make sure we hear from Advisory Committee (inaudible) --

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

All right. And that's why I said just one minute. And it's because I think, yes, there's a need for a video, but I think ultimately, as a subcommittee, or a subcommittee can maybe decipher what would be the appropriate -- maybe training or camp or litigate, you know -- you know, things that can be done, and videos can be implemented, yes, to inform.

And so, that's what I'm -- that's why I think there is a need for a subcommittee to then the Board can make that determination, get all those unanswered questions, hear from other people, maybe survey and reach out to your own consumers in your own area, your friends and what have you, and then come back to the subcommittee with those questions and concerns so that we can have more answers moving forward.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Jeanette. I want to hear from Nina Spiegelman who's had her hand up, and then Maria and Antony.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPIEGELMAN:

Okay. And I so apologize, I, you know, missed stuff first chunk of the meeting, but I -- I'm trying to put together the drift here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yeah.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPIEGELMAN:

But I -- I'm hearing the -- Fernando's motion on it. I love the idea of an awareness campaign, and to me, you know, a subcommittee looking into that. And I agree with Maria. You know, we still don't know the ins and outs and the -- and the constraints involved with this subcommittee process in this -- in this setting.

It's not -- it's not easy, but I was really thinking. What got me, I don't know, just wrapped a little bit around this idea is flowing from the work of Fernando and Jesse Weller the -- that document. It seems to me like putting that together, looking -- using that almost as a vehicle for, like, what would an awareness campaign try to focus on?

You know, to the extent that it is raising, like, areas of, you know, just confusion and fear and, you know, issues that families are experiencing, maybe there's a way to combine, like, an awareness campaign -- well, ultimately, you know, I think a video is a fantastic idea, or you know -- or you know, some device like that.

But anyway, I was hoping that there's a way to maybe, I don't know, combine these efforts a little bit, but I do think the idea of an awareness campaign based on the

work already done of the areas that we have already identified as some of the -- you know, the most challenging areas for a family.

So, I was just going to add that as a possibility, but I do understand, like, the need to try to get at what we can do, like, with the subcommittee process as well. So, thanks.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Nina. I'm appreciating I had committed to a break at 2:10, which is in two minutes, so I'm hoping we can still hear from Maria and Antony before we take the break. Maria?

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Thank you. There's no doubt, no doubt whatsoever that this information is really important to consumers and families. So, I want to make that clear, but I do -- I do stand by Jennifer's comments about what is -- like, we need to know from OAH the feasibility of doing something like this, because what would be the sense of having a subcommittee do all this work and then OAH say, oh, we don't have the funding? We can't -- no, no can do.

So, I would rather hear from OAH first, and then perhaps put together a subcommittee. And so, I just -- I just -- that's my opinion, and I'll let, I guess, the next speaker --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Antony.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

-- go ahead.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

All right. Thanks, Maria. Antony, please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Ah, thank you. I was noticing -- was Maryjo there that was saying that it's difficult to show clients their overall rights under the Lanterman Act? And I was wondering, did you ever see a poster that was designed by -- I apologize. Let me -- I just minimized. There we go.

The rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. There's a -- it's a poster I've seen in every group home I've ever gone to. And it's a 22 -- it has 22 short paragraphs of describing the rights according to the Lanterman Act.

So, while you have that large binder, I noticed, but one piece of paper may be enough just to get a client interested, if they're able to read properly, or if anybody else, a parent or whoever, whomever, would like to get oriented.

This is not very detailed, but it does give a, you know, title to every section of concern for rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. If you -- if you've already seen this, I'm sorry, I apologize, but I just want to make sure you're aware of it. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Antony. And before we break, I do want to call out -- I see Jennifer's hand as well. I want to call out Otto Lana's comment. "Keep the subcommittee with one task, making an informational video. Nina knows my SDM video."

Jennifer, really briefly, perhaps, before we break.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

I'd like to move for a vote on this motion.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, wonderful. So, I think because I promised a break, we would take a break, and then we need to actually invite public comment, and then take the vote. So, when we come back, let's go ahead and be prepared to take public comment, and then ask for a vote. All right?

With that, we'll take -- let's take ten minutes and be back at 2:21. We'll see you then.

(OFF THE RECORD.)

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And as I mentioned before the break, the formal process to take something to a vote now includes inviting public comment on this motion, this agenda item. And again, by my read, the motion is to establish a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to look at an awareness campaign centered on a video.

So, I'm going to turn things over to OAH to describe the public comment period process that begins now. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right, everyone, so what we are going to do is first take the verbal, that is spoken public comment, then we'll take public comment in chat for those who need chat as an accommodation, then we'll read aloud any e-mailed comments on this agenda item.

And in all of the cases, you'll be given two minutes to make your comment. Judge Berg will let you know when you have 30 seconds left and when your time is up.

All right, so now we're going to take verbal comment. Please raise your verbal hand now if you want to make a verbal comment. When I call your name, you will receive a prompt to unmute.

The first person I am calling is Rocy Ceden. Please, unmute yourself and speak your comment.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Rocy, we see that you're unmuted in Zoom, but we can't hear you. Try again there.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Do they have to be promoted to panelist?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Okay.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, I think we're going to move to the next public comment. We'll keep Rocy Cedeno's hand up just in case. All right. I'm now going to call on Jaqueline M. Please unmute yourself and speak your comment.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. MURILLO:

Good afternoon. Can you hear me? Yes, can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. MURILLO:

Yes, thank you. I would like to make three public comments. My name is Jacqueline Murillo. I'm a mother of a young adult with autism in Orange County. I think those three points are very important to think how we can get to a fair hearing.

My comment will be that it's important that allow the parents or the caregiver of the client that is represented of the party's interest in here, regional centers, that they can deliver some documents that they can have in their own language.

Many times, the parents, they have letters, e-mails, that they send to their social coordinators and regional center. And to me, it is important as well that it should be delivered, basically in the office where it should -- many time, these parents, we are --

don't know or we do not know what -- about the technology, and we don't know how to download it to the system so the documents will be in the system.

