

Appeals & Fair Hearings: Practices and Perspectives Survey for Regional Centers

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Introduction



Purpose of Survey

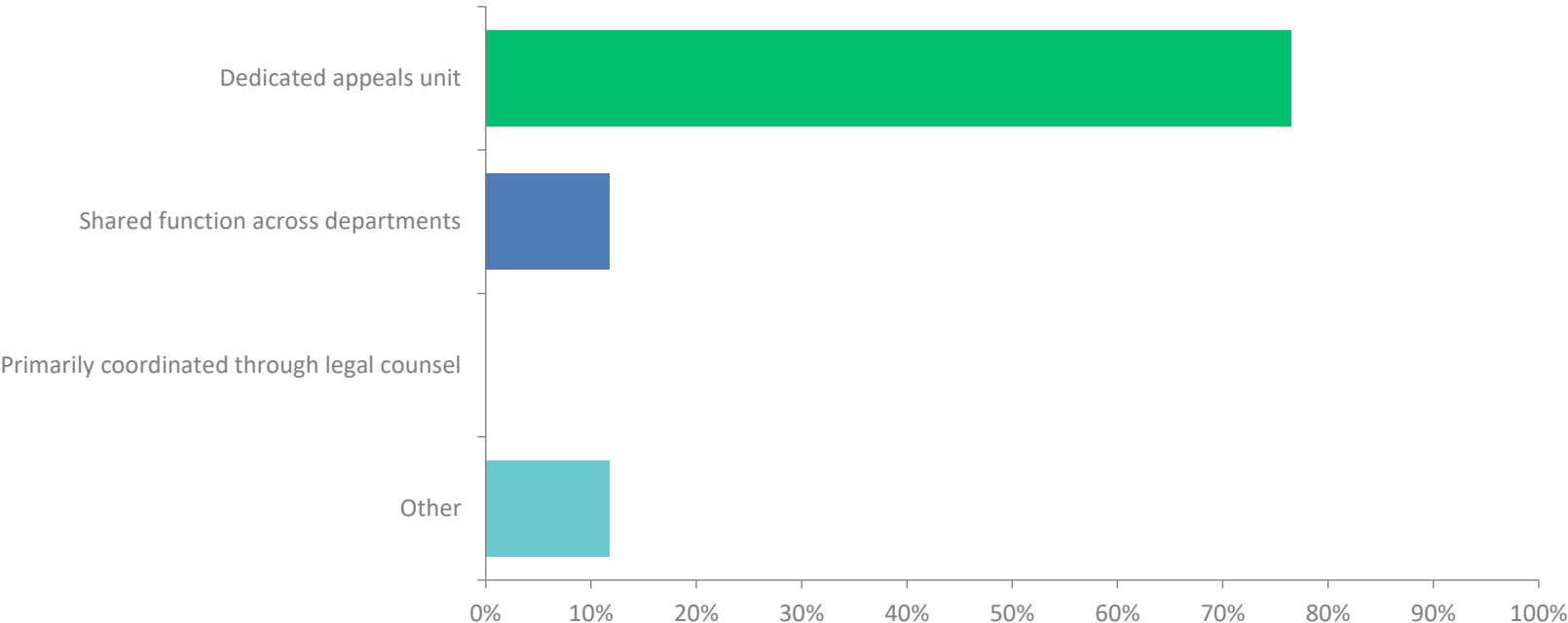


Process for Conducting Survey

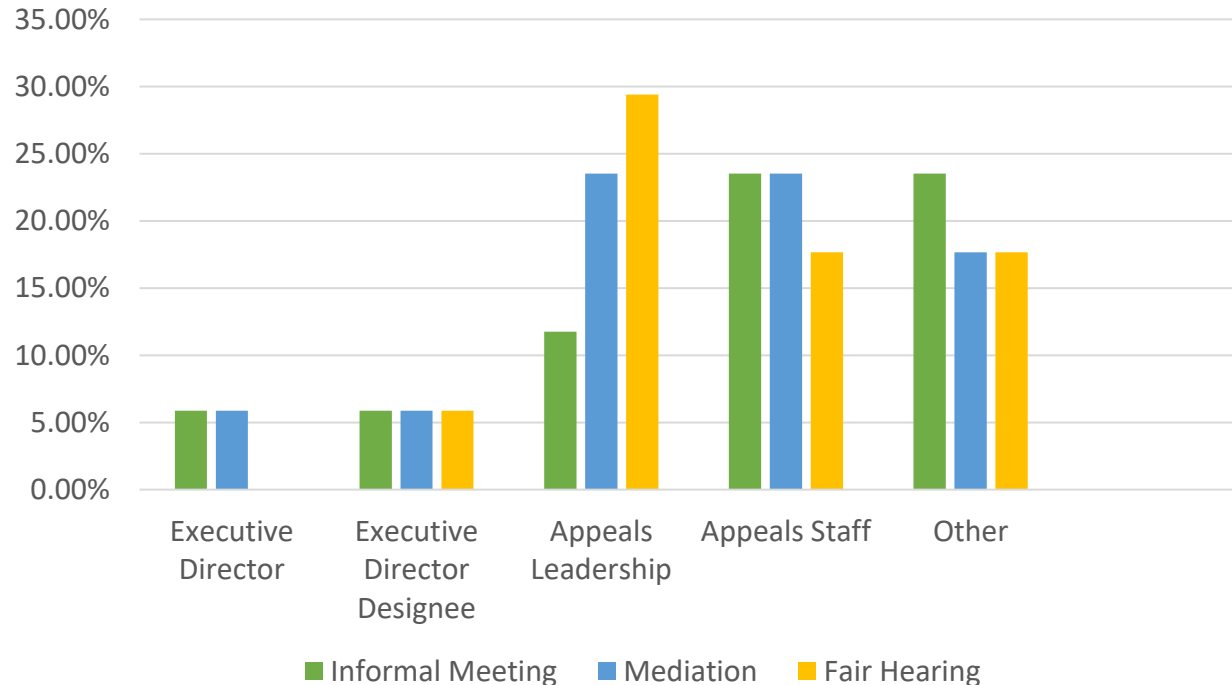


17 of 21 Regional Centers Participated

How is your regional center's appeals/fair hearings function currently organized?



