

TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDED MEETING

OF

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Committee Members Present:

AINI TJAUW

ANTONY CHARLES MARRON

CAROLA CAMACHO MARANON

DARLINE DUPREE

JEANETTE PICASSO-ARGUELLO

JENNIFER CUMMINGS

MARIA IRIARTE

MARTY OMOTO

NINA SPIEGELMAN

REINA CANALE

SHERRY JOHNSON

SYLVIA YEH

WILLIAM DEL ROSARIO

OAH Staff Present:

ADAM BERG

BOB VARMA

MARYJOSEPHINE NORRINGTON

SUSAN FORMAKER

TZER LOR-SNYDER

DDS Staff Present:

DENISE THORNQUEST

IAN WILSON

KATIE HORNBERGER

SANDRA SANCHEZ

Facilitator:

KAREN BLOOMER

ASL Interpreters:

ELIZABETH VEGA

RICHARD HAFFNER

Spanish Interpreters:

MARC GUTIERREZ

MARIO PEREZ

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.

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Good afternoon. My name is Karin Bloomer, and I have the pleasure of facilitating this Advisory Committee meeting. I'm going to turn to our interpreters first

to explain how to access language channels for interpretation during this meeting.
Marc?

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ:

Thank you, Karin. Yes, we'll provide those language access instructions for the benefit of both Spanish and listen -- and English-listening audience. We'll do so in Spanish first. (Speaking Spanish).

And for those listening in English, please note, if there happens to be Spanish comment or a question, you can also listen to live interpretation of it by selecting the globe icon that will appear at the bottom of your screen in just a moment. It says "interpretation." And then select your language, English, and you'll be able to hear live rendering of that comment.

Thank you, Karin. Back to you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Great. Everyone, please select your preferred language channel now. Okay. Now, I'll review the other ways to participate in today's meeting. Go ahead and turn to the next slide, please.

Advisory Committee members, first to you. I want to remind us that the Open Meeting laws require that you have your cameras on at all times during the meeting. If you're having any technical difficulties with your camera, please let us know.

Also, committee members, please use the raise hand feature if you'd like to make a comment, and I will call on you. When I call on you, please remember to

unmute and state your name if you -- if you can. That will help us for members of the public who are attending and for our transcript.

We are -- so, still speaking to Advisory Committee members now. We're reserving the chat feature for use by one of our Advisory Committee members who has requested chat as their mode of communication.

And William Del Rosario, I see that you're here. Welcome. After you enter a comment into a chat, if you can remember to, it'd be great if you could raise your virtual hand, and that will help me notice that you have a comment, and I will read that aloud to everyone.

Okay. Next slide, please. Okay, so members of the public, here is how you will be able to provide public comment today. During the public comment period, if you want to make a verbal comment, please use the raise hand feature to let us know that you'd like to speak. We'll take speakers in the order that hands are raised.

If you're calling into this meeting and you want to make a verbal comment, please press *9 to raise your hand, then press *6 to unmute. Verbal commenters 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, oahacomment@dg.ca.gov. Written comments that are received during the meeting will be read aloud for up to two minutes.

If for some reason we're not able to read aloud a written comment received during the meeting, those comments will be posted on the Advisory Committee section of the OAH website. No other comments that are received before or after the

meeting will be read aloud or posted. And in order to enable as many comments as possible to be heard, we will not be reading e-mails aloud that repeat someone's verbal or chatted comments. Next slide, please.

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

Okay, that concludes how to participate in today's meeting. Now I'm going to go ahead and call -- conduct roll call. When I call on you, please let us know that you're present.

We do have a new Advisory Committee member here in attendance today, Marty Omoto. And so, Marty, I thought we'd start with you with roll call. And when you're ready, if you could just introduce yourself and say a little bit about who you're representing or your affiliation on this committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

I have a three-hour presentation. Is that okay? No, I'm just kidding. My name is Marty Omoto. I actually know a few of the committee members, the ones at least I can see. And I'm a -- for those of you who don't know me, I'm- a dad of a 33 year-old son. His name is Alex, and he has Down's syndrome, is on the spectrum, has behavioral health needs.

I'm saying these things because he has -- he publicly talks about his own disabilities, and he lives with me. We live together, actually. And I'm also the family

member, the younger brother of my older sister, Elana, who had developmental disabilities, was also on the spectrum. She had behavioral health needs. She passed away in 2003.

I point to her as being one of the main inspirations of why I became an advocate, you know, from the point of going to school with her in junior high school way back in 1966. So, I don't know if anybody's -- there's a few of you who were alive back then. And I saw the things that happened to her that should not have been happening throughout her life from that point forward.

And also an advocate, Disability Rights advocate, for the, you know, past 25, 30 years, and served on a lot of state-wide committees. And I'll just leave it there. And I appreciate being on this committee, appreciate the work of the committee, and especially a shout-out to the interpreters who are trying to keep up with me, the ASL as well as the language interpreters. You guys do awesome work. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Marty Omoto. Wonderful to have you on the Advisory Committee. Okay, so we'll continue on with roll call. And so, when I say your name, please unmute and let us know you're here. Reina Canale.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CANALE:

I'm present.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Reina Canale is present. Welcome. Jennifer Cummings.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CUMMINGS:

Hello. Here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Jennifer is here. Welcome. William Del Rosario.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DEL ROSARIO:

Here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

William, welcome. Darline Dupree?

COMMITTEE MEMBER DUPREE:

Here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hi, Darlene. Fernando Gomez. I believe he's ill and unable to attend. Okay.
Maria Iriarte.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Good afternoon, everyone. Present.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hi, Maria. Sherry Johnson.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHNSON:

Good afternoon. Present.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hey, Sherry. Taleen Khatchadourian. Believe she was unable to attend today, so just confirmed not here. Otto Lana, I understood, could not attend either but just confirming. Okay. Carola Camacho Maranon?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARANON:

Good afternoon. I'm here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hello.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARANON:

Hello.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Antony Charles Marron.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Here, present.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hello. Great to have you. Jeanette Picasso-Arguello. Okay, don't hear or see Jeanette. We'll keep our eyes peeled if she joins us. Jessica Quesada. Okay. Don't hear or see Jessica. Michael Santiago, don't believe, is among us. Okay.

Benita Shaw. Okay, no Benita at this point. Nina Spiegelman.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPIEGELMAN:

Present.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hey, Nina. Robert Taylor let us know he would not be able to attend. Just confirming. Yep, okay. Aini Tjauw?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TJAUW:

Oh, yes, I'm here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hello.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TJAUW:

Hi.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Jesse Weller, I understood, could not be with us today. And Sylvia Yeh?

COMMITTEE MEMBER YEH:

Present.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hi, Sylvia. Okay. All right, we're going to go ahead, and I just want to introduce some members of the Office of Administrative Hearings who are in attendance today. We have Bob Varma, the Deputy Director of the Office of Administrative Hearings, we have Susan Formaker, Chief Administrative Law Judge of the General Jurisdiction Division.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Good afternoon. I just wanted to mention I'm confirming that we do have a quorum.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Susan. All right, we have Adam Berg with us, Presiding Administrative Law Judge of the San Diego General Jurisdiction Division, Maryjosephine Norrington and Tzer Lor-Snyder, who are both Associated Governmental Program Analysts with the General Jurisdiction Division.

And from the Department of Developmental Services, we have Katie Hornberger, Deputy Director for the Community Assistance and Resolutions Division, Denise Thornquest, Chief of the Community Appeals and Resolutions Branch, Sandra Sanchez, Manager in the Community Appeals and Resolutions Branch, and Ian Wilson, also a manager in the Community Appeals and Resolutions Branch.

All right, also of note, Advisory Committee members and members of the public, if you didn't already see it, the Office of Administrative Hearings posted on the website, in the Advisory Committee section, a written response to a recommendation from the August 14th meeting. So, that is there for you to review as you wish.

I want to thank you all for being here. 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 the items and recommendations that specifically pertain to mediation and hearing operations that are actionable by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Okay, just briefly, about our agenda today, as you may know, committee members are invited to submit requested agenda items in advance of each meeting. For this meeting, we have seven agenda items that have been submitted. These are agenda items four through ten on the posted agenda.

Those items that we don't have time to discuss today will automatically be placed on the next quarterly meeting agenda. At the start of each agenda item, I ask which committee member brought forth the agenda item, and then I ask if they could provide a bit of context as to why they've brought this item for discussion.

In addition to our items that we'll discuss today, we'll take two ten-minute breaks during the meeting. We're going to aim for our first one to start at about 2:15, and then the second ten-minute break to start at about 3:10. That second break will be

followed immediately by a full 40 minutes of general public comment so that we can ensure ample time to hear from members of the public.

In addition to that general public comment period at the end of the meeting, if at any time the Advisory Committee entertains recommendations that are going to be taken to a vote, we also invite public comment prior to each vote. And just as a reminder, we'll be adjourning this meeting at 4:00 p.m. today.