It is important to have both, whether it be -- the documents be physically and in the electronically -- second point is --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. MURILLO:

-- we have divided designated supporting for the (inaudible) that they receive in the physical office. Number three, that it should be translated, the documents, in English. (Inaudible) submitted by the parent caregiver. It is important that that communication be translated into English by a high-qualified professional service.

And once the translation is completed --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's the time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. MURILLO:

-- I've attached (inaudible) manner. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Okay, I am going to call on Rocy Cedeno. Please unmute yourself and speak your comment. I am not hearing any comment. Okay, I'm going to go to

the next hand, but we'll keep your hand up just in case you're allowed to -- you're able to figure out how to get the sound going.

I'm going to call on Mireya C.. Please unmute yourself and state your comment.
I'm not hearing any comment.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Mireya, you're still muted on Zoom. Are you able to unmute? It would be a microphone icon in the bottom left-hand side of your screen.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. CEDENO:

It's on. Can you hear me now?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

This is Rocy Cedeno here that we're hearing, I believe.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. CEDENO:

Yes, thank you. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I would like to ask Kathy, what is the results regarding the investigation that they did on the Regional Center of Orange County. Several parents, the -- we presented with her directly.

Can you please answer, Ms. Kadey, Katie?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

So, this time is for public comment.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. CEDENO:

We've done several comments to Ms. Katie Hinder (phonetic), and we were in a meeting, and I want to know how they're going to resolve the problems that we have, the same thing with us, Regional Center of Orange County.

There are several problems, and there are very -- several families.

MS. HORNBERGER:

Ms. Ceden0, this particular meeting is for the Office of Administrative Hearings, and right now they're taking comments on one of their agenda items, so that needs to be the focus of these comments.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR MS. CEDENO:

Okay, can -- so, please tell me how -- are you just going to be empathetic with the families and listen to the parents that are representing the regional centers based on their needs? Can you please answer how you're going to help the parents?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, this -- you stated your comments, and we're going to move to the next public comment now. Thank you. All right, I am going to call on Miyera C. again. Please unmute yourself and state your comment.

You need to unmute yourself. It should be the little picture of the microphone that might have a line through it, and you need to click on that so that you can be heard.

Okay, I'm going to call on Shirlys, S-H-I-R-L-Y-S. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SHIRLYS:

(Speaking Spanish). Good afternoon everybody. Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SHIRLYS:

Yeah, very nice. Thank you so much for this meeting. Thank you again for this meeting. I really, really appreciate this workgroup for the effort they're making to better things and to listen to families.

It's very, very important for us to have this space, and I do have a question, according to the suggestion that was made. I believe it was made by Ms. Maria Iriarte and Fernando.

I understand your intention to promote a video. Well, first of all, I'd like to say I think it's a fantastic idea. Thank you so much for that idea. And I think it would be great to have a video like that, something that might help families understand processes a little bit better. In fact, if you could take them by the hand and help them out.

I personally received help from DRC. They took me by the hand and helped me, and I really appreciate that. But I will also recommend you to please think about what we could do in this particular process. For example, a subcommittee might be able to consider surveys. Ask families what would be best for them, what might be needed for them so that we can better service our families.

And I know, of course, that the judge has their perspective on what is important, but I really, really feel it's important to ask parents what they feel is best, and then, of course, to really, really consider reality, right, the reality of going through a process like this.

So, that's just my two cents. And again, thank you for all the work you're already doing.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, I'm going to call on Griselda Estrada. Please unmute yourself and state your comment.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ESTRADA:

Let's see. Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ESTRADA:

(Inaudible) good afternoon, everybody. My name is Griselda Estrada. I'm a mother of two adults who suffer from autism. Both receive services from Valley Mountain Regional Center.

So, what I'm concerned with is this matter about the video. The video, you know, it may just serve that one function, which is to educate or inform, which is -- which is great, but what about the justice aspect of it?

I really feel that justice is really not being met. The just -- the injustice, rather, is that we don't -- not necessarily that we don't know the process, but that the process itself is being respected by regional centers.

I really, really think that that's what this subcommittee should focus on, and make sure that there be justice in the process and that the justice be on the side of the families, right? I've gone to many hearings, and I've seen with my own two eyes that when it comes time for the judge to, for example, allow the regional center to speak or allow the family to speak, more time is given to the regional center to express themselves.

And at times, they just talk, I would say, even trivial matters as opposed to the families' actual needs, and that's where I feel there's an injustice, and that's what I am here to speak out against. It's just not fair when the regional center shows up with a -- with an attorney, and the family shows up with just the client and maybe a couple of parents who don't know anything about the law.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ESTRADA:

Who don't know anything about legality, don't know anything about the process. That itself is an injustice, an unjust process, but still, thank you for the work you're already doing, and I would love to hear more.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I'm going to call on Oscar Mercado. Please unmute yourself.

MR. MERCADO:

Good afternoon. Thank you for taking my comment. My name is Oscar Mercado, and I am a individual served by the regional center system, and I'm with the Integrated Community Collaborative.

In regards to what this committee has talked about, in regards to a video, I think it's a relatively great idea because of the fact that a lot of people are visual learners, and they learn through those means, through those processes.

And let's face it, we're in a virtual world now where a lot of things are accessible online and through video and multi-media presentation, and that's much easier to access for a lot of people, especially individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability, because it happens to be something visual.

So, I do support that for trainings. Another comment was for the establishment of a subcommittee. I just hope that if that subcommittee is going to be established, it doesn't end up being another bureaucratic process, because the last thing we need is something to go around in where we say we're having a good talk, but what are the action items?

So, if there's consistent action items and there's -- you know, there -- there's an agenda on the table and there's something present, so that way, it can work -- it can be worked on to benefit everybody in the community, I think that would be great.

Just a, you know, warning on that part that it doesn't end up being a bureaucratic process. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, I'm going to call on Elizabeth Barrios. Please unmute yourself.

MS. BARRIOS:

Hi. Good afternoon. The first thing I want to do is thank the committee here for the time that you take and for the work that you're doing. And I also have very similar comments to what you've already heard.

I think that a video is a -- is a great, great, great, you know, first step for families to engage in maybe understanding, but I do believe that the problems that families are having are not in really at the -- at that first level. They're deeper than that.