At your regional center, who typically has everyday authority to recommend or approve resolution at each of the following stages?



Which measures, indicators, or considerations help guide feedback processes for the appeals department?

 **Timeliness and Compliance with Required Timelines**

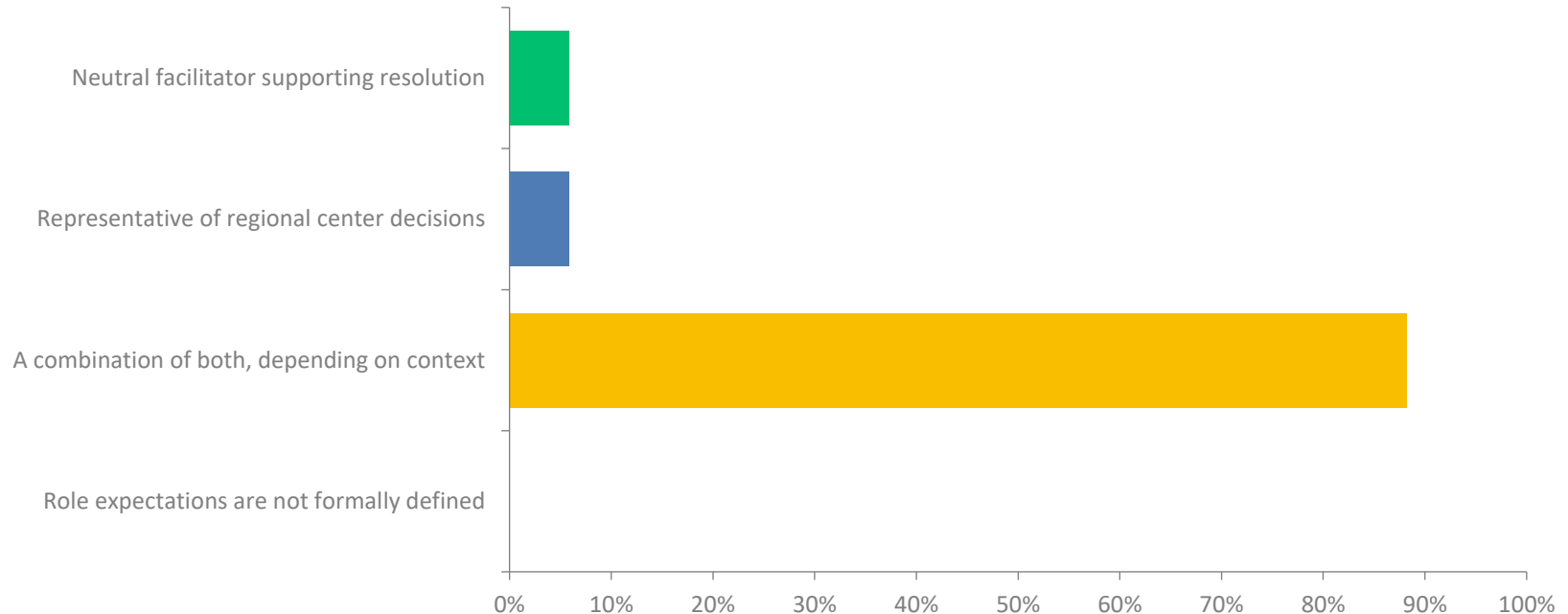
 **Quality or Clarity of Resolutions Reached**