Okay. Thank you all for your patience. Let's head in now to our first agenda item. So, agenda item four on the public agenda reads, "update by the subcommittee comprised of Advisory Committee members, Fernando Gomez and Jesse Weller, which is charged with providing to the Advisory Committee a summary of the roles of the regional centers in the hearing process, as set forth in statute, regulations, or any other authority, and which was established by vote of the Advisory Committee on October 8th."

So, this is where I was going to turn to either Fernando or Jesse and ask if they had any updates they wanted to provide. As it turns out, neither subcommittee member could be here today. I did want to ask if there's any other Advisory Committee member who wanted to speak to these roles and the report that the Advisory Committee has shared in the last two meetings with the Advisory Committee.

Okay. All right, so not seeing any hands, we will move on. Agenda item five was reserved in case there were any recommendations that were going to be brought forth as a result of that first discussion. So, I'm going to pass over that as well, as there was no desired discussion on that topic.

Okay, so agenda item six reads, "discussion of the Life Outcomes Improvement System, or LOIS, digital platform, and its role in the appeals process."

I'm wondering if the committee member who had submitted this as an agenda item -- I believe it was submitted for the last meeting. We didn't have a chance to get to it, so you'll have to really remember back. But can I ask who it was that submitted this? And if you could, provide some background on why you'd like to discuss this and sort of get us set up for the discussion.

And it might have been brought forward by a committee member who's not here today. I'm appreciating that. Okay, so no one who's here today on the Advisory Committee, as they recall, brought forth this item to discuss the Life Outcomes Improvement System digital platform?

Okay, is there anyone who'd like to speak on this topic before we move on to the next item?

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

I have a -- oh.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Yes, Marty Omoto, please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

Yeah, Marty Omoto. Just a question. When items are presented over because the person's not here, do they automatically get put on the next agenda, or does that person have to request it, or --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

That's a great process question. This is the first time since I've supported these meetings that this has happened, so I don't -- I don't have any history on it. I don't know. Susan, others from OAH, on -- if you know offhand how you'd like to handle, for example, those two -- those two first items for which the subcommittee members weren't here to speak to them. Do we know if those would automatically put -- be put on the next agenda, or if we'd like to remind committee members to please resubmit if they so desire?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I know that, in the past, Committee Member Gomez had requested that number four be a recurring agenda item going forward, unless and until the subcommittee was disbanded. So, I think that --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- that that would be repeated. With respect to number six, I think that that's something that we would have to ask whether the committee member wished to proceed. I don't know if anyone else from OAH has any contrary opinion.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

So, my view of it is, if it does not get discussed today, any committee member can propose it again as an agenda item for the next meeting. Even if it gets discussed

today, you can still propose it as an -- you are free to propose any agenda items for the next meeting if you wish.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

And I appreciate that. This is Marty. I appreciate that response. If I can just -- and I didn't -- obviously, I wasn't here the last meeting, so I didn't, you know, ask for any agenda items, but I do think that for our next meeting, if Life Outcomes Improvement System, LOIS, can be on the agenda, because it is-- it's in the stages of development, and this is the time for us to give our input or to find out, you know, where it's going.

And it's going to, you know, potentially have a tremendous impact on people's person-centered needs, goals, outcomes, and also the related issues regarding hearings or whatever. It just makes sense for us to be in the -- in providing input at the point of development.

So, whoever suggested this, good for you, and (inaudible) and I second that we just move it to the next meeting. Thank you.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

So, Mr. Omoto, what I would suggest, to keep it clean so we don't miss it --

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

Yeah, I'll put it in writing --

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

-- is when --

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

-- and send it.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

-- (inaudible) is when -- yeah, when we ask for -- when we ask for agenda items for the next meeting, please send the -- send that in so that we don't miss it. Thank you so much.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

I'll put a big picture of me right next--

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Okay.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Marty. Nina, I see your hand. Please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPIEGELMAN:

I just -- I had a comment, slash, question similar to Marty's about the item about the -- you know, the LOIS system. And I know -- I think I might have asked this before, but because we have all the -- all the right people, I think -- I mean, not on the LOIS end, but on the -- on the appeals process end, from DDS, you know, is it -- because it's an agenda item, is -- do we ever -- can we ever have sort of a little -- maybe in the nature of a presentation or, you know, that sort of -- I don't know. Just a -- you know, where the concept is, like, from DDS.

I'm not saying necessarily today, but I-- you know, I think this is -- it would be, you know, to have this on the next agenda, but it -- also, it kind of -- you know, if there's any kind of -- it would be really useful and helpful for all of us to think about, you know, where -- you know, how DDS views the role of LOIS, you know, in -- you know, with respect to the appeals process, because it's such a work in progress, it's so early on.

So, I don't know. I don't know what's -- I don't know what's kosher or not in terms of getting a little presentation or making use of the fact that we have all these great, you know, people here.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yeah. Thanks, Nina. I don't know if someone from DDS wants to comment now, or -- certainly, this could be something to consider in the process of planning for the next meeting.

So, while DDS -- while I pause on that, and please feel free to unmute if it's something you do want to say. Marty, I -- as a new member of the Advisory Committee, you would not be familiar with this, but we have reserved the chat for our Advisory Committee member who's using it as an accommodation, so --

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

Yeah, I just -- I just remembered what you said.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yeah.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

Yeah, thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No worries. I'm going to read your -- I'll read your chat aloud. And yeah, thank you for your understanding. So, Marty put in the chat, "I think that is a good idea to give the agenda item, in this case Lois, or Life Outcomes Improvement System, context. Be good to get the lead DDS person on this."

So, thank you for your input, Advisory Committee, on that. Certainly, I think DDS heard that. Any comments from DDS at this time in response?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR HORNBERGER:

Yeah, this is Katie. You know, there's been a lot -- hi, Marty. There's been quite a bit of outreach done around the LOIS system and getting public input on it, but I think if this committee wanted a presentation on that system, we could -- we could certainly arrange that.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Great. Is there -- just sort of an informal way, is there -- is -- so, a show of virtual raised hands just to see an interest in that presentation? It would be helpful to know if it's just a couple of Advisory Committee members or a preponderance.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR HORNBERGER:

Seeing hands pop up, Karin.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Seeing lots of hands. Okay. That's really helpful. Thanks, everyone. And Katie, thank you for your responsiveness to that.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR HORNBERGER:

Oh, certainly.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, now I'd like folks to lower their hands so I know the difference between a comment and my request I just made. Great. Okay. Antony, you still have your hand raised. Did you want to say something about this item before we move on to the next one?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yeah, yes, because we move on, yeah.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yeah.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

There is a website, a DDS website under initiatives and LOIS, and it's quite expensive. I just wanted to let everybody know that. LOIS is on its way, but I'm just wondering if everybody has actually seen that progress. Perhaps that's a nice reference to have before we talk next time. That was my only input there.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Appreciate that. Right, so read up, make sure everyone's as informed as they can be before that discussion. Thank you.

Okay, I'm going to test the next agenda item and see if we have a committee member present who had submitted it. So, it's agenda item seven, and it reads, "discussion of how to address situations where the concepts of the Lanterman Developmental Disability Services Act are not seriously taken into account when the regional centers or the courts are engaging with regional center clients with special needs."

Antony, I see your hand raised. Did you submit this?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yes, ma'am.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Could you provide us some context as to, again, what you're hoping to engage the Advisory Committee around? And again, to the extent you can focus it on the purview of OAH in mediation hearing, I think it certainly will help in terms of anything that OAH can be responsive to in a response, if --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yes. This is due to my own experiences with my autistic daughter, Jennifer. She's 31, and she is high-functioning. Unfortunately, she was not treated as a high-function person with service assignments, such as, you know, day programs and the like.

She started 2012 with being in the system. And unfortunately -- well, unfortunately. Fortunately, she was part of an autistic credential program in the Benicia Unified School District, and she was taken out of that and put into a very low-functioning service.

And so, I felt that, at that time, and I still do, that, you know, it takes -- it takes a certain amount of attention to detail and some genuine concern of where somebody is with their special needs. If you, you know -- if you abruptly go over it, and then assign them, it can be somewhat uncomfortable for the client and -- if not devastating.

She was the highest functioning person in this other school that they put her in in Fairfield, and she was very frustrated because everybody else was either very non-verbal or -- again, not to rate -- I don't feel comfortable rating conditions, if you will, but you know, when there's no non-verbal -- when there's -- when there's non-verbal and mental retardation and so forth, autistic people sometimes get folded into that group, and it can be very, very frustrating for them.

So, that's just one example. And the Lanterman Act I've noticed, also. When I first started all of this with my community -- this is Solano County, the Northern California area. I noticed the paperwork in hearings referenced the Lanterman Act habitually. It was always there, always there.

And then about three years, around 2015 --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

(Inaudible) --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- or '16 -- I'm sorry, that's my daughter. Yes, Jennifer?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

You're almost finished --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Okay, I'm almost finished, daughter. Okay, all right. Sorry about that. The Lanterman Act reference, you know, due to certain areas of the paperwork, had disappeared. I don't know why, and it's been gone ever since.

There's no paperwork that referenced the Lanterman Act at all, where it did before. And I think they did it before because they wanted it to be complete. They wanted it to be -- when it comes to protocols, that, hey, we're doing this, and we're doing that. The county reserves the right to do this, but everything's based on the Lanterman Act, and that's the way it used to be.