They're issues that are rooted in problems that are coming from way before that the new reform was supposed to have helped, and it hasn't changed. So, I also attend multiple hearings supporting and just as a circle of support with families, and I also have witnessed the struggles in how difficult the process is.

I'm here to tell you that even though I think a video would be great, I also would hope that if videos would be the way, that they would go into the actual barriers that families are experiencing.

We still see a system that sides with the regional center, that does not give families the opportunity to really be heard, that, you know -- that they attend informal meetings, and there's no one that can make a decision, they attend mediation, the mediator also cannot help them.

And in many ways, they -- because the regional center will not support the conversation, and then they go into a fair hearing where it becomes even a lot more --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

MS. BARRIOS:

-- difficult. So, I just want to say that the -- that the issues are a lot more than just the basics on -- that maybe a video would address. But thank you for giving us the opportunity to give our comments. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, I'm going to call next on Angelica Orellana. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ORELLANA:

Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ORELLANA:

My name is Angelica Orellana. I am a mother of a 18 year-old client for one of our regional centers. I also work with many clients as well, and I help them throughout these -- this process and these processes.

Thank you again to the committee for everything that you are intentioning (sic) to do, but I really feel that, as has already been mentioned, there are many other barriers that we need to address. There's so, so many that families -- that families have to face, in particular with this process.

And really when it comes to professionals, right, I really do feel that because there are professionals who come with regional center, I kind of feel that judges side with them maybe just because of the fact that they're professionals, right, and their words carry more weight.

So, we have to find a way for there to be a balance. How do we -- how do we balance, of course, that professionalism, but also with seeing what families need, right, what their needs are so they can really, really be heard.

We just need to find a way to strike a balance. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I'm calling on Lourdes next. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR LOURDES:

Yes, good afternoon. Thank you so much for giving us some space here to speak. I really appreciate it. I mean, I just -- I think that things are tough right now all around.

It is a tough time, but I guess what I'd like to comment is just the fact that, you know, these processes are just too, too frustrating. Not only frustrating, but there's a lot of lack of empathy. You know, lack of empathy, lack of understanding from the regional centers, from judges, even.

So, it's just so, so frustrating for us as parents, right? As parents, you know, we advocate for our children, for our children especially who have no voice to advocate for themselves. So, I don't know. I don't know what can be done or what needs to be done.

Perhaps, somebody who can oversee or supervise. I don't know, a video just might educate a parent, and that's great, but that's not the only need. I mean, it's -- the process itself is so bureaucratic, it's just devastating.

It's really not geared to help parents, let alone our children who have no voice to speak for themselves, so all I can ask is that this process become more accessible for our children who have no voice for themselves, and of course for our families, that families who -- no, we don't know, we don't know the process.

We don't know the process of what you do, so there just needs to be more empathy and more understanding. And a video, yes, can inform us and educate us. Thank you for that, but we really need more. We need more empathy, we need --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR LOURDES:

-- we don't -- we don't need this to be the only thing that's offered to us, I guess, is what I can say. Thank you so much.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Okay, I'm going to call next on Rubi Saldana, ICC Integradora. Please unmute yourself.

MS. SALDANA:

Yes, good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity. I just wanted to add that yeah, I have been repeating that I have been attending many hearings in many areas, and I think that something that will help, it's -- if we have a issue, exists some kind of a phone number that we should have access in time, in the real time to call someone to oversee the hearing, if we think that we are no having the respect that we think that we should have, or the hearing is going out of control, we should have a line to call and have someone to just oversee the hearing.

I think that that will help in real time, because right now, we don't have no one. If something is wrong and people is unrespectful in anything, we are alone. It should exist some -- something to call live and have someone at that time to oversee the hearing mediation or anything to have at least an other eyes to observe and oversee and can be as a witness.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

MS. SALDANA:

Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I just wanted to remind all of the Advisory Committee members that you should be leaving your camera on, unless you are having technically difficulties. And if you are having technically difficulties, you need to tell us so that that is part of the record.

All right, I'm going to call next on Liliana. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR LILIANA:

Hello, can you hear me? Good afternoon.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR LILIANA:

Yes, okay. So, for me, I mean, at the moment, I am actually going through a mediation process. What happens for me or the case for me is that I'm just so, so fearful to go to -- you know, to a hearing, right, to go to court.

I don't know. I'm just, like, filled with terror just thinking about it. There must be, and I'm sure there are other families who are afraid to go to court, right? Court itself just -- they don't act in a fair way, right?

I mean, we're not seeing any fair behavior, even when we try to do our best course with climate around us right now. And it's not just any other situation. I mean, specifically regional centers only deal with them. And what they're supposed to do in a course is to see what our families' needs are, right?

But to take us to court -- or for us to go to court, excuse me, it's not just because we need. We want to, right? We don't want to just go and cause problems. We need something. We're asking for our needs, so I think a judge should just be aware of that, that we're not there just because.

We don't want to cause problems. We need these provisions for our families, and that's why we're there. That was my whole comment. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I just wanted to note, it looks like we've lost one of our committee members, Michael Santiago. He's not online anymore, and again, I would like to remind Committee Member Benita Shaw to put your camera on. And if you are having technical difficulties, you need to say so. Thank you.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SHAW:

I'm here. I'm not having technical difficulties. Just realize that as committee members, we're also parents at the same time. I'm pretty sure you guys didn't want to see the half-nude young man behind me, so as soon as I get that taken care of, I'll be happy to turn my camera on.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, thank you. We'll consider that a technical difficulties.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SHAW:

Got it.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right. I'm going to call next on Lucero Lopez. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. LOPEZ:

Hello, good afternoon. Can you hear me all right?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. LOPEZ:

I'm a mother of three children with special needs in Redwood Coast Mendocino area. And I just want to -- I just want to say that we also face a lot of retaliation, right? We struggle to get our children's needs cared for.

I really don't understand why you don't focus more on community feedback, what we're experiencing, what our children see. And I understand you hear public comments all the time, and I'm sure you've heard our comments already about retaliation, so why not focus on that? Why not focus on the obstacles that the community's facing, our obstacles that our children are facing?

