

Office of Administrative  
Hearings  
Advisory Committee Meeting

October 16, 2023

# Meeting Format



Interpretación en español: haga clic en el globo blanco en la parte inferior de la pantalla con la etiqueta "Interpretation." Luego haga clic en "Spanish" y seleccione "Mute original audio."



ASL interpreters have been "Spotlighted," and live closed captioning is active.

- If you are speaking, please **speak slowly**



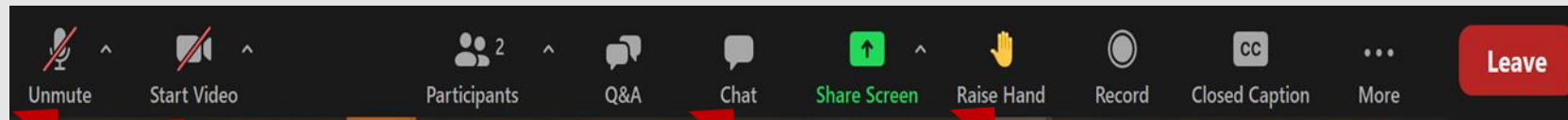
This meeting is being recorded



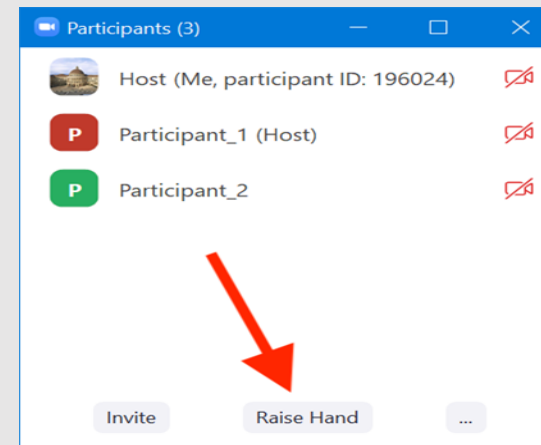
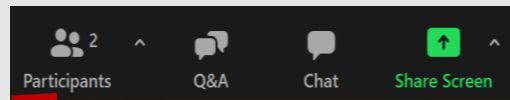
Advisory Committee Meeting materials are available on the OAH website at: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OAH/Case-Types/General-Jurisdiction/Services/Page-Content/General-Jurisdiction-Services-List-Folder/Access-DDS-Advisory-Committee-Meeting-Information>

# Providing Comments—Advisory Committee

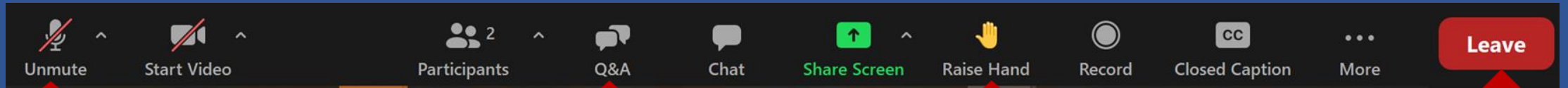
- Please click on “Raise Hand” to comment. You will be called on in order. State your name, have your camera on, and unmute yourself when it is your turn to speak.
- Click on “Chat” and type your comment in the chat **only** if you have an accommodation. Your comment will be read aloud.



- You may need to click on “Participants,” and a new window will open where you can “Raise Hand.”



# Zoom Tips For Public Comment



Unmute mic only when it is your turn to speak during public comment periods.

All attendees can type comments in the Q&A **that are pertinent to agenda topics.**

Please click on "Raise Hand" to speak. You will be called on in order.

Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting.

- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using.
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants.
- Telephone-only participants can raise and lower their hands by pressing \*9 on their phone keypads. Telephone-only participants can unmute themselves after they have been called on by pressing \*6 on their phone keypads.
- Each person's public comment will be limited to three minutes per agenda item, whether spoken or (if written) when read aloud. People communicating through interpreters will have extra time.

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Explanation of Meeting format
  - a. Interpretation feature
  - b. ASL interpretation
  - c. Introduction of interpreters
  - d. Recording of meeting
  - e. Availability of materials
  - f. Zoom webinar
  - g. Public comment

3. Overview of Advisory Committee meeting process
4. Introduction of OAH and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) staff in attendance
5. Introduction of Committee members/roll call

Lilian Ansari

Monica Becerra



## Jennifer Cummings, Program Manager Fair Hearings & Legal Affairs



I bring 22 years of regional center experience including 13 years overseeing agency appeals and complaints.