Now, it's not there at all. So, I was very concerned when that happened. And no lawyer -- excuse me, there was not a lawyer to be found that explained why. So, that's where number ever comes in, our topic here.

The regional centers, I -- this also was brought up, just without my help, three months ago where there was a lot of clients with their parents and with -- well, and with legal counsel. Were very frustrated that there was several areas of clear-cut underserving, and yet, the regional centers won the case overall.

Very few -- very few victories for the clients. And I can -- when I -- when I heard that, the meeting to -- it was the last meeting. I was very -- I was just nodding my head. And I go, I know what they're going through.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Antony.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yeah, thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, I wonder if -- I wonder if you have -- is there -- is there, maybe, a way --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- to get more specific about sort of what kind of feedback or discussion you'd like to have with the Advisory Committee in this regard?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, I'm trying to remember the -- I'm trying to remember the gentleman on our team that also mentioned that we shouldn't be too loud in people's ears about this, about the Lanterman Act effects and its importance, okay?

And I was -- at the time, I said to myself -- and we were wrapping up. It was at the end of our session. But I was very much in favor of -- this should be very direct, not loud to be annoying, but it should be a very direct correspondence with all regional centers that this cannot be -- including the judiciary. This cannot continue like this. Is that -- it used to be -- have a heightened -- the Lanterman Act had a heightened area of concern, and now it's in the background.

So, for you to me to -- for you to ask me to be more specific, well, how can we touch all regional centers in California? Some, I'm sure, are doing quite well.

I mean, they're all different, right? They're all being run by different corporations and so forth, but how can we hit them all equally that had the equal effect, that the Lanterman Act is here, and if you're -- if there's any area that you're not honoring the Lanterman Act, this should be addressed.

And this could be a very serious thing, because in my county, it's so efficient that they don't do it, that they're very comfortable at this time. Let me give you a specific example. Earlier this year, I applied for a certain day program for my daughter, and over two months, the paperwork got started, and then it just disappeared.

And then just recently, about three months ago, two months ago, started another program and paperwork and all that, and to this day -- that was two months ago. Hasn't started. Jennifer, please, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

You're almost finished.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

I'm almost finished. Thank you. Sorry about that, everybody.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

No, it's all right. It's all right. So, I wonder, maybe -- and one of the things I do hear you say was in reference to at hearings, you know, appreciating the scope of this advisory committee on, you know, operations as it relates to hearing and meet -- hearings and mediations, I guess I'll just put out there, I'm hearing you say something about the Lanterman Act, you not seeing that in reference to paperwork for hearings.

That feels maybe a little more squarely in the -- in the scope of what this advisory committee can address. And so, I don't know if there's anything in particular you want to ask there, or again, I can just open up to the --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

I'm --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- committee?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- yeah, I'm looking for assistance here. Like I said, we -- no matter what we do, we're going to offend one or two people, because their -- or organizations. And there's others that are -- will still ignore and continue doing what they're doing.

I don't mean to be so blunt, but it -- that's what's happening in my county.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Well, thanks, Antony. Appreciate you sharing. I think in -- if we have something specific that we can address as it relates to the hearing and mediation operations, we could -- we could entertain discussion around that.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, we have a CEO of a -- of the -- I can't remember. The Southern California Regional Center, does he have any input, because -- is he on -- is he onboard today?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I think you're referring to Jesse Weller. He is -- he is not --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yeah.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- here today.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, that lucky person. Jeez, all right.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Well, let me ask. Committee members, anything else you want to -- you want to add to this agenda item? I'm just looking for a read from the committee. And otherwise, well, I can raise the next item.

Okay. Thank you. I'm going to read a comment from William Del Rosario. "Respectfully, one thing we as a committee can do is to change the narrative by using terminology that better describes us without being offensive. The R word is an old term that many find offensive. I think we could use intellectual disabilities and multi-modal communicators or non-speaking."

Thank you, William. Okay. I'm going to just keep us moving then, and I'm going to read agenda item seven. "Discussion of how to address situations where the concepts of the Lanterman Developmental Disability Services Act are not taken -- are not seriously taken into account when the regional centers -- " oh, forgive me. I just read that one. My apologies.

Agenda item eight, "discussion of how to address the interruption of SSI payments that are not corrected or recovered for a regional center client."

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, guess who that one is?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Was it you, Antony, as well submitted that? Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yeah, these are topics that have been delayed a couple of meetings, and I don't mind that --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yes.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- but these are all ones I addressed about six months ago --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- was that my daughter experienced her SSI payments being interrupted, and then they were -- then they were reenabled, but the past payments were never reimbursed. And no matter what I said, no matter what evidence they gave me that showed no proof of any deposits towards my daughter's account, they say -- they being North Bay Regional Center, yes, she did get her money.

So, how do you -- how do you fight an organization that provides you a ledger, and the ledger says, hey, there's a gap here, and then they say verbally, there's no gap there? So, I hope -- and they also admitted that most clients have SSI payments that are set in reserve sometimes, and sometimes there are interruptions.

Okay, so they admitted at that moment that occasionally mistakes are made, but they wouldn't correct it. Has anybody else --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

So, thank you or that --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- yeah, does anybody else know of such things happening in other counties or other regional centers? And I mentioned this before. There is an organization called New Leaf Solutions, and they take the load off of regional centers.

I think there's, what, 22 regional centers in California, and half of them are now being managed by New Leaf Solutions where all of this SSI payments and relays and so forth are -- whether it be relay to a group home or relay to somebody's bank account and so forth, is handled by New Leaf Solutions.

Yeah, they take care of roughly half of all regional centers in California. And they -- that's a delegation of responsibility outside of the regional center, but the regional center is responsible for it, at least in Solano County, because the most responsible person is the conservator about how SSI payments are to be managed and ensured to get to the client.

So, once you have delegation from one office in the county to another office like the regional center, the regional center shuffled it off to somebody else, and then you have an issue. Well, everybody can point to the other department and nothing gets done. But the offense --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Antony, if I could --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- yeah, but the offense -- the offense, of course, is the client who didn't get their funds. Okay, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yeah, thank you. No, it's all right. Thank you. And my apologies for interrupting. I do want to just have us stay focused on the purview of the committee, which is on providing recommendations to OAH on operations relating to mediations and hearings, so I do want to just pause and see if a committee member wants to respond to agenda item eight. And if not, I just want to make sure we get through other items as well that, again, might more directly pertain to the scope of the committee.

Again, not meant to at all diminish the challenges you've described.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, I appreciate -- I appreciate your accent to that, is -- and that's exactly what I'm trying to do is that -- what is within our committee purview that we can affect such situations? Because it's still a frustration, a legal, investigative frustration, that when you know the money did not go to the client, and so then how -- and where do you go? Because you went to the -- directly to the department that has supposedly taken care of this, and they haven't, and then now what do you do?

So, there should be -- again, hopefully, we can have -- I wanted to give you the raw data of the event, and then perhaps we can have somebody that can assist the situation, and we can have better oversight on this.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thanks, Antony. So, if there is an Advisory Committee member who has information that can direct this issue around as a side payment to hearings and operations, I welcome that now. I'll just pause to see if there's a raised hand.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Or this could be -- this could be a comment for LOIS, you know, itself, you know? So --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. All right, well, let's turn to agenda item nine then, which reads, discussion of whether documents relating to judicial action appropriately refer to the Lanterman Act.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Guess who that is?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yours?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yes, and I already mentioned -- I just mentioned it a few minutes ago, is that the paperwork, again, around 2015, transitioned, at least in Solano County. No more references to the Lanterman Act, and I thought that was procedurally not correct, but someone did it. So --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Maria, I see your hand. Please go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Mr. Charles, when you say paperwork, what are you referring to?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

I'm talking about here -- the results of a hearing --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Hearing decisions?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- generated by the court.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Okay. I just wanted to make sure I understood.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

And it was usually --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Maybe --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- on -- it was usually mentioned every other page when it comes to certain areas of action by the county, by the deputy, guardian, and so forth, and it would show

in a paragraph of certain -- it was very specific, and this is in -- this is in accordance with the Lanterman Act.

This is in accordance with the spirit of the Lanterman Act, things like that. Now it's gone. So --

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

So, you're saying that when you receive hearing decisions, it's void of any reference to the Lanterman Act?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yes, ma'am. That's been going on for quite a while now. Yes, ma'am.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

And that's for your regional center? I mean (inaudible) --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

No, that's from the court. No, that's from the judiciary.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

From the OAH? I don't know, maybe this is something that OAH can clarify.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

I'm sorry, dear, what was that?