Maybe if we focus on that, we could actually create change to the system. We need more empathy, we need more feeling, care for our community so that we can actually see change. And we need to help our coordinators to see, too, what they can do to help families; not just perpetuate this injustice.

And a video would be great, but not enough, because injustice really isn't -- is -- the injustice isn't just the fact that we don't know the process well. The injustice is coming from regional centers who should be helping, and they don't.

And so, I just really hope that a comment like mine will just help bring to your attention what we're facing and maybe just help you feel a little bit more what we're -- what we're feeling. Thank you for hearing me out.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I'm going to call next on Letty. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR LETTY:

Excuse me. Hello, thank you for your time and to conduct this meeting and allow public comment. I believe there should be more intensive training in their -- in people's language. Families often struggle with the process from the beginning to the end and cannot -- I cannot imagine how difficult it must be for a person with a disability to navigate it.

There should be more legal guidance and support available, as we are not attorneys or lawyers. Because this process is challenging, families often lose their cases; not because there's no need. And I feel that this is unjust.

Additionally, it's crucial to gather feedback from the IDD community, as they understand the real challenges. Also, I want to echo Rubi Seldana's comment. Thank you very much.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I'm going to call next on Maria Lopez. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. LOPEZ:

Hello. Good afternoon. Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. And before anything, I just want to say thank you to all you committee members for meetings such as this, for this opportunity where we can offer our public comment.

And my comment would be the following. Well, I am a mother, a mother of an adult child with -- or excuse me, an adult with special needs. I'm also ICC coordinator. And I go to many, many of these hearings and many of these appeal hearings with families.

My comment would be that my observation has been, unfortunately, that the people who really, really need the training aren't just the families. Really it's regional center service coordinators. Even regional center staff. I would say even the judges who care for these hearings.

Unfortunately, what happens is you go to a hearing or mediation where you just see too, too much injustice. I would say even cruelty in the way that they speak. Everybody kind of just takes for granted the fact that -- or they just assume that parents are professionals, that they know about the law, that they know about legality, that they know about services, and that's not true.

It's not the case. And so, I invite this committee, please, before you create any additional help for parents, or excuse me, a video for parents, think about what you can provide for staff, for regional center, for those who work in this process, the coordinators, those who participate in the hearings.

Often times, they are not well-trained. Some of them do have empathy. You know, they are empathetic enough to go about a process like this, and we need that, but there also --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. LOPEZ:

-- needs to be training. So, that's my comment. Just wanted to say that. Thank you, everybody. Have a great afternoon.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Next, I'm going to call on Carmen Baca. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. BACA:

Good afternoon, everybody. Can you all hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. BACA:

Hey, thank you to this committee for your time. Thank you for taking time to listen to the community. I'm a mother of two clients who receive services from the Redwood Coast Regional Center.

And it's so, so hard. It's so hard for us when we go to these hearings when we're trying to advocate for our children's service -- services, for our loved ones' needs. There's retaliation going on against our families.

Our personal experience was terrible. The judge was obviously, very obviously on the regional center's side. And according to what we're hearing here from -- it seems like nothing's really changed. So, we need to know if this committee, first of all,

has the power to influence any type of positive change, especially for consumers, regional center consumers.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, thank you. Next, I'm going to call on GGRC-BCBA Sulma. Please unmute yourself.

MS. SULMA:

Hi. I'm actually here as a family member. I was -- I wanted to bring the lens of having been raised in a low socioeconomic background. And the circumstances around that definitely contributed to lack of access to services for some of my disabled family members.

So, I wanted to bring that perspective. I'm also bringing the perspective of somebody who chose to serve that same population as a regional center employee.

I do think that making things more accessible and providing that community education will enable families to feel like their side is being heard. I'm hearing a lot that, you know, the -- these hearings are -- judges, et cetera, are on the side of the regional center, but Lanterman Act is on the side of our individuals.

So, perhaps a video training series in plain language -- I know Office of Clients' Rights already has a lot of really great plain language stuff that could easily be turned into a video, audio, a video series or something like that where people can really have access to understanding Lanterman Act, because that really is what is going to empower --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

MS. SULMA:

-- individuals to access that information. So, I am in favor of the video series. I also just wanted to quickly say that it is not as difficult as some people might think. I'm part of CAPTAIN Autism Network.

We're currently working on making videos, and it's not costing anybody anything. I think regional centers would be happy to post links. They already post links to Office of Clients' Rights, and I think that video series --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Time.

MS. SULMA:

-- way to --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, you've -- I'm sorry.

MS. SULMA:

-- put it all together.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Your two minutes are over. All right. Next, I'm going to call on Monica. And I apologize, Monica, the little virtual hands got messed up. So, please unmute yourself and speak.

Monica, please unmute yourself. Thank you.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MONICA:

Okay good afternoon can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes, yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MONICA:

Okay, good afternoon. My name is Monica Rodriguez. Before all, I just want to say thank you so much for taking my comment, and also for everything that the committee is doing.

I'm a mother of a 15 year-old youngster with a non-verbal disability. It's very, very frustrating for us to go to these mediations. I think it's very interesting that you make a video, a training video.

I went to mediation for the very first time, and it was super-frustrating. The regional center representative already had a denial in hand. In fact, we lost three hours, three hours of valuable time just for them to give us a denial again.

They said, hey, we were already ready to tell you no, and they told us no, in fact. And we really need to humanize the process and help families to see. And just as a

parent mentioned a while ago, we need to really show the reality of what this process is.

It's so frustrating to go to these mediations where we know as parents we're already at a disadvantage. Why? Because the other side has, you know, attorneys or somebody to support them. Me, thank god somebody came with me, and it was -- I was accompanied by two fantastic representatives. They helped me tremendously, but still, it was so frustrating to not reach any accord.

And parents are always at a disfavor, and our children even more so. That's not fair. It's unjust. These videos need to include --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MONICA:

-- the reality of the frustration and stress that families have to go through as we go through this mediation process. That's my comment. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, thank you. I'm going to call on two more verbal comments, and then we're going to move to any chat comments and any e-mailed comments so that we can make sure that we can get more points of view.

All right, the next person I'm going to call on is iPhone. Please unmute yourself. iPhone, if you want to make any public comment, you need to unmute yourself.