 **Reduction in Matters Proceeding to Hearing**

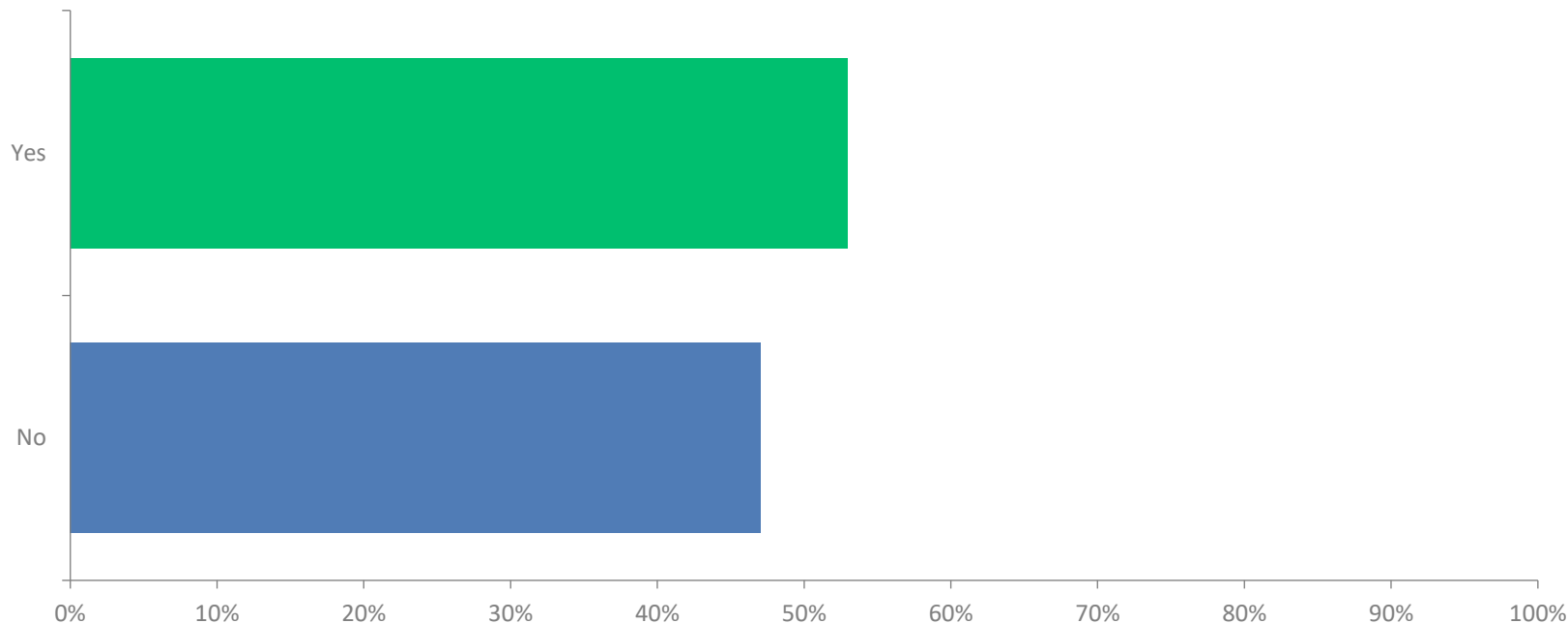
 **Fiscal Considerations**

 **Other**

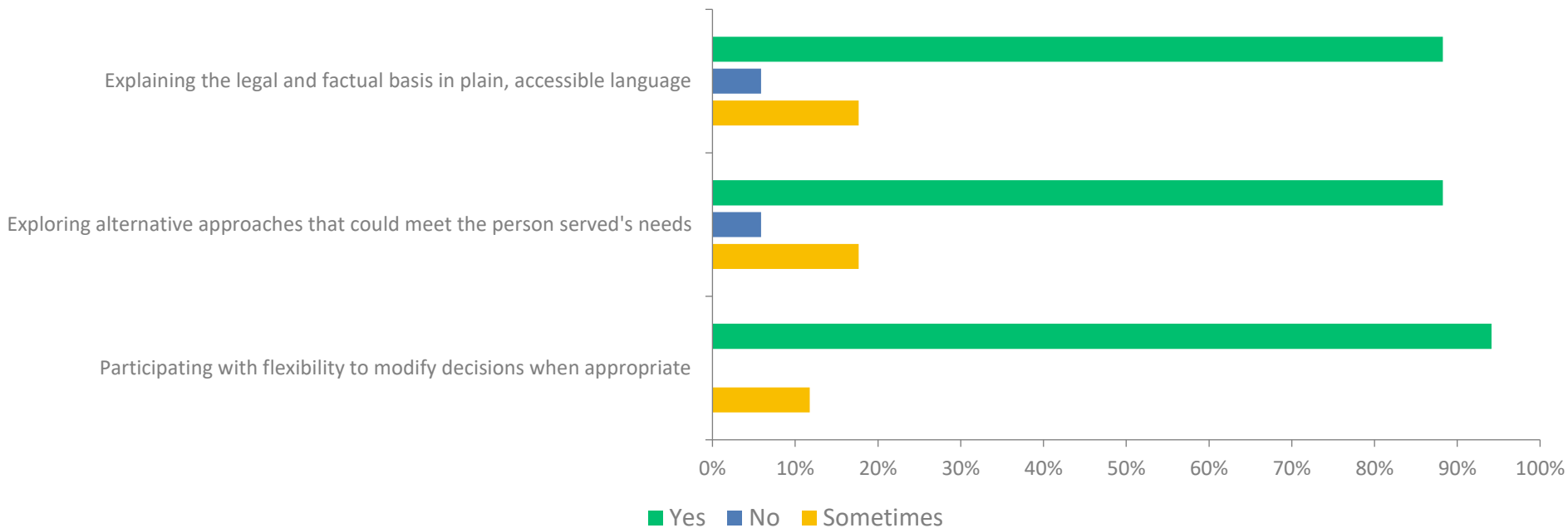
How would you describe how your appeals team understands its role in the appeals process?



