

EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENTS UNABLE TO BE READ ALOUD

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2025

OAH received the following emailed public comments shortly before the Advisory Committee meeting ended and after written public comments had been read aloud. As a courtesy, OAH is providing these comments with the transcription of the meeting.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENT WAS PROVIDED:

I'm Cecilia Salmeron, Isabella Salmeron's mother. Hello, good afternoon. I know that today you will be in the Cafecito with ICC, but I would like to see if you can help me since I am a mother of a child in the regional center since I love my daughter, her hours of personal assistance expired on June 30th and to this date the coordinator only tells me that they are still not approved. I want to know what to do? Since I have sent several emails to her and executives, and have had no response.

Thank you in advance

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENT WAS PROVIDED:

(Subject) Public Comments

My name is Jacqueline Murillo, and I am the mother of a teenager on the autism spectrum located in Orange County.

**Public Comments for the Office of Administrative Hearings Advisory Committee,
August 14, 2025.**

1. It is important that the parent/caregiver of a client from any of the 21 Regional Centers be allowed to submit supporting documentation for the scheduled fair hearing, both electronically (on the website) and physically at the corresponding office. Many parents/caregivers are not familiar with the technology that would allow them to access documentation through the online system.

2. It is important that personnel be designated to receive the supporting documentation physically submitted to the corresponding office by the parent/caregiver representing the client, and that this same personnel be responsible for attaching this documentation to the case file.

3. It is important that a special fund be designated to translate any non-English supporting documentation submitted by the parent/caregiver into English. It is important that this documentation be translated into English by a highly qualified professional service, and once the translation is complete, it be attached to the case file in a timely manner so that it is ready for the judge's review.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENT WAS PROVIDED:

(Subject) Public Comment – Ensuring Fairness and Protecting Disability Rights in OAH Hearings

Dear OAH Advisory Committee,

We ask: Who are the Lanterman Act, DDS guidelines, and disability regulations truly for? Are they simply designed to protect the authority of Regional Centers, or are they meant to guarantee and safeguard the rights of individuals with disabilities, while ensuring that Regional Centers fulfill their responsibilities and obligations?

In practice, families have experienced that the true intent of these laws is often undermined. Administrative actions that ignore the rights of people with disabilities and distort the original purpose of the Lanterman Act require improvement.

I respectfully request the following:

1. Respect for Disability Rights

At every stage of the hearing process, the rights of individuals with disabilities must be respected. OAH should ensure that hearings are not merely symbolic or procedural, but genuinely fair and impartial.

2. Equal Application of Evidence Standards

During hearings, Regional Center arguments—even speculative claims without supporting evidence—are often accepted, while parents' evidence and testimony are held to stricter standards. In some cases, evidence properly submitted to OAH has been missing during the hearing process. Such imbalance undermines due process and erodes trust in the system.

3. Mandatory Verification of APP (Aid Paid Pending)

Even when parents file appeals within the required 30-day deadline, Regional Centers frequently refuse to implement APP, leaving families without essential services and causing severe harm. Therefore, I strongly urge OAH to make it a mandatory duty of judges at the start of every hearing to verify whether APP has been properly applied. This safeguard is essential to prevent families from suffering due to service interruptions.

The Lanterman Act was not created to protect the authority of Regional Centers, but to guarantee and strengthen the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. I

urge OAH to restore the true purpose of the law, ensure fairness, and protect families from systemic inequities.

Thank you for your attention.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENT WAS PROVIDED:

(Subject) Public Comment

Good afternoon to the committee:

My name is Maribel Oliver, mother of a client at the Redwood Coast Regional Center. One of the main barriers we families face is the Regional Centers' refusal to provide the necessary services. Regional Centers have denied families and send Notices of Action (NOAs).

Furthermore, the poor quality of Spanish interpretation during hearings is inadequate, which can negatively influence judges' decisions.

Families also experience intimidation from Regional Centers and, in many cases, do not receive understanding or adequate treatment from judges. Even when families win their cases, the services provided come with restrictive conditions, and multiple obstacles are imposed to their effective implementation.

We suggest establishing an independent oversight system to review Regional Center decisions, as well as the quality of interpretation at hearings. Furthermore, it is essential to train judges and interpreters on issues of cultural equity and family rights. We also propose that, once the services are granted by court order, their implementation be immediate and without arbitrary conditions.

Thank you

Maribel Oliver