Okay, I'm going to move next to Gabriela Alatorre. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ALATORRE:

Hello, good afternoon. My name is Gabriela Romero. I have a son who belongs to the regional center. And my comment, first of all, would be to say thank you.

I really, really hope that you're able to listen to the community voices. First thing that I would mention is that judges need to be well-trained. Just as you said, it's a great idea to train parents, but if a judge is not well-trained, then, you know, a parent will never be able to win, right, in the situation. There'll be no benefit to parent.

Also, I imagine that it would be very, very helpful if -- for example, let's just say -- let's say the regional center is going to a hearing -- I don't know. Let's just say, for example, let's say there's a hearing for five-hundred dollars' worth of classes. Wouldn't it be cheaper just to pay the five-hundred dollars' worth of classes than to spend on going to court and putting this family through this horrible process of making them suffer?

I mean, wouldn't it be more convenient to say such basic cases like, hey, one, two-hundred, three-hundred dollars? Maybe there could be a cap or a limit, or just say, hey, if it's under a certain amount, let's just not go through that process to begin with, because it's cheaper just to pay for the service.

I don't know, that's my opinion. Thank you for hearing me out.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, thank you. So, now we're going to move to the comments being provided in chat for those who need the accommodation. Anyone who had their hands up to provide verbal comments, please put your hand down now.

And for those of you who need chat as an accommodation to make a public comment, please raise your hand now, and I will promote you to a panelist. Accept the promotion and then enter your comments in chat and click on the error -- arrow to submit chat.

Again, if you had your hand up before for a verbal comment, put your hand down. Okay, I am going to promote Valerio to a panelist. You'll have two minutes to put your comments in the chat. Make sure you accept the promotion.

Remember to click on the arrow to submit your chat comment when you're finished entering it.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds. That is time.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. This is the comment that was entered in chat. "Hi, my name is Valerio Baca. I am the father to two clients of RCRC, and I believe the injustice is not that families or consumers do not know the process.

The process is in favor of the regional centers. Someone was saying that the Lanterman Act outlines the process, but no one follows the Lanterman Act."

Okay, thank you. All right, next, I'm going to have Rocy Cedeno enter comments in chat as an accommodation. I'm promoting you to a panelist, and you need to make sure to enter your comments into the chat and hit the arrow when you're done.

I'm sorry, it looks like something happened with the hands there. Now, the person who's showing next is Jacqueline M., so I'm going to promote you to a panelist so that you can enter your comments in the chat. And you need to accept the promotion.

Okay, it looks like Jacqueline M. already spoke, as did Rocy Ceden. Again, this is for people who need chat as an accommodation. I'm going to promoting Jane Sheen to panelist so that Jane Sheen can enter her comments in the chat.

Okay, we've got a chat that is in Korean, so we will need some help from our Korean interpreter once the comment is completed in chat. Judge Berg, let us know when the two minutes are done.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Yeah, I mean, I -- we can translate the -- that chat now, I think.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. So, again, we need the Korean interpreter to put the full translation into the chat so that I can read that aloud in English and the interpreters can interpret it.

Okay, this is what the comment said. "Questions for OAH. One, purpose of the law. Are the Lanterman Act and DDS guidelines meant to protect the authority of regional centers or to guarantee and safeguard the rights of individuals with disabilities?

Two, fairness of hearings. Why are speculative claims from regional centers accepted without evidence while evidence submitted by parents is sometimes ignored or even missing from the hearing process?

Three, judicial conduct. Why are parents reprimanded strictly for small mistakes while regional centers are not held to the same standard during hearings?

Four, APP issue. When parents file an appeal within the 30-day deadline, why do regional centers repeatedly fail to implement aid paid pending, APP? And why does OAH not require judges to verify APP complaint -- compliance at the start of every hearing?"

Okay, thank you. All right, we've got one more person requesting chat access for public comment. That's Usuario deZoom. I've now promoted you to panelist. Please enter your comments in the chat, and they will be read aloud.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

That is time.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right. And if I could ask the Spanish interpreters to put the English interpretation into the chat.

Okay, here's the interpretation. "My name is Lourdes. I participated in an informal meeting as well as a mediation with IRC; however, throughout the entire process, I felt that the judge favored the other party.

For this reason, I decided to withdraw my request. It was so draining to see the judge side entirely with the Inland Regional Center."

I believe that's the end of the message. We have one hand up from Jacqueline M. who I understand already provided public comment.

Karin, that is the end of the chat public comments. We have some written public comments. Did you want to move to the break first, or go ahead with the written public comments?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

If it's okay, let's go ahead and take the written public comments, if we could.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. I would ask Maryjosephine Norrington to read the public comments that were submitted in connection with this agenda item.

MS. NORRINGTON:

Okay. First written public comment for Nickolerenee Mensch from Bakersfield.

"I think that this is a good idea. It would help with consumers who cannot read. And with AI, I don't think that cost would be a big expense."

Next written public comment. "Good afternoon. My name is Cesilia Ortiz. My comment is that this informative video also includes a point aimed directly at the families and people served who participate in these hearings.

First, it should be clearly explained that many times, the judge does not have sufficient knowledge or the clients' rights or the self-determination program. This is fundamental because the decisions that are made must be based on a real understanding of our rights and how the program works.

Second, that it is recognized that the regional centers have the support of teams in hearings which puts the families and the persons served in a situation of inequality in these representations. This is what most frustrates families in their fair -- in the fair hearing -- in the fair audience not having the same level of knowledge and representation as the regional center.

Therefore, it is essential that this information is included in the video so that families know in advance the limitations they face and can seek support and preparation for before the audience. Thank you."

The next written comment, "it is very difficult for me to find a judge who has empathy. How can they help us if the translation is not appropriate? Thank you."

And --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Is that the end of the public comments provided in connection with this agenda item?

MS. NORRINGTON:

That is the end of the public comment, yes.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, thank you. Then at this time, we will take the promised final ten-minute break. When we come back, I will be asking for Advisory Committee members to vote. I will ask each person if they support, oppose, or abstain from the motion that's been made.

So, we will see you at 3:26.

Thank you so much.