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

Maybe this is something that OAH can clarify.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

I'm just -- I'm just --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Well --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- stating that it used to be there, and now it's not, you know? When I say now, years ago, it stopped. And I thought it was just a procedural issue, legal -- a legal, procedural issue that I thought was important.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Mr. Marron, this is Susan Formaker. I just wanted to clarify, are you talking about Solano County Superior Court documents, or --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yes.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- not OAH documents?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Not OAH documents. I'm talking about when -- just like other people were talking about at the last meeting, that they're in hearing with their own lawyer, they have an uphill battle, but one of those uphill battles, in my opinion, is that the state has somehow come to some sort of organizational agreement that the Lanterman Act should not be specified in conservatorship documents.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay, so -- and again, boy, I'm -- I apologize that this is my -- how this may be received. I'm just -- I'm thinking about the purview of this committee, and --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yeah.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- Office of Administrative Hearings mediation and hearing, so Solano Superior Court, I think, you know, is one jurisdiction.

And so, as we think about OAH hearings and mediations, that's where I think we can -- this Advisory Committee can have some impact in its non-binding recommendation, so --

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Right. So, Ms. Bloomer, just to jump in real quick. I want to make sure that we're clear on this. What Mr. Marron is talking about is conservatorship cases within the superior court system, not the administrative system within Office of

Administrative Hearings, and we don't have control over what the superior court does, so just want to make that clear that that's what we're talking about. Thank you.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, some things have cause and effect, sir, you know? So, it's something I just wanted to bring up. If it's something that for some reason is out of our reach, it's out of our reach, but if it's not, if there's some suggestions or submissions of perhaps why something that seemed to be mentioned a lot in documentation is now, again, since 2015, roughly, doesn't exist anymore and is specifically about references to the Lanterman Act and how the court is -- well, just referencing their acts, according to the different -- the different areas and sections of the Lanterman Act. So --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you. Okay, if there's -- again, I think given the scope of this committee, probably worthwhile to move on to agenda item ten, and I'll just read that aloud.

"Discussion of whether a message should be conveyed to all regional centers and courts, that the Lanterman Act is a very necessary platform to respect, honor, and reference for fair services for special needs clients."

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Guess who that is?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yours as well. Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

And I -- my thoughts are all mixed together on all these four -- these four points that you just went over, so I apologize --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- for jumping head a little bit, but you've -- we've covered that as well. We --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- if you can move on. But that's my overall submission of thought and caring for our clients. Some things -- some organizations get too much into protocol and efficiencies rather than what the special needs clients really need. So --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Thank you. I'll mute myself now.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Okay. Okay. So, I see Darline's hand in, but Darline, before I invite you to speak, guess I'll just make mention. So, we've just covered all the agenda items in today's agenda. You know, Bagley-Keene laws are such that we need to keep to the scope of only what's been agendized, so I want to note that.

Before we go to public comment as a final general public comment or entertaining any other discussion as it relates specifically to the agenda, with that, I'm going to turn to Darline. Please, go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DUPREE:

I'm just seeking a little -- some clarifications. The Lanterman Act is a specific set of laws within the Welfare and Institution Code. So, my question would be, in their citations, are they using Welfare and Institution Code citations within their decisions?

And then, so they may not specifically be saying -- you know, according to the Lanterman Act, they may give specific sections of the Welfare and Institution Code.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

I'm sorry. Could you repeat that last bit? You were a little bit muffled there. Sorry, go ahead.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DUPREE:

So, when they're giving their decision or they're citing laws within the Welfare and Institution Code.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

That's my point. No. In my opinion, for all the hearings I've had, especially the last five years, that's not happened. They have their own agenda. They have communications with county contractors that are in charge of group homes, so on and so forth, day programs, transportation programs, so for -- and it's just, no matter what, that -- those protocols cannot be interrupted.

You know, everybody needs transportation to and from, and everybody needs whatever that is, that day program or that group home. They have the priority rather than the clients at some times, not all the time.

But my daughter got very upset, and I -- again, the preview of our panel here, you don't -- you don't want to hear what she had to go through, but anyways, it's just not -- to answer your question, it's not happening in that manner.

But again, this is why I'm trying to do it in a holistic viewpoint, is that I have -- I have trouble with one regional center. Other regional centers may be doing much better. And I --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

(Inaudible).

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

And I hope that's the case. I hope that's the case.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

And Maria, I see -- I see your hand. You wanted to jump in.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

I just wanted clarification. Ms. Dupree, were you referring to OAH decisions in your question?

COMMITTEE MEMBER DUPREE:

Well, I was just trying to get an understanding from Antony, or Mr. Antony, what he was referring to in terms of just the decisions, because I guess I'm confused in -- is he referring to two set of decisions, decisions for denials that may come from regional centers, or decisions based upon the administrative hearing and what the law judge --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Ah.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DUPREE:

-- says in it.

COMMITTEE MEMBER IRIARTE:

My understanding is he was referring to superior court probate decisions where they don't include specific (inaudible) --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Well, it's actually a well-rounded thing. For example, in group homes, you will see the Lanterman Act called the Developmental Disabilities Act of California. There's

22 items, and they're always posted on a poster on the wall, on at least one wall in group homes.

And when you see that, and then you see them not following, roughly, five of them, you know, food, certain activities that are denied and blah, blah, blah -- I can go on and on. So, a parent who sees their child going through this, as a client of the county and is not being respected -- and this is all from the Lanterman Act, okay?

The poster I'm referring to is not something separate; it's just -- it's just -- it's just generalized for the -- for the, you know, the non-legal public. This is what this -- this is what this group home should be doing for your -- for this client, for every client, and they're not following it.

And then the deputy guardian and the North Bay Regional Center gets involved and tries to cool things down. But again, that's my -- that's my county. For all I know, everybody else is great in California. I can only infer to what I've gone through.

And it concerns me that it's going else -- it's going on elsewhere.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

All right, thank you. And thanks, committee members, for your interest --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

Yes, thank you --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- and understanding --

COMMITTEE MEMBER MARRON:

-- for listening. Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

-- the situation. Yeah, thank you, Antony. Okay. I just want to -- again, process-wise, want to recap that we have -- we have aired and inquired about each of the agenda items today and gone through them, so that leaves us with general public comment.

Couple things before we move to public comment. Just a reminder, as we moved earlier, that Advisory Committee members are invited to submit agenda item requests for meetings, and we'll put them on the agenda, and for those we can't get to, they'll be automatically included on the following agenda.

This is the fourth and final quarterly meeting of 2025, and so OAH will be announcing the 2026 meetings soon, so stay tuned, Advisory Committee members and members of the public for those dates. And I think, with that, I will turn to OAH to lead public comment. Thank you all so much.

MS. NORRINGTON:

There's a -- chat in chat.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I'm sorry. MJ, was that you?

MS. NORRINGTON:

Yes, there's a chat (inaudible) --

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

I read both of those already during this meeting. So, I think we're -- think we're covered on the chat comments from the Advisory Committee members. Yes, I've read those aloud.

Okay, so I think, with that, we can turn to -- oh, but before we do, Marty, I see your hand.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

Thank you and thank you for the discussion. Two things. One, William, we haven't met. I don't think I've met you, but I appreciate your comment in the chat, and I totally support what you -- what you wrote.

I've always felt that, even when I was, you know, going to school with my sister and dealing with what people called her. And there's always a better way to talk to a person and how you refer to that person, and so I appreciate you mentioning that. It's always a good reminder for all of us.

Secondly, I -- so, I participated in these meetings as a -- as a member of the public in the past and being on the committee, I'm learning, and I'm looking at Katie right now, and she could teach me how this works.

But I -- one suggestion, you know, and it's not an agenda item, but -- and I'll put this forward in writing, is it might be helpful, you know, when committee members are making suggestions -- and Antony, I really appreciate the issues that you have

brought up, but maybe something that -- like, how does this relate to the work of the committee, or try to focus it more on, what is the issue that we're bringing forward? How does this relate or connect to what we want the committee, this committee to do specifically, and what's the desired action?

Because the issue, we're looking at this agenda, and it so open-ended, it's hard to know where -- you know, where we're supposed to go with this. And that doesn't take away -- and Karin, you were -- mentioned this too. The importance or the problems that Antony, you're facing, or others are facing.

So, just -- I'm just throwing that out there, and I'm -- and last thing, I'm glad I made the final meeting of 2025. I want to put that in my list of things of accomplishments this year. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Marty. And you may have noticed that William Del Rosario said thank you in the chat for your -- for your comments. Okay. With that, I think I can turn to OAH to lead us through public comment.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, so first we're going to be taking verbal public comment for about 20 minutes, then we'll be taking public comment in chat for 15 minutes for those who need the accommodation, and then we'll read aloud e-mailed comments for about five minutes.

In all of these cases, you will be given two minutes to make your comment. For the chat comments, for example, you'll be provided two minutes to put those comments in chat, and then they will be read aloud.

As a reminder, please use one method of providing comment. We want to allow as many voices to be heard as possible. Adam Berg will let you know when you have 30 seconds left and when your time is up.

So, now we're going to start with the verbal comments. Please raise your virtual hand now if you want to make a verbal comment. When I call your name, you will receive a prompt to unmute yourself. So, I'll call on you to speak, and then I will make a click that will allow you to speak, and then you have to make sure to unmute yourself.

All right, so I see some hands up, and we're going to start with Judy Mark. Please unmute yourself.

MS. MARK:

Hi, everybody. This is Judy Mark from Disability Voices United. I'm also the parent of a person served by regional center.