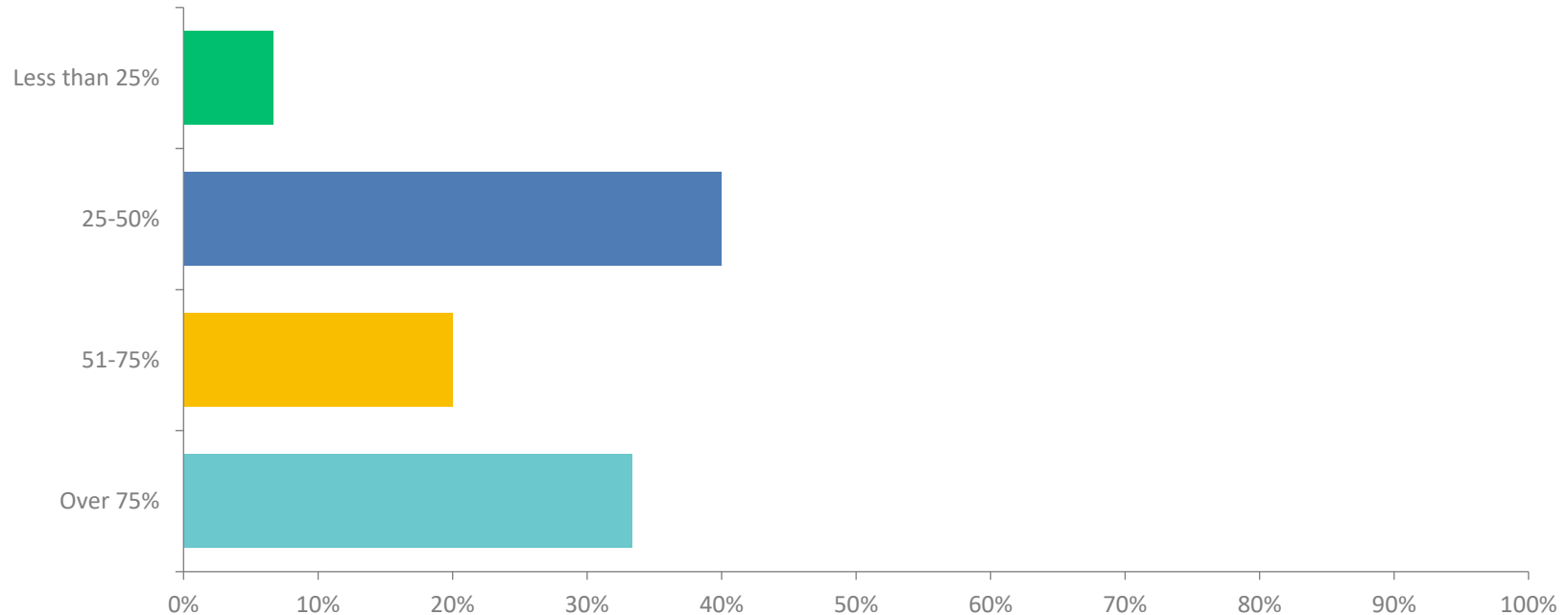
Does your regional center have written guidance (e.g., policy, procedure, training materials) that describe expectations related to neutrality during appeals?