(OFF THE RECORD.)

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, I welcome -- I welcome Advisory Committee members back with your cameras on, please. Let us know if you're having technical difficulties.

And I see Jennifer Cummings' hand. Jennifer, would like to take your comment. I just want to preview what would follow, which is that we -- we'll be taking a roll call vote on a motion that was made by Fernando Gomez and seconded by Jeanette Picasso-Arguello.

I'll state that motion in a moment. And I'm going to -- as I call on your name, if you could unmute, or if you're using chat as an accommodation, let us know if you support the motion, oppose the motion, or want to abstain all together, and so that we can see if the motion passes and the recommendation passes. And then, given the time, we'll be moving to general public comment.

Before I do that, Jennifer, I see your hand.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Yeah, I want to -- I want to make a motion to postpone the vote on the motion until the next meeting.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Wow, okay. I'm going to have to turn to my experts on this on whether --

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

(Inaudible) --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- so, obviously, with a motion, it'd have to be seconded, but just in terms of process, forgive me, I'm -- we may need to -- we may need to take the vote first before we can hear your motion.

Do I have a ALJ expert who can speak to that?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

My thought is that we have a motion pending, and it needs to have a vote, unless the person who submitted the motion withdraws the motion.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

I believe that in parliamentary procedure, that's subsidiary motions that can be made while a motion is pending, and this is one of them.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Wow, that's --

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

And I could provide reasoning if needed, if asked.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Well, how about this? Jennifer, why -- I also want to appreciate that we have a commitment to the general public comment period, so if I could just ask everyone to keep all of their comments very, very brief.

I'm wondering if, Jennifer, you could explain your reasoning, Maria could speak, and then I think I want to then give Fernando an opportunity to see if that changes his thoughts about his initial motion.

Before I do that, I am going to note that Otto Lana and William Del Rosario have asked to repeat the motion. And so, as I restate it to confirm with Fernando, and Jeanette then seconded, it was to establish a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee that will look at an awareness campaign centered on a video.

Okay. So, very briefly, Maria, did -- you had your hand raised?

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

I want to understand the reasoning behind what Jennifer just recommended.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Great. Jennifer, please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

I'd like to give the committee the opportunity to consider another motion. Alternatively, I can ask to amend the motion.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, well, I wonder if for expediency, and unless someone objects in terms of process, I wonder if you might just want to offer a proposed amendment to the motion for Fernando to entertain. Would that work?

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

I'd like to-- Shall I go ahead and do that?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I think -- I think that would be great.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Okay. So, I would like to strike the formation of a subcommittee and move for the committee's recommendation to OAH to develop the informational video for claimants and the public about the appeals procedure, if it is feasible, with the potential for further input from the committee.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, if I'm understanding you right, you're suggesting to Fernando to make the first motion that he might consider that as his amended motion?

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Yes, I would be agreeable to that.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Could you --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

I'm sorry. This needs to be repeated. I --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

That's just what I was going to ask. Yes. If --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

I can't -- I can't -- I didn't capture everything.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Well, I would -- if we're looking at amending a motion, I would move to amend the pending motion by striking the formation of a subcommittee and moving to postpone -- I'm sorry. Moving for the committee's recommendation to OAH to develop an informational video for claimants and the public about the appeals procedure, if it is feasible, with the potential for further input from the Advisory Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Just to clarify, Jennifer, it would be to -- or just repeat back, but to amend the motion to recommend to OAH to develop an informational video for claimants and the public about the hearing procedure, seeking from OAH if that's considered feasible, and that you -- and that you're recommending further input from the committee if it is feasible.

Am I translating that back correctly?

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Yes, with the exception of I amended -- in the agenda, it referred to the hearing procedure, but I'd like it to say appeals procedure.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Thank you. So, Fernando, I'm going to turn to you, and again, forgive me. I'm not an expert on the formalities of this process, but wondering if -- what your thoughts are on that, suggesting that amendment to your motion.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Yeah. Yeah, I'm -- to be honest with you, I'm very confused here. You know, we spent over two and a half hours on this issue already. And honestly, I'm not hearing anything that's vastly different than what was already the motion and seconded.

And I think that what I did hear are already applied in the original motion, so at this point, I would ask that we continue with the original motion and (inaudible) go into a voting.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Fernando. I think, given the time, that's the most straightforward thing to do to complete this process we've been through this afternoon. Sylvia, want to invite a brief comment from you, and then I think we should go to a roll call vote.

COMMITTEE MEMBER YEH:

Yeah, I just want to second what Fernando just said. We spent two and a half hours, and I don't know if we extend it next time, it will make any progress on that.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Okay. Appreciate everyone's, again, input on this, and certainly I think we heard a lot of support from the committee around an interest in a video. It's really this recommendation about how to get there, and that's really the motion that's on the table.

So, again, I'd like to -- I'm just going to repeat the motion, and then I'm going to be taking a roll call vote, asking each member when I call on you to say support, oppose, or abstain, okay?

So, to repeat it, to establish a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee that will look at an awareness campaign centered on a video. And I'll ask for every Advisory Committee member to vote, and I'll acknowledge if a member is absent.

Okay, so in alphabetical order by last name, Reina Canale.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CANALE:

I support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support. Jennifer Cummings.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

No.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No, oppose. Okay. William Del Rosario.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DEL ROSARIO:

I support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. William supports. Darlene Dupree is absent. Fernando Gomez.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMEZ:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support. Maria Iriarte?

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

No.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No, oppose. Sherry Johnson.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHNSON:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support from Sherry Johnson. Taleen Khatchadourian. Do we still have Taleen?
I don't see Taleen. So, Taleen is not here to take a vote.

Otto Lana. Support.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

He says, "support."

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Carola Camacho Maranon.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARANON:

No.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No. Opposes. Antony Charles Marron.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARANON:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support. Jeanette Picasso-Arguello. Jeanette, I couldn't hear.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

I apologize.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No, that's okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PICASSO-ARGUELLO:

Jeanette Picasso-Arguello support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. I understand Jessica Quesada is absent. Just confirming Michael Santiago is not in attendance at this point. Benita Shaw?