I wanted to be on the Advisory Committee to contribute toward positive systemic change.

Goal: Fair and user-friendly appeals procedure for consumers, families, and regional centers.

Darline Dupree

# My name is: Fernando Antonio Gomez

My motivation for wanting to be on the Advisory Committee is deeply rooted in personal experience and commitment.

My reasons for seeking this role include:

1. **Personal Experience:** I have firsthand experience as a father of two young teenagers with special abilities who are served by the regional center system. This direct experience has given me valuable insights into the challenges faced by families navigating complex support systems.
2. **Advocacy and Legislative Efforts:** My involvement and advocacy efforts, including co-sponsoring legislation to reform the hearing process, demonstrate my dedication to improving the system for individuals with special abilities and their families.
3. **Excitement for Positive Change:** I am excited about the positive changes in the Appeals Process, recognizing it as a more person-centered and balanced approach. This enthusiasm reflects my commitment to advocating for fair and just solutions.
4. **Community Collaboration:** The importance of our community's involvement in finding solutions and working collaboratively with the system to benefit our children in similar situations.
5. **Founding Member Opportunity:** Being part of the founding members of the Advisory Committee provides a unique opportunity to actively contribute, share concerns, and help shape the direction of improvements in the system and the Advisory Committee.

My lifelong dedication in helping make the system more equitable and supportive for individuals with special abilities and their families is important as we know that California is in the middle of a Disability Rights Movement. My participation in this Advisory Committee holds great promise for effecting positive change and addressing the areas of concern.

**Disability Rights are Human Rights!**



Yulahlia Hernandez

**My name is: Maria Fernanda Iriarte**

I wanted to be on the Advisory Committee because: I want to ensure that the reforms are meaningful to applicants and consumers of regional centers.

Sherry Johnson

**My name is: Taleen Khatchadourian**

I wanted to be on the Advisory Committee because:

I have been through the hearing process and found it to be unfair and biased. I am also on the board of the Armenian Autism Outreach Program and hear families complain about similar situations across various regional centers. And now that I am an independent facilitator in the self determination program, I anticipate this becoming a bigger problem. Regional centers and clients / families should be working together to find solutions that are mutually agreeable far before they get to be in front of a judge.

# My name is: Otto Lana

I wanted to be on the Advisory Committee because: it is important to have the input of opinions and lived experiences from actual consumers. Our voices are valuable. Our presence matters. When you are offered a seat at the table, you better take it.





Carola Camacho Maranon

**My name is: Antony Marron**

I wanted to be on the Advisory Committee because:

My autistic daughter has not been treated fairly re her rights to services as described by the Lanterman Act these past 12 years.

I want to ensure no other developmentally disabled citizen has the same horrible issues.

Ryan Nelson

Jessica Quesada

Benita Shaw

Stacy Shaw

Nina Spiegelman

Aini Tjauw



Brian Weisel

Jesse Weller

Sylvia Yeh

6. Expectations of members

7. Open Meeting Act

8. OAH Announcement

9. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that it be provided with more information on the changes that were made to the Lanterman Act mediation and hearing process, through presentations or otherwise.

10. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that community members have a way to provide information to the Committee about their experiences in mediations and hearings based on the changes to the Lanterman Act, including suggestions for improvement.

11. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that there be a way for community members to provide feedback to the Office of Administrative Hearings about their experiences in the mediation and hearing process.

12. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that the Administrative Law Judges provide the Committee with feedback about their experiences in mediations and hearings.



13. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend additional changes to the Lanterman Act mediation and hearing process to make the appeal process more accessible and understandable to consumers and advocates, through plain language or otherwise.

14. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that information about the hearing process should be made more accessible to consumers, such as through plain language materials, video information about the hearing process, or other ways.

15. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend ways to make interpretations and translations more accessible, more culturally sensitive, and more accurate.

16. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that it should be provided a summary of what has been done to implement the changes to the Lanterman Act, as well as a summary of the training received by the ALJs on those changes (including any training on engaged neutrality).

17. Whether the Advisory Committee should recommend that it should meet more than twice a year.

# 18. Public Comment

# 19. Adjournment

Thank you for attending.