I have several comments. The first one is this meeting has gone 40, 50 minutes, and it was scheduled for three hours, and that's really disappointing to me because I think that there's a lot this committee needs to talk about and cover. So, I'm hoping that in the future there will be a more robust way to get topics to talk about.

Number two, I know that I got an e-mail from DDS asking me for suggestions for training topics for OAH's offer -- OAH officers, hearing officers, and I'm wondering if there -- if that's going to be an agenda item in the future. If it isn't, somebody on the committee should suggest it, because I would like to hear what the suggestions were and what the final decisions were for those training topics.

And then, finally, I just feel like I need to bolster what William said in the chat. We have to have some sort of code of conduct. It's not conduct, per se, because it's not like anybody's intentionally being rude, but language matters.

And using terms like high functioning, using terms like mental retardation, use - using even terms like special needs is actually -- these are -- this is not language that is used anymore, and this desire to use updated language comes from self-advocates themselves, comes from people with disabilities who are offended at the --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

MS. MARK:

-- by language that has been historically used. And so, I would suggest that maybe the committee, as well as the staff who are supporting it, receive a list of sort of updated terminology so that everybody treat -- is using respectful words at these meetings.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, I see Shirlys Gruber next.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. GRUBER:

Thank you so much. Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. GRUBER:

Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Shirlys Gruber. I'm a mom of a child who's six years old, and he's a client of a regional center. The Lanterman Act is not -- it's not a suggestion; it's a statute, it's law, it's civil rights, and its status is very, very clearly that people who have developmental disability have the right to live with dignity, security, and supports which will allow them to reach the highest level of independence possible for them.

Whenever a family goes to OAH, it's because they already are feeling disrespected, or perhaps unfulfilled by the responsible agencies. So, I, as a mother and as a self-advocate, want to express that behind every case there's not necessarily -- or rather, every case is not just a number; it's a life. It's a life that's not being respected or cared for.

Either it be a child or an adult who's needing these services, they need them so that they can have stability and security. It's not negotiable, and it can't be subject to somebody's opinion. This is something that the committee really, really needs to consider, that we're talking about people's lives. Thank you so much for hearing me out.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ:

Yes, good afternoon. As a mother -- as a mother and of -- part of a member of the committee and a mother of a six year-old, the lay -- Lanterman is a civil right, a civil right law that has to be applied. It's not -- it's applied -- it has to be applied to lives -- to -- so a -- so an individual could live with dignity and can reach his independence as much as possible.

Now, when a case is presented to the OAH, it's because this law is not being respected or is not complying. Now, I just wanted to comment that behind each case, it's not just a number. It's a life, it's an opportunity for a person that's not receiving, that they're not giving the -- they're not giving them the opportunity, so this is something that's non-negotiable. This is something that needs to be comply and needs to be -- needs to be directed, because it's not just based of a person's opinion or based of a procedure; there's lives depending on this that this is not negotiable, and these (inaudible) need to be enact.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

So, I need to just clarify. We did hear what I believe was an interpretation. Was that of an e-mailed comment?

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ:

It was the -- this is the interpreter speaking. It was the interpretation that was said in Spanish, so I just interpret to the public in English.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Oh, okay, because I think we had the other interpreter doing a simultaneous interpretation. So, I just want to make sure that we're only getting an interpretation of a comment once.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ:

I do apologize. Perfect, understood.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. Next, I see --

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Judge Formaker.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- Cesilia Ortiz.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Judge Formaker.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Please unmute yourself.

DEPUTY DIRECTORY VARMA:

Judge Formaker, can you hear me? Before you -- before you go to the next commentator, there's -- several things have been put into chat, so either before or after this public comment, we should probably read those out.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, so I see -- Ms. Ortiz, I'll call on you in just a moment.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VARMA:

Sorry about that.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I see in the comment that there's a comment saying, "the 'outcome' in LOIS refers to enhancing life outcomes by making services more responsive, personalized, and accessible. And there is a link to the initiative for LOIS. That link is <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/lois/>."

Then there's Jeanette Picasso-Arguello. "Apologize for being late. I am finally logged on at 1:57 p.m. I apologize."

And again, I just want to emphasize that the chat is to be used as an accommodation for our Advisory Committee members who cannot speak aloud. And then the Spanish interpreters put into the chat, "please note, interpretation services are being offered for today's session. To listen to comments/questions given in Spanish, please select the globe icon at the bottom of your screen that says 'interpretation.' Then select your language, 'English.' You will then be able to hear a live rendering of the comment in English. Thank you."

And then that is written in Spanish. And the interpreter said, "that was live interpretation of Mrs. Shirlys Gruber's comment." And again, you know, I want to make sure that we only have one interpretation going on at a time.

All right, now we've got Cecilia Ortiz. Please go ahead and unmute yourself and state your comment. Cecilia Ortiz, please state your comment.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

Yes, good afternoon. Yes, good afternoon. My name is Cecilia Ortiz. I am a mother of a person lost and the -- and director of United Parents with Autism, an

organization that, for years, have supported directly to certain families here in the regional center.

I want to express my total accord with -- to the comments of Mr. Anthony Chatler (phonetic) because this is a topic -- a critical topic that affects our community. In my job, companion families, for a lot of years, I've seen a pattern, a very concerning pattern. A lot of services, they're not basing on the lay Lanter, but they're basing on the internal policies of the regional center.

These internal policies are being used, like if they had the same weight, legal weight as a status, but it's not. And when it's applied instead of the lay -- in the Lanterman law, you violate the rights of the united persons.

The most alarming thing is that a lot of the organizations of the OAH, the judges don't count or don't know what the -- don't count with the knowledge of the law, Lanterman. When a judge doesn't know the law, the risk is high.

They could take -- they could take decisions that are not -- that are not fair, ignoring rights that are already guaranteed. This leaves the families unprotected and without the access to necessary service to live a dignity -- a life with dignity.

The law is clear, and the services need to be marked as the necessities of each person. It's not -- this is --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

-- something not internal, and this is not -- this doesn't have to be run by internal policies for -- created by the regional center, but in practice, this is not what's happening, and this is -- this is -- creates an unfair system.

Respectfully, I ask for you guys to take care of this situation. It's very necessary for you guys to establish that the internal policies --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time, thank you.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

-- can't go over the law. They need to --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

-- (inaudible). Okay, is --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I believe your time was called. Is that correct, Adam?

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Yeah, that's time.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. We're going to move on to -- we're going to move on to the next hand up, and that is Lulu A. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. A:

Yes, good afternoon to all. I want to express my worriedness, my concern with this situation. In regards to the judges, they don't have the capacity or the knowledge in regards to this law, the law Lanterman, related laws.

And there's also -- they need to acknowledge it with auto-determination because this is something very concerning, because a lot of these decisions, they fail in favor to the regional center, and they leave -- they leave the clients unprotected.

Also, to the regional center in the way, that is for interpretation. It doesn't have the space, so it could put the (inaudible) pending. It's important to check this form and to add this section -- this important section and necessary because a lot of families don't know where to place it. And they will -- and they will be unprotected and without services.

It's also concerning, during the session, it's not permitted that the -- that the people could talk.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. A:

And all this -- all this affects --

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ:

I do apologize. Audio is cutting in and out.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. A:

-- in a formal -- in a format of a memory, they say that they have it in DVD. So, we're requesting that (inaudible) --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. A:

-- put this also in a memory -- in a sim card so it could be turned in. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

Susan --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I see there's --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

-- there's another chat posted. And again, please refrain from using chat unless it's being used as an accommodation.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes, I see the -- I believe Mr. Marron has put a comment into the chat. And again, we are doing public comment now, and the chat is only to be used as an accommodation for the Advisory Committee members who are using chat as an accommodation.

Mr. Marron put into the chat, "Lanterman Act poster for group homes." And then there's a link, [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DD RI](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DD_RI) -- I'm sorry, capital R, rights, space, poster, space, eng, space, sp.pdf.

All right, I'm going to call on the next person who's asking for public comment. That's Claudia Rivera.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. RIVERA:

Yes, good afternoon. Thank you for being here and for listening to us and whatever you can. My question is, how come you enable the comments in Zoom? How come you guys don't give us the opportunity or the liberty to talk with you?

You guys are in positions for the service of the clients and the necessities of their families, and I think that the only way we could listen with the heart -- from the heart of the fathers and the clients is listening and feeling the necessities that we request in front of you guys.

You guys that administrate the OHS, we are parents; we're not lawyers, and we present ourselves in front of a judge, in front of a regional center who has 40, 50 years of experience, and you guys -- all you guys do is just see and just stay quiet in front of our petitions and our necessities.

Please be more conscious and please pay attention to our petitions. Thank you very much.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right. I see that Lulu A. has raised her hand again, although Lulu A. already provided a public comment. Are there any other spoken verbal comments? Okay. I'm going to ask Tzer Lor-Snyder, is there anyone in the primary physical location who wishes to make a public comment?

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

Thank you, Susan. We do not have any participants or attendees within the physical location today.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, thank you. It looks like we've got some hands up now on the virtual meeting for spoken comments, so I'm going to call on Jacqueline Casas. Please unmute yourself.