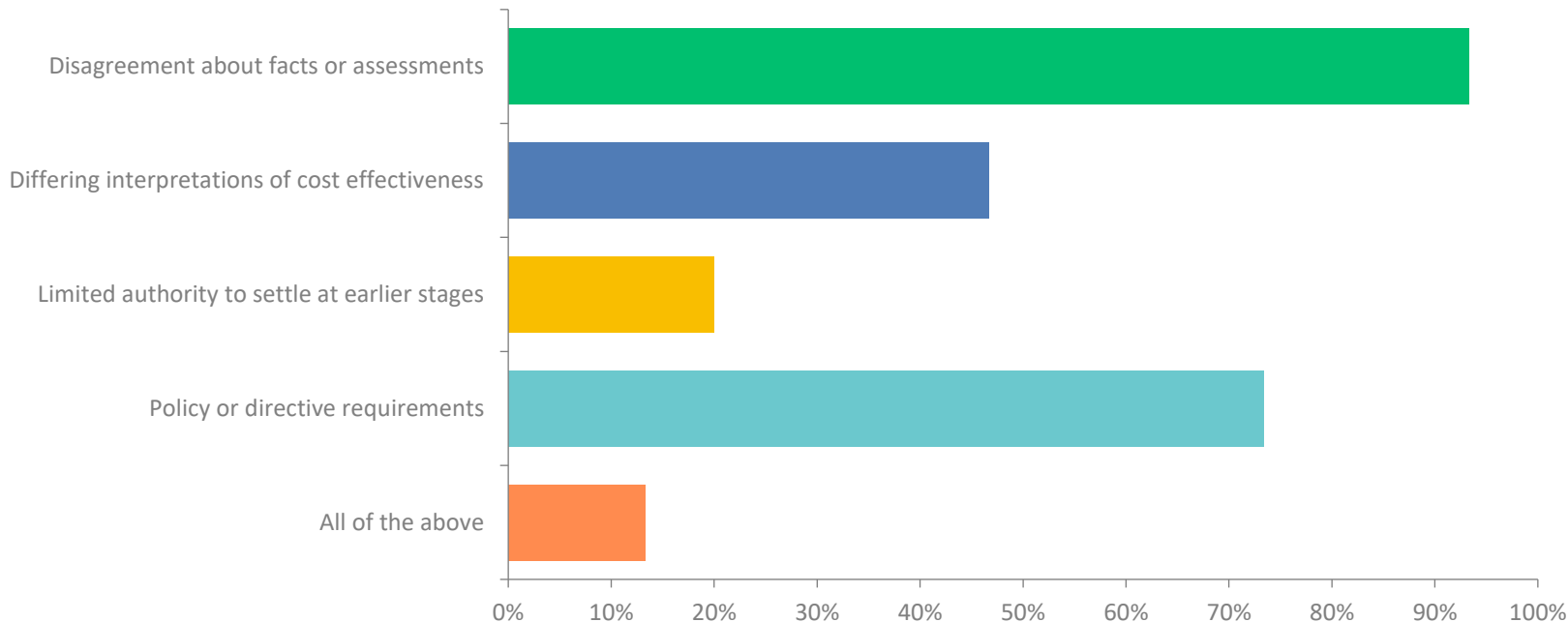
During informal meetings, how often does the regional center engage in the following practices?



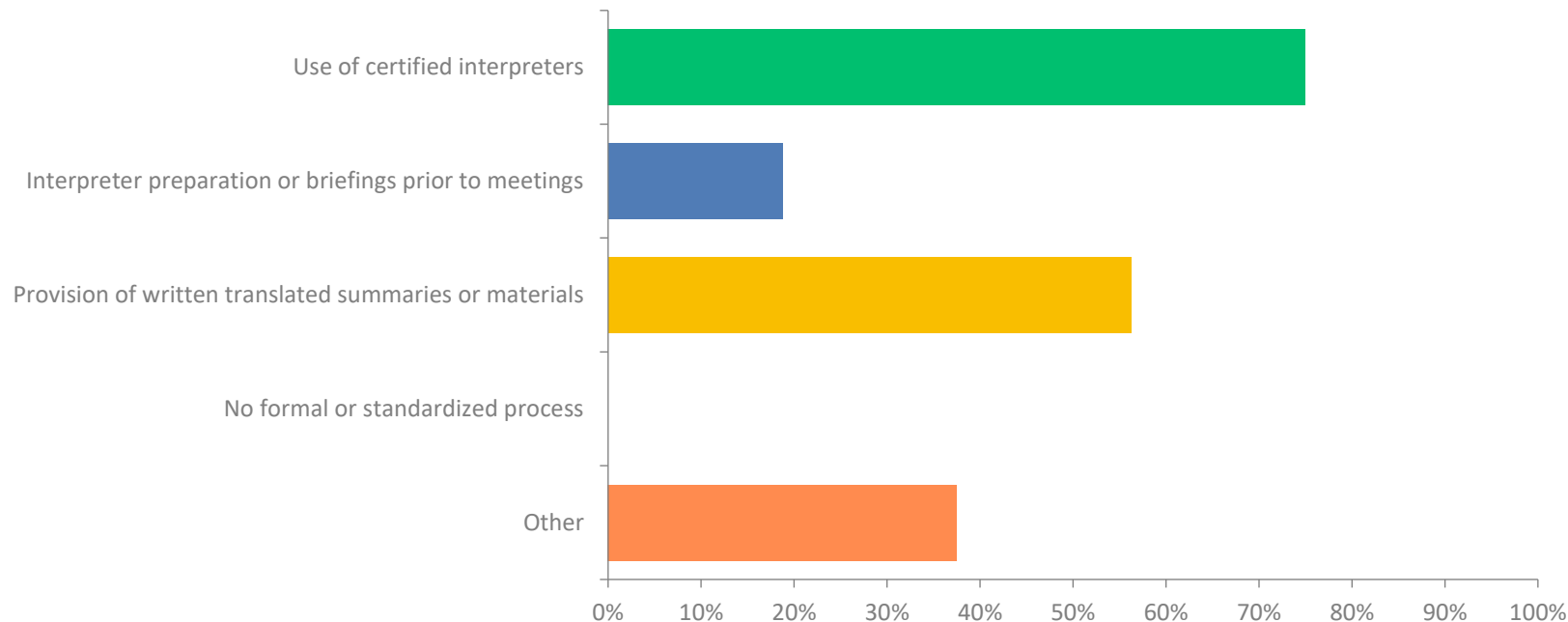
In 2025, approximately how often were appeals resolved prior to mediation or fair hearing?