COMMITTEE MEMBER SHAW:

No.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No. Benita opposes. Nina Spiegelman.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPIEGELMAN:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support from Nina. Robert Taylor could not be here today. Aini Tjauw?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TJAUW:

Abstain. Abstain.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Abstain, thank you. I'm so sorry. Couldn't grasp it. Jesse Weller?

COMMITTEE MEMBER WELLER:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support. And Sylvia Yeh?

COMMITTEE MEMBER YEH:

Support.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Support. One, two, three, four, six, ten. I'm counting more than -- more than a simple majority of support, so just confirming with folks from OAH that were tracking with me. My understanding --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- is the recommendation passed.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

That's correct.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Thank you. Okay. So, the recommendation passes. At this point, we need to move to general public comment. And so, again, between now and the November 13th Advisory Committee meeting, committee members will be invited to submit additional agenda items, and those that we could not address today will be included on the agenda.

So, thank you all so much for your time today, and we'll move to general public comment.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right. So, as before, we're going to start with verbal, spoken public comment. And I will be calling on you one by one after you raise your virtual hand, and you'll be given two minutes to make your comment after you unmute.

All right, the first person is Jacqueline M. Remember to unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. M.:

Thank you, good afternoon. So, my comment would be -- would be really discuss how we can better these webinars. At times, we hear, right, the community voice specifically when it comes to fair hearings.

And if we're talking about fair hearings, I think it'd be fair for the Advisory Committee, whoever is going to give recommendations to OAH, I think they should hear us in a fair way, too. So, I would say opening public comment, let's just say in real time, right?

Real time public comment in writing, perhaps through the chat so that people can express themselves regarding this. I think that's important. And of course, basically, just give them enough time to express themselves.

I would also like to express my opinion that perhaps a two-minute comment is a little too short. Three minutes just might be a little bit better. And I say it's just important to see how we can better these webinars to make sure that the committee, the Advisory Committee, can really hear from us and understand what our perspective is.

And if you're trying to better the process, then you be better prepared if you hear us so that you can then go and actually advise as well as of course you're called an advisory committee so that you can better advise the Office of Administrative Hearings.

So, that's my two cents. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Next, I'm calling on Claudia Rivera. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. RIVERA:

Yes, good afternoon. So, my recommendation would be -- would be that there be a department or somewhere where we could go with our complaints against judges. Often times, we feel that judges just kind of arbitrarily side with regional centers.

Remember, that we are just parents. We're advocating for our children, but we're not lawyers. Regional center, of course, they've got years of experience, and they've got lawyers, and it kind of feels like the judge tends to side with them or is most inclined to hear from them.

So, I think it's really important for us to have someone that we can go to, maybe a department, to where we could go and present our complaints, and maybe even share what our case is about, right, specifics about our case and have an impartial ear that can listen and help. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Next, I'm calling on Cesilia Ortiz Barajas IF. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

Yes, good afternoon. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to comment today. My opinion on this would be that yes, we do need a type of complaint department.

It's so, so frustrating going to one of these hearings. And there's a lot of -- a lot of frustrations, but not just that. We, the family, don't have the specialized knowledge that regional centers have, so that's kind of a disadvantage for us already.

So, I would really like to ask you as an advisory committee to think about this advantage and see what can be done about it, and then really make an effort to create equity for families. Of course, regional centers, even though let's just say they go to a meeting without a lawyer, if a family doesn't go with a lawyer, then we're still at a disadvantage.

You know, I think regional centers have a team, a specialized team from what I've heard, that really is against the family, right, because the supervisor doesn't speak right, the coordinator doesn't speak. It's the specialized representative that speaks.

And really, there needs to be a process for us to be able to present our complaints or to address these inequalities and our concerns, especially since judges don't always know or they don't always have the knowledge.

And of course, we know that we're there to try to advocate for our families, but again, the injustice comes in the -- in the form that the regional center comes with all the backing that they need, and they're able to easily --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

-- easily convince the judge of their side, right, and the family is, for the most part, the one who's left losing the case. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Next, I'm calling on Shirlys. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SHIRLYS:

Good afternoon. Thank you so much for allowing me to give a public comment today. I would like to emphasize the barrier that comes with technology, right? Accessing this information via technology.

Many times, us as families, we need to -- we need to go and find help in many different advocacy agencies, right? And we are, you know, so, so busy taking care of our children's therapies, you know, the school district, or their medical necessities.

This itself is a barrier. Please, I would like you to realize that for some of us families, it's hard even just to access technology. For example, to upload documents on the portal, right?

I would really love this committee to consider, too, when it comes to videos or trainings, you know, really, really give some thought to that because I think it would be very important for families to be well-informed and well-trained.

So, that's my comment. Thank you for listening.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Next, I'm calling on Lisa Walker. Please unmute yourself.

MS. WALKER:

Good afternoon and thank you. Just want to give you my experience of OAH hearing that I have attended. I attended by myself because I didn't have any support. I was there for eight hours with the regional center. I'm just giving you the fact.

The regional center had the -- their contracted physician beck and call for whole eight hours. She was in and out. I did not have that access to or the money to have doctor who can come and advocate for my daughter.

So, from here, it's uneven playing field. How would regional center have the doctor on-call for eight hours during the whole hearing? So, it's already -- I'm lost on that legal appeal in which I did.

And also, I contacted DDS, and usually when I contacted DDS, they give us the link where we can get the information. When you are dealing with English as a second language learner, the interpreting law is very difficult, very cumbersome.

We did not need the link. We can find the link. We just need to talk to a person who can talk to us and give us input, give us information. That's all I'm asking for. And if all of us do not exist, if there is no -- our client consumer, without the regional --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

MS. WALKER:

-- consumer, we would not exist. And I would like everyone to say consumer first, right? We do only -- we don't have to be in this space if we don't have a consumer. We're here to advocate and support consumer.

If it is helping consumer, why not? If going to OHS hearing for 50 dollars, hundred dollars, two-hundred dollars, it's a waste of time. I don't think we should be going to hearing for this --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Time.

MS. WALKER:

-- minimal dollar amount.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, I'm sorry. Your time is up.

MS. WALKER:

Thank you. Thank you for listening.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Thank you. We're going to call next on Dora Contreras. Please unmute yourself.