MS. CASAS:

"Hi, everyone. My name is -- my name is Nguyen Beig Martinez Casas. I am 13 years old. I am the client of South Central Los Angeles Regional Center SCLARC, and

the date of the incident of October 17th, 2025. Subject: Discrimination and inclusion at the regional center resource fair.

Dear Department of Developmental Services DDS representatives, my name is Nguyen Beig Martinez Casas. I am 13 years old, and I am the client of the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center SCLARC.

I'm writing to you to present a public comment on an experience of discrimination and exclusion that I experienced on October 17th, 2025, during the resource fair organized by SCLARC.

That day, I was very excited to participate in the fair to present my music service. Something very important -- I mean, something very important to me, and it's -- and it's documented in my IPP.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

MS. CASAS:

"However, Mrs. Cynthia Rivera and Obdulia Juarez prevented me from participating and told me that I could not enter the event. Mrs. Rivera even called park staff and then the Sheriffs, even though park workers said there was no problem with me there.

I felt very discriminated against, excluded and --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time. Thank you.

MS. CASAS:

-- humiliated by my regional center that I am a client of.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. Thank you so much.

MS. CASAS:

This has affected me emotionally --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

The time has passed for you to do --

MS. CASAS:

-- since it was an event --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- to give your comment --

MS. CASAS:

-- where I want to share my talent --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- and we need to move on to the next public comment.

MS. CASAS:

-- and my interests --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

I'm sorry. Okay, we're going to move on to Rene Rodriguez. Please unmute yourself.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Hi, everybody. This is Rene Rodriguez. I got invited by Fernando, and I was reading out -- because I used to be over there at the -- where you guys are, the DRC Board. For me, it's very interesting hearing about all you guys.

I can see Marty here. So, I'm open to come to the Board one day when you guys need me. And we should talk about the mental health challenges that's going on and about the Medicare challenges going on with the new stuff that's going, all this going on. Thank you very much.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, again, I see that Lulu A.'s hand is up. Lulu A. has already provided a public comment, and I want to make sure we get to as many public comments as possible.

If there are any -- okay, I see IMJA Pro Services. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR IMJA PRO SERVICES:

Hi, good afternoon. My name is Layda Mesa (phonetic), and I would like to give my two minutes -- I would like to give my two minutes to the service person who wasn't -- who wasn't able to finish the two -- the comment for the two minutes, because it's unfair that they have more time than us.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, we're going to move on to the next person who has their hand up, Teresa Hernandez. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. HERNANDEZ:

Hi, good afternoon. My name is Teresa Hernandez. I am a mother of a client from the regional center, and I just want to thank for everybody who is here present who's hearing all our complaints and all of our problems as -- us, as parents, face.

I have seven generations. I have -- I had to withdraw five denials because I had the same judge, and she gave me -- and she asked another action for my documents in Spanish, even though I told her I don't speak or read English.

She told me to have all my documents present. I took my documents directly to the -- to the office in Los Angeles, and they denied them. At the end, I think they posted some, but I had to leave because even though I asked help for -- with different organizations, I asked help with the lawyer in the regional center, and they denied the help.

I've been in the -- I've been in the hearings, and I think that they've inclined more to listen to the Regional Center -- to listen to the Regional Center instead of me,

and this is quite a frustration. It's very sad, as us, as parents, we have a lot of things to just start going through -- going through a lot of problems, a lot of negations, and just listening to all the persons who have the experience, who are always dedicated --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. HERNANDEZ:

-- deny, and they have the experience to deny the process or the case. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, next I see --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

We have time for one more, Susan.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. It looks like we've got ODY. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR ODY:

Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR ODY:

Yes, good afternoon to all. I just wanted to talk to please -- that the public -- that the public meetings would be through Zoom, because I have under -- I'm -- I have an understanding that you want to remove them.

That's one point, and the other point is that I would like for you guys to put -- emphasize in what -- in what the client just mentioned, a client that deserves our respect, that deserves dignity, and you as a -- as the people in front of us, they -- you guys should let him talk.

You guys should let him express him -- his feelings, because if they did let him before, just to let him today, because that's so frustrating, and that's just a great example that they're giving us, and we don't want this to happen with our children.

We want for you guys to understanding, and thanks to this young man, all of you guys that are in front of us in this meeting, you guys have a lot of -- you guys have jobs, thank to our children, and I think this is not fair what's going on to this young man, and at a -- I wouldn't like for me or for my son to feel -- I wouldn't like for -- I wouldn't like for -- to feel the pain that that mother of that young man felt.

Please pay more attention, and I -- hopefully that somebody called this young man and had apologized to him, because --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR ODY:

-- in our faith -- in our faith, you guys are showing -- they are showing that they don't have respect for the client. It's not fair. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right, I believe it is now time for our break. Is that correct, Karin?

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Yes, we're happy to take a ten-minute break, and so we'll reconvene at 2:31 for the rest of public comment. Thank you.

(OFF THE RECORD.)

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right, now we're going to take public comment in chat for those who need the accommodation. So, what I'd like you to do is to please raise your virtual hand now if you need chat as an accommodation to give public comment.

We've got two people who already gave spoken verbal comments. Okay, they've got their hands down now. So, if you need chat as an accommodation to give public comment, please raise your hand, your virtual hand, and when I call your name, you will be given a prompt to accept a promotion to panelist, then you'll need to accept --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Hello?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- a promotion and enter --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

(Inaudible).

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- your comments in chat and click on the arrow --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

(Inaudible) --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- to submit your chat.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

-- (inaudible).

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Hey, Sylvia, is that you -- is that you by any chance? If we could ask folks to mute their microphones, please, unless you're called on for public comment. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, I see the same two people who had already given public comment by spoken word. They've got their hands up. I'm looking for people who need chat as an accommodation. All right, so I'm going to call on Albert Feliciano. Please go ahead now and put your comments into the chat, and make sure to hit the arrow when you're done.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, it looks like we've got the written chat comment, and I will read it aloud.

"Hello and thank you for this opportunity. I would like to recommend this committee to consider allowing self-advocates additional time, more than the two minutes, as an accommodation for public comment due to their disability. Thank you."

Okay, I see another person seeking to provide chat comment, iPhone 714-805-2728. Please go ahead and put your comment into chat.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Comment is in Spanish, and I would ask one of our interpreters to interpret the comment and to put it into chat in English. And here's the interpretation.

"Good afternoon. My name is Marizela Arroyo. I wanted to ask you to open a chat for everyone to give more time for public comments, and to accept more Hispanic leaders. Thank you."

Okay, I'm looking to see if there are any more hands up from anyone who needs chat as an accommodation to provide public comment. All right, I see Lizbeth Canas. I'm going to put you in as a panelist so that you can type in your public comments in the chat.

Could I ask Maryjosephine for some assistance? I'm having trouble promoting Lizbeth Canas to a panelist.

MS. NORRINGTON:

She declined.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Oh, okay. All right, I'm going to call on the next person who hasn't provided spoken comments, and that would be Silvia. Please go ahead and type your comments in the chat.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR SILVIA:

Hello, good afternoon. Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, what -- we were looking for comments in chat right now.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR SILVIA:

Oh, okay. My mistake. I just saw that I was able to turn on my microphone.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Are there any other people who have not spoken comments who need to provide comments in chat as an accommodation?

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR SILVIA:

So, hello again. Can I say a comment?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

So, we had finished with spoken public comment, and now we are waiting to see if there are any other people who wish to provide public comment by chat as an accommodation. Okay, I'm not seeing anyone who hasn't already provided a public comment verbally by spoken word.

And so, I think, at this point, we would now turn to see if there are any e-mailed public comments that have been received during our meeting.

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

Thank you, Susan. Yes, we did receive one written comment during our meeting. The comment states, "Good afternoon. My name is Cesilia Ortiz Barajas, director of Parents United for Autism, and mother of a person served under the Lanterman Act.

Today I want to express three fundamental concerns that directly affect equity, access to justice, and the protection of the rights of those served and their families.

First, I respectfully request that all OAH slides and materials be presented in Spanish. The Latino community is a significant part of the regional center's system. When information is not in our language, we are excluded from the process since the beginning. Without access to language, there is no access to justice.

Second, regional centers should not have specialized teams exclusively for hearings. This creates a profound imbalance and places those served at a clear disadvantage. Families come alone without lawyers and with not knowledge of the process, while the regional center arrives with a specialist trained to win the case. This is not equity, and it does not reflect the spirit of the Lanterman Act.

Third, I strongly urge the OAH judges to not accept internal policies of the regional center as a legal basis. Internal policies are not provided in the Lanterman Act. Individuals served receive services based on individual need, as established by the act; not based on internal rules or administrative criterias (sic) created by agencies.

When judges allow an internal policy to supersede the law, the rights of the persons served are automatically violated, and the legislator's intent is undermined -- under-minded.