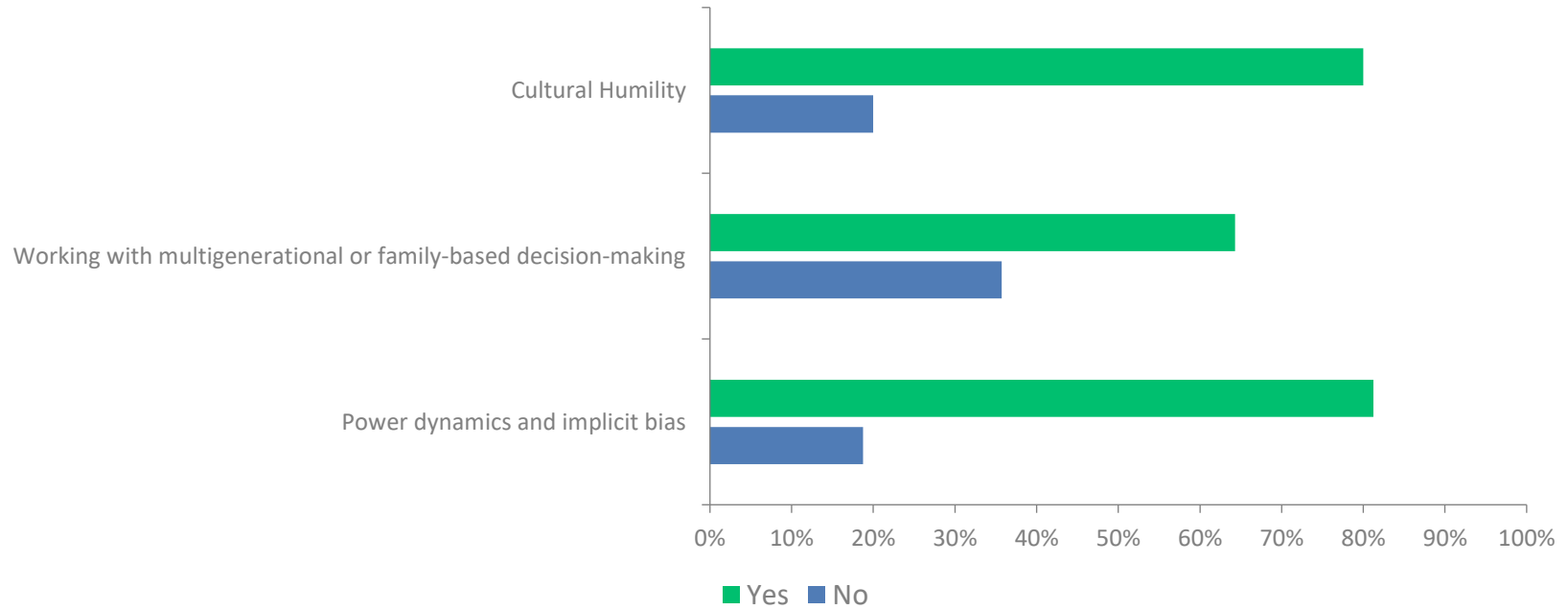
In your experience, what are the most common factors that contribute to appeals proceeding to hearing?