MS. CONTRERAS:

Yes, thank you for the opportunity to give this comment. I think the previous person that spoke said it well. I don't think we're ever going to have -- we're ever going to have a level playing field until the parents, the consumers, the advocates are as well prepared as the regional center.

The regional center brings the big guns. We don't have big guns. Until we figure out creatively or somehow figure out how our families can go to a hearing and have representation that's equal or better to this system, it's never going to be a level playing field. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Next, I'm calling on Lulu A. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A.:

So, finally, you came to me, because you dropped my hand, I think, like, ten times, and I'd love to know who that was, so -- who lowered my hand. But really my point that I really want to make, point number two, since I already said that, is what we're asking for is empathy, right?

For example, for this chat, hey -- excuse me, for this committee. Why don't you open the chat? Why don't you open the chat so that we families can have an opportunity to give our public comment? Especially those, for example, who may not be able to comment because we don't have time to come around.

For some, it is very easily -- very easy, rather, to use that, the chat. So, number two, the Q&A function. Use the Q&A function as well. Third, let's have a Zoom

meeting where we can converse, where we can dialogue and discuss solutions to these problems that these -- that our families are facing.

And let's see. And number three again was --

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ:

Oh, this is the interpreter. I apologize. We lost audio for a moment.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A.:

Okay, we just -- we need representation. Often times, we go and the response is just no, no, no. Perhaps a family can be assigned an allotted budget so they can take representation if at all possible. That would be a tremendous help to them.

As everybody else has said before me, hey, we're already at a disadvantage because we can't afford to pay specialists, a doctor, or a lawyer to come and represent us, so we feel that this is incredibly necessary.

Third. Excuse me, fourth, we feel it's really important that the Office of Administrative Hearings understand this problem.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A.:

Recently, we asked for a judge to be replaced who was completely siding with regional center, and that change wasn't approved. We need those type of changes.

Third, we need there to be training. We of course, those of us who know just a little bit more of this, we know that there are some times, of course, you have zero idea of what the Lanterman Act is supposed to do or to make appropriate decisions for our families.

They often times don't know about self-determination, and they often don't even know about their family's medical needs or --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

-- necessities are, and what -- how important it is for our family. So, we ask that you please --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

-- provide more -- and so, we're asking -- we're asking that you please also allow us to upload our information in Spanish, and also to find out who's going to be responsible for translating our Spanish documents into English.

We need somebody to be responsible for that. You know, we often don't how to use --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

I think that -- that's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

-- and we don't know --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Stop it there. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I'm sorry, time is up. Thank you.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

Okay, thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Next, I'm calling on Rocy Cedeno. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CEDENO:

I would like to seed my time and allow it back to Lulu Aguilar. Please let her speak. I would like to give my time to Lulu Aguilar.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

She's already had an opportunity for public comment. Are there any other people who wish to make public comment verbally? All right, now, we're going to move to chat public comment for those who need chat as an accommodation.

If you need chat as an accommodation, please raise your hand, and if you don't need chat as an accommodation, please lower your hand. Okay. I'm going to promote Lourdes to a panelist. Please put your comments in the chat. You'll have two minutes.

While that is happening, I just wanted to note that Otto Lana put into the chat for panel members, saying, "I apologize, I have to log off now. Thank you."

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds. Time.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, please hit the little arrow in the chat so that the comments can be read aloud. I'm not seeing any comments having been entered in the chat.

Okay, I'm going to promote iPhone to a panelist, and iPhone should now enter their comments in the chat. Okay, it looks like the person who had asked to put their comments in the chat did not accept the panelist promotion, so I'm going to move to the next person, who is Karina Monje.

Please make sure to accept your panelist promotion, and then enter your comments in the chat. Okay, Ms. Monje wrote, "hello, everyone. I support and echo the comments of others who point out the unfairness of the hearings.

Parents and self-advocates should be informed, equipped and provided legal aid independent of the regional centers. If regional centers send their employees with legal representation, clients and advocates should also be sent with legal representation.

It is like sending a soldier to war with no weapons. It is a given failure for the client. Thank you for your time."

Okay, we have three more minutes. I think we're only going to be able to take one more chat comment, and we will have to post the e-mail comments that we received.

I'm going to promote Maribel to panelist. Please make sure to accept and enter your comments in the chat. Okay, Maribel is not accepting the invitation to promote. I'm going to move to Lourdes.

Please make sure to accept the invitation to promote to panelist and enter your comments in the chat.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR LOURDES:

Good afternoon. Good afternoon. I don't know if you can hear me.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

This is supposed to be for chat comments.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR LOURDES:

Yes, I was going to write, but I would like to make a comment that it is not very easy for me, so I do need time to write. So, I would like to mention, like other

mothers, that there should be options, that it shouldn't be a webinar; it should be a Zoom so we can communicate and express our needs and the needs of our children, what they're asking.

I do not know if it's being translated. And express our needs --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Okay, that should be time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR LOURDES:

-- for our children.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, that was the end of the time. That was a public comment from Lourdes that ended up being spoken. All right, we are at the end of our time.

MS. LOURDES:

(Speaking Spanish).

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER

I'm sorry, we're at the end of our time for this meeting.

SPANISH INTERPRETER SERRANO FOR LOURDES:

So, it would be Zoom, and it can be more accessible.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I'm sorry, we are at the end of our time for this meeting. Karin?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yes. Thanks, Susan. Thank you all again. And welcome, new Advisory Committee members and welcome back, other members. Thanks for your time today. We'll see you on November 13th for our next meeting. Have a great afternoon. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you, everyone.

(OFF THE RECORD.)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING CONCLUDED

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT

I, Nicholas Shupe, hereby certify that this transcript is a true, complete, and accurate transcription of the recording of the DDS Advisory Committee meeting that took place on August 14, 2025, Office of Administrative Hearings, via Zoom videoconference. This is the corrected original transcript and the statements that appear in this transcript were transcribed by me to the best of my ability. Executed under penalty of perjury in Sacramento, California on the 29th day of September, 2025.

Nicholas Shupe

Transcriber

Aberdeen Broadcast Services