The community trusts that OAH is a neutral, fair, and accessible space; therefore, I ask that you guarantee truly equitable processes for all families, especially the most vulnerable --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

-- who lack legal representation." And that is the only comment received.
Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right, I believe we have now gone through all of the spoken comments and chat comments and e-mailed comments that were provided during the meeting. Because we do have some extra time, we can go ahead and take additional spoken comments.

I do see some hands up of people who have already provided comments. I'd like to go first, if there any people who have not yet provided spoken comments or other comments.

Tzer, was Ms. Ortiz the person who had just provided the e-mailed comment?

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

Susan, I do not have a way of confirming that.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. All right, then I'm just going to take the hands up in the order they're in. I believe all of these folks have already provided comments, but we're going to go ahead and call on them.

I'm going to call on jacquelinecasas21. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CASAS:

Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Jacqueline Casas. I'm Nguyen Martinez's mother, and I'm here to ask -- I'm here to ask that there be a follow-up regarding this discrimination that has been taking place from the SCLARC Regional Center.

It's affecting people, it's affecting children, it's affecting my own child. I would hate to see this affecting other families, so I'd really like to see some type of follow-up. Please investigate Ms. Cynthia Rivera and Obdulia Juarez.

Investigate, please, how they're interacting with clients. This can't go on. This affects our children's life. It affects the regional center clients' life, and regional centers are here to serve people with disabilities, not to be in behalf of the workers, no.

Unfortunately, though, the workers, the staff, and some in particular from SCLARC Regional Center, it feels that -- it feels like they're acting as owners the regional center. They behave as if they're owners of the regional center, and this is affecting families and clients.

And I really, really hope that DDS can make some type of investigation, and of course, at the very least, follow up, because nobody at the SCLARC Regional Center, for example, contacting me to apologize or see how my son is doing after this event.

No one in the position of leadership has reached out, and I feel this is very, very sad --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CASAS:

-- and it's very concerning for the entire community. Thank you for hearing me out.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

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

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

Yes, I just want to say that my hand was dropped, like, ten times, and I think that a lot of time was taken, you know, waiting for comments. I think that we just need to use our time better, maybe just allow open mic to those of us who do have something to say.

I'm not sure if it's here on your part, you don't want to hear what we have to say, or you're scared of what people have to comment on. I mean, we're being discriminated everywhere we go, regional centers, DDS. For example, DDS doesn't have a webpage in Spanish. They don't have all services available in Spanish, and really we feel excluded. We feel like we're left out.

We need more training to go to judges. They need to know better how to serve. It's very important to that whenever a client asks for a change or a different judge, that that be allowed, because if they go back to the same judge, then often times, the judge is using information from a separate case to make decisions on this new case, and I just don't think that that's fair.

So, hopefully, you could, I don't know, open the chat function, open your ears, your hearts, and see the needs that our families are facing and look for solutions,

because it's so sad that in this day and age, we're still asking and begging for translation. We're asking for the chat function.

You're here to speak to us, but then again, it looks like all avenues of communication are -- communication are closed, so we're just asking you, please be more empathetic to our needs. Something that happened at our hearings, for example, regional center show up with their computers, with their laptops, and all their fancy tools, but whenever it's --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

-- our time to comment, we pulled out our phone, judge said, hey, you can't use your phone. Well, that's where we had our information, and we weren't able to comment, or excuse me, to finish sharing what we wanted to share or present our evidence.

And so, I don't know. I don't know how this can be resolved. Make sure that justice truly, truly -- you know, just be able to trust that things are being done justly. We don't go to these hearings.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

They're called fair hearings, but they're really --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, I'm sorry. I'm sorry, the two minutes is up, and I need to move on to the next person. Thank you. All right, I'm going to call on Silvia next. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SILVIA:

Hello. Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Yes.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SILVIA:

Okay, so this is my comment. First, I just want to say that I completely agree with everyone who's spoken before me. You know, I was present, for example, when the regional center was discriminating this particular client at that event that they mentioned, and I just thought it was so incredible that something like this is happening to clients.

And that there was an example of what happens at these regional centers. Many times, our families or loved ones or the Latino community is being treated this way in regional-- at the regional centers. It's really -- it's a form of abuse. Regional centers, at times, will take those directives and they'll set them aside.

They have their own agenda above DDS directives, and I don't think that that's fair. DDS needs to do something about that, look into it, investigate, if there's some way that they can work with these regional centers, and I don't know. For example,

the lady before me, she mentioned that you might be afraid of opening the chat freely so that we can comment.

Really? Instead of allowing communication, that's kind of shutting us down, and it would be huge on your part to be able to open it so you can hear from the Latino community so that you don't just think of us as a problem or as if we have nothing valuable to add or to comment.

We do. We have a lot to bring to the table. We can learn from each other, so why are we being denied the opportunity to comment? For example, the chat --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SILVIA:

-- isn't open. I was trying to type in there, and I couldn't. So, I really don't understand what's going on, and I would just really like to see that there'd be more opportunity to communicate with us.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, thank you. I believe --

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR SILVIA:

And I would really appreciate --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- it's time. I believe it's time --

(INDISCERNIBLE CROSSTALK).

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right, I'm going to call on Lulu A. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

Yes. Something else that I would like to see considered within the work that you do is, how are you going to help families to -- how are you going to help families send information, for example, on a -- on that public portal for the judges to find?

For example, if a family is not able, if they're not technologically able to upload their information, they don't have maybe a computer or a scanner, or even the know-how, we would need to identify somebody who's responsible to help that family to upload their documents and their paperwork.

So, that's an idea. I think we need to discuss that. And it's also very important to identify what is the generic resource that may be shared with the family. For example, we're asking for (inaudible) representation in these hearings.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ:

This is the interpreter. I'm so sorry. We're losing some audio from our -- okay.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

We need to just find out and know in advance who is going to support the family. This is a form of justice. This community has, for years, suffered a lack of help and safety and security and stability.

And so, we really need this to be a part of your agenda. Who's going to take responsibility for helping the families so they can be supported, so that they can ensure that whatever hearing they go through, they can actually participate.

For example, a hearing that I went to, the judge didn't allow the client to speak. They let the regional center --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

-- take all the time, and the client was there, of course, at the hands of the person who's taking care of them. They weren't allowed time or an opportunity, not even a minute so they could speak on their own behalf.

And so, it was just something very, very sad that judges are not showing any empathy for the client, you know, to try to get to know them, what their needs -- and so, I ask you, please, to consider this, talk about it, and find a solution so that the client can have the time that they need.

Often times, you know, they can't be there --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

That's time.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. A:

-- for the entire event.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay, I'm sorry. Time has passed, and so we're going to move on to the next person. Thank you for your comments. The next person is Lizabeth Canas. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CANAS:

Good afternoon. My comment, first of all, I one-hundred percent support that comment that came via e-mail which is Cesilia Ortiz (inaudible) please like to see that it be followed up.

As you can see, during hearings, we are at a tremendous disadvantage. Most of us parents don't have the know-how when it comes to technology to be able to upload documents. We don't have the professional vocabulary that a lawyer has or regional center staff has. We don't have that.

You know, the way that they defend themselves, they can do it eloquently. We can't. We need you, please, to put yourself in a parent's shoes, a parent who's there advocating for their child. We're not professionals; we're just parents, and we're just trying to communicate needs.

And trust me, we're not asking for services just because. It's a tremendous work to care for our children, and then add on top of it, supporting -- or excuse me, sending documents or doing this and that, that's so much work.

Parents need to be provided at least an advocate or representative, somebody who can help us throughout this process. And then, of course, how can you work with Latino families to better assist them? It absolutely needs to be better. We're just not feeling support, we're not feeling the help. Something needs to be done. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. Okay, I'm going to call on the next person, Rocy Ceden. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CEDENO:

Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Good afternoon.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CEDENO:

Okay, yes. So, I'm here to discuss a little bit of what's happening at regional centers. There's this tremendous unfairness is taking place, which feels like a conspiracy. It feels like a conspiracy because you're here hearing from families, and nobody is doing anything.

You're not allowing families to freely speak or to bring forward whatever problems we're facing, and that's unfair. For example, 4731 complaints, not just for regional center, but for OOH (sic), that process just doesn't work. Why? Because you guys are -- you guys are pulling the strings, you guys are conspiring. You're conspiring with regional centers. You have the power.

You have power to control and to tell regional centers what to do. And so much has taken place behind the scenes that nothing happens on behalf of the family, and the families that are working so, so hard and that should be able to feel representation from regional centers and for these agencies.

We as parents are the ones who fighting to defend our children, and you guys block us. You block us every single time. How? By not letting us speak. You block what we have to say.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. CEDENO:

I am very, very in agreement with Cesilia Ortiz and Lula, what she says. I see now that you're trying to shut me up again. Thank you for hearing me out.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. What we're trying to do is to be fair by providing the same amount of time for every person. I am now going to call on Shirlys Gruber. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER GUTIERREZ FOR MS. GRUBER:

Hello. Good afternoon. You know, it's very sad to hear a family that's -- or excuse me, a community who, for many years, is experiencing inequality. And you know, being here trying to comment, whenever we receive our NOAs, our notice of action, and we go through the process which we're asked, in the process that we're told to follow, we follow it, and then the response that we receive is always the same.