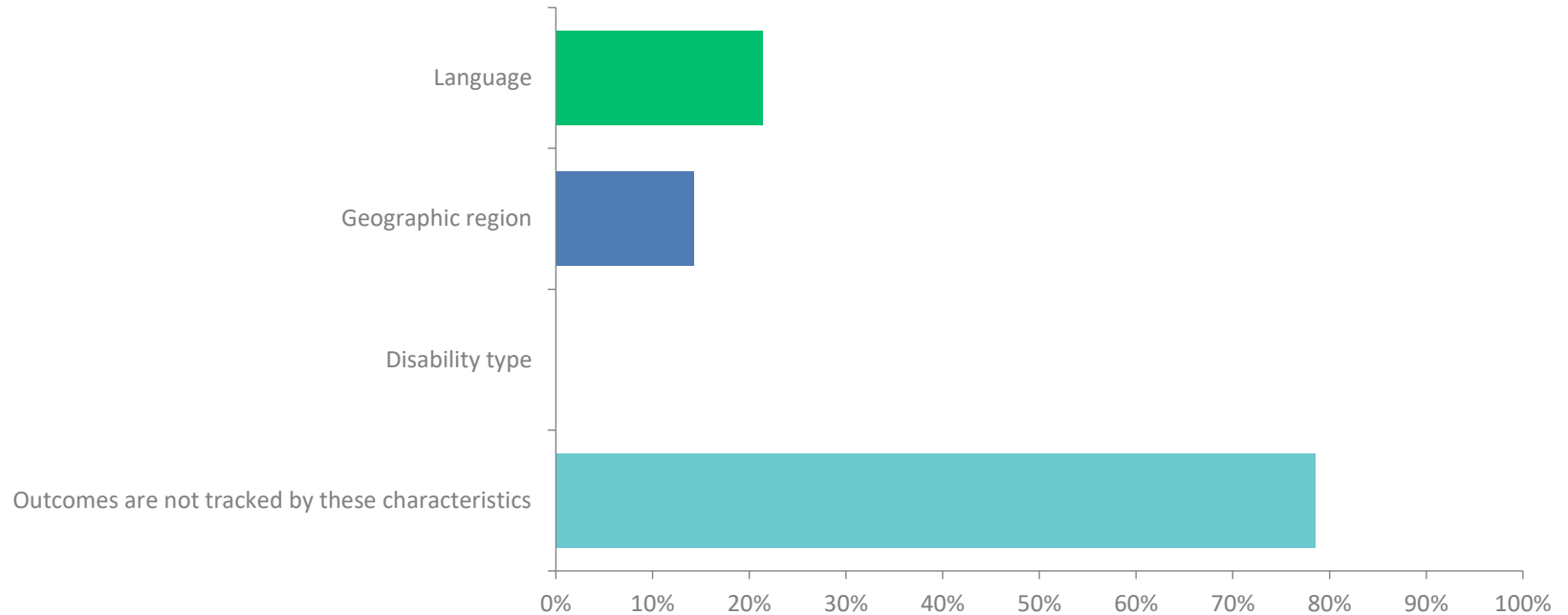
What practices does your appeals team use to support effective communication for individuals with limited English proficiency?



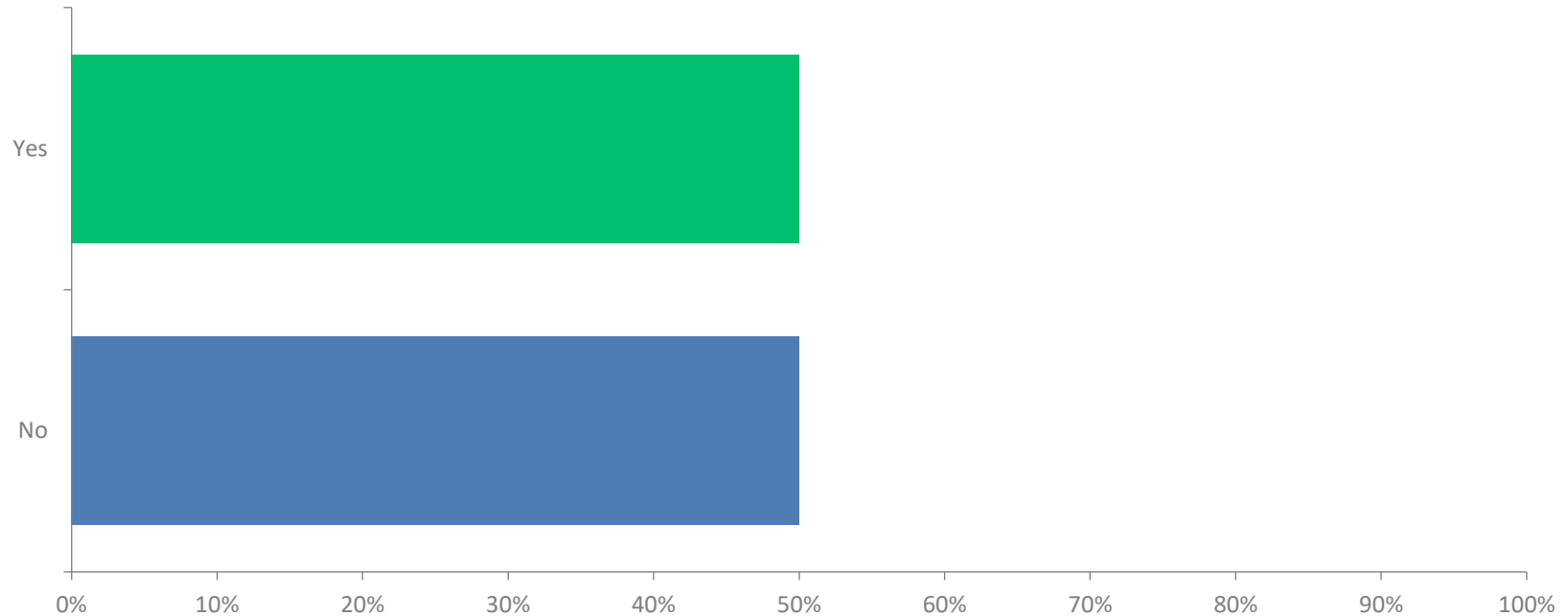
Are appeals staff offered training or professional development in the following areas?



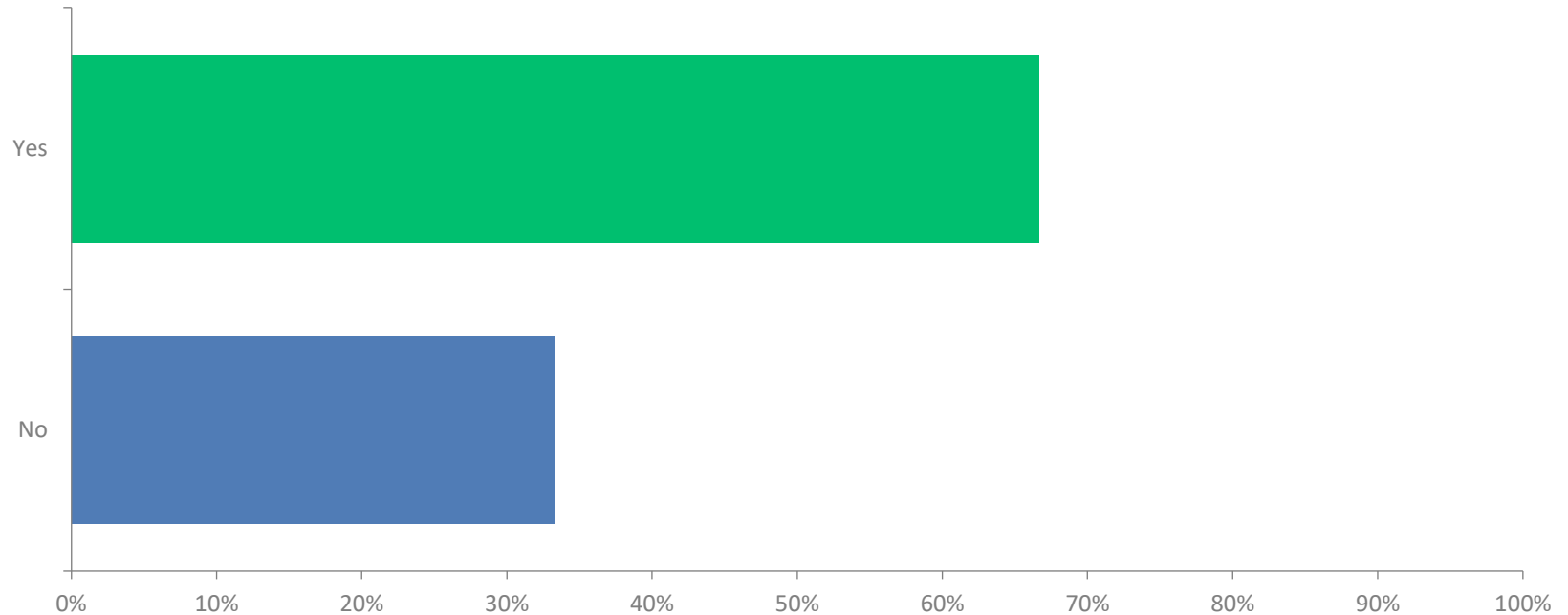
Does your regional center track appeal outcomes by any of the following characteristics?



Are delays in implementing fair hearing decisions tracked or reported to external entities (e.g., DDS or OAH)?



Is there a process in place to review patterns or trends in appeals (for example, repeated appeals on similar issues)?



Which external factors can influence appeals team practices at your regional center?



Community or Stakeholder Feedback



OAH Decisions



DDS Directives or Guidance



Litigation Risk Considerations



Thank You!



**Next Steps/Areas
for Improvement**



Any Questions?