And in fact, those who are supposedly helping to make decision for the family, they aren't fully trained or aware of what disability even is. They don't know how that disability is going to affect the family, not just now, but for the rest of their life.

This is real. It's a problem. It's happening. And it can't be that every time we submit a request, the decision is taken very, very lightly, you know? It's taken from the -- it comes from the coordinator or from the agency, it's here, send that family a NOA. And then whenever we try to go through the legal process to try to get a different answer, then the answer that we already received is upheld, and then so we have to wait until mediation or hearing.

This is such an emotional burden for us as parents, and it's not just parents; it affects the entire family. At times, we'll go on months and months without (inaudible). And whenever we do finally get a response, if it's a favorable one, we lost tremendous time that could have been better served helping the client.

So, we need you to figure out what's going on. There are people who go to these formal meetings, and they're partial. They're there on behalf of the regional center, and this is something very, very real. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, next we've got Adriana Ortiz. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. ORTIZ:

Good afternoon. First of all, I wanted to tell you that I think it's very terrible to not have access to the comments and chat, because I couldn't express that Ortiz was Adriana and not the one who has already spoken. So, you guys are just shutting my microphone without giving me the opportunity to express myself, because that -- that's for -- my recommendation is just to open the chat so that way I can at least say, hey, I'm another person.

And next I would like -- I don't know if it's DDS or OHA(sic). To check the reasons of the -- what the coordinators place in the note, because they just put, like, whatever reason, and they just send the families to appeal, and then the families don't know in regards to the codes or constitutions. They just prefer not to do it because they prefer not to waste their time, because from what they know, they're already losing.

So, it's very important that OAH is more in regards -- pays more attention in regards to this, and companion the families to the hearings, because it wouldn't be a fair hearing. That would -- that would be in regards to all the families, and that would be everything. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, now I'm going to call on Lulu A. Please unmute yourself. Lulu A., do you have any comments? Lulu A., do you have any comments? Okay, we're going to move on then to jacquelinecasas21. Please unmute yourself.

MS. CASAS:

"This has affected me emotionally since it was an event where I wanted to share my talent and my interest and feel part of my community. Also, a DDS representative was present at the fair, and they saw the situation, but no one from the regional center has contacted me or my mother after the incident.

I hereby request support and follow-up from DDS. I also ask that the conduct of Mrs. Cynthia Rivera and Mrs. Odulia Juarez be investigated, and that I be provided with protection, as I fear further exclusion or retaliation from my SCLARC regional center.

I'm also requesting a restraining order for Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. -- I mean, and Ms. Juarez. I appreciate your attention and hope that steps will be taken so that no other young regional center client must go through something like this. Sincerely, Nguyen Beig Martinez Casas." Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right, I'm not seeing any other hands up for those wishing to provide spoken comments. Okay, it looks like a hand just went up. Adriana Gutierrez. Please go ahead and unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. GUTIERREZ:

Yes, good afternoon. Thank you. I totally agree with all the mothers that have spoken. Us, as Latins, we have the first barrier, which is the language. I had my first hearing with the regional center two months ago, and I haven't even received any notification telling me that I won the case, or I haven't -- or I didn't win the case, neither through e-mail or through regular mail.

What concerns me also is that they gave us NOAs where they just tell you absurd thing that they -- where they tell you that you have other resources where regional center knows that they have been denied in other places, and it's already put it in the NOA.

So, they don't even take the time to just check the -- our children's files. It's very sad that through the regional center to current, a doctor take the decision, if that services could be provided to my children or not, when that doctor doesn't even know my children.

They just read the report that the doctors that see my children provide, but the regional center doesn't give you the opportunity for that doctor to see the client and to take correct decisions. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. All right. I'm going to call on Claudia Rivera, and that's going to be our last spoken comment. Please unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. RIVERA:

Yes. Here, my comment is in regards to the complaints 4731. With our -- with us, the parents, we request the 4731s. We don't get any resolutions. Before, it was different.

I don't know if it's always been the same, but when the complaint is placed, in regards to the regional center personnel, they move them, or they remove them, or they move them from positions, or they remove them from the team, but they don't solve the problem.

And the office for Ombudsperson in the auto-determination office, they don't resolve it either. They don't -- they don't call us; they just ask, how is the case going? That's where you could tell the inefficiency of their work, what that -- that's going on at this time.

And we ask that you please be with us on our side, that you hear us, and that you hear the requests on the 4731, because that's the first step to going to a hearing, to going to a fair hearing. That's what we were asking, and that's where we start.

We start with the 4731s. Please pay attention in regards to these complaints so that way we don't have to go through all this process and through all these steps, that it's already very difficult, our lives with our children already, and sometimes we don't even have the time --

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR MS. RIVERA:

-- to go to the -- to a hearing. Thank you very much for everything. Thank you.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Thank you. I had said we were going to move on to our chat comments, but I've got one more hand up, Silvia. Silvia, I'm going to allow you to give one more comment, and then we are going to move on to any chat comments.

So, Silvia, go ahead and unmute yourself.

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR SILVIA:

Hello. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak again. I was hearing the complaints, the 4731, and that is true. I do request that whenever a parent files a 4731 complaint, it just -- it's registered there in the regional center, so that way, DDS could ask the regional center about the complaints that they already have and not just wait until it's in DDS' hands, so they way they could file it, because the regional center receives a lot of complaints, and they solve it in their own, and DDS doesn't find out in regards to these complaints, but there's a lot of complaints that are being submitted with them.

So, what I recommend is that every complaint that we put in place into the regional center could be filed, so that way, DDS could be -- find out in regards to it, because they just fix them internally, and they don't show up.

And I invite you guys, all of you guys, to open the chat to let us communicate with you guys, to have the liberty of expression. As a matter of fact, we don't even know how many persons are connected right now, so I think it would be necessary for -- so you guys could get to the community, so that way, there won't be this type of situations, and you could understand us a little bit more, and not just take us, like, problematic persons or ineffective (sic) persons that we -- really, I invite you to come closer to the community.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right, thank you. We are now going to go ahead and --

SPANISH INTERPRETER PEREZ FOR SILVIA:

I'm sorry. Thank you very much.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

-- move on to anyone who wants to use chat as an accommodation to provide public comment. If you need chat as an accommodation, please raise your hand. Okay, I see Amalia Barcelo-Huizar. I'm going to promote you to panelist, which means you should be able to type your comments into the chat.

Please go ahead and type your comments. You'll need to hit the arrow to submit them.

PRESIDING ALJ BERG:

30 seconds.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

Okay. It looks like this comment has now been completed, so I will start reading it. "I would like to bring attention to the need of a longer hearing of self-advocates. It will mean a better understanding of personal situations. Thank you."

Is there anyone -- okay, I see there is Jeanine. I'm going to promote you to panelist so that you can go ahead and type your comments in the chat. Okay, it looks like Jeanine commented, "just checking on Marty Omoto. I genuinely thought he was not well."

COMMITTEE MEMBER OMOTO:

(Inaudible) well (inaudible) --

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

All right. We're now going to see if there's anyone else who needs chat as an accommodation. I believe that Adriana Gutierrez already provided spoken comments. If anyone believes that I am incorrect on that, please let me know.

All right, I'm not seeing anyone who has not provided spoken comments who needed to use chat as an accommodation to provide public comment. So, I believe we should now move on to the written public comments.

Do we have any e-mailed public comments that came in during this meeting that have not already been read aloud?

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

Good afternoon. Yes, we do have one additional e-mail comment. And the comment reads, "hi, this is Rene Rodriguez. I attended today's meeting, and I found it very informative. I believe we need to continue keeping important information available regarding SSI, medical and mental health services, because many clients depend on these resources.

Could any of the current changes affect retroactive payments for low income housing? I want the board of directors to continue focusing on these important topics. I am also trying to find the e-mail addresses for Shannon Holguin (phonetic), director, and Katie Hornberger, as I need to contact them.

For background, I have experience serving on a board, and I am currently studying paralegal work through a home study program. I am also reviewing DPS rights, although some class modules are blocked, and I am working to resolve that.

Please also consider my attached resume. I am open to helping, participating, and providing my opinions to support the community and the board's work. If there are any questions, please let me know. Thank you, Rene Rodriguez." And I --

(INDISCERNIBLE CROSSTALK).

MS. LOR-SNYDER:

-- I would like to note that there is an attachment of a resume and a cover letter.

DIVISION CHIEF ALJ FORMAKER:

And for clarification, for written comments, we only read the written comments. We don't read any attachments that might be attached to e-mailed written comments. Thank you.

All right, I think we've now gone through all of the public comments. And I'm going to turn this back over to you, Karin.

FACILITATOR BLOOMER:

Thank you, Susan. Okay, so this concludes our meeting of the year. Again, committee members, be on the lookout for the 2026 meeting dates and a request for your agenda item submissions.

So, with that, thank you so much for your time today. Have a good rest of your year, and we'll see you in 2026. Thank you. This meeting's adjourned.

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 November 13, 2025, Office of Administrative Hearings, via Zoom videoconference. This is the 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 10th day of January, 2026

Nicholas Shupe

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