



**Disability and Guardianship Project
Disability and Abuse Project**

9420 Reseda Blvd. #240, Northridge, CA 91324
(818) 230-5156 • www.spectruminstitute.org

April 1, 2017

Director Nancy Bargmann
Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Re: Next Steps in DDS Oversight of Regional Center Conservatorship Assessment Services

Dear Director Bargmann:

As you know, Dr. Nora J. Baladerian and I and various advisors to Spectrum Institute met with representatives of the Department of Developmental Services on March 27, 2017. We were pleased that Kristopher Kent, Assistant Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency, participated in the meeting. It was unfortunate that you were not able to attend.

The conversation at that meeting stimulated me to do additional research into the duties of DDS to provide guidance to and oversight of regional centers in connection with their assessment and reporting services for clients involved in limited conservatorship proceedings. The enclosed materials are the product of that research.

1. Commentary on authority of state and federal agencies to intervene if ADA violations occur
2. Statutory duties of DDS and regional centers regarding conservatorship assessments
3. Clauses in existing contracts between DDS and regional centers on these issues
4. ADA Title II regulations regarding DDS grievance procedures for ADA violations
5. Authority of DDS to monitor regional center services for ADA compliance

After you and Assistant Secretary Kent have had an opportunity to review these materials, I would like us to continue the conversation that began at the meeting on March 27. I hope that future interactions will be collaborative, constructive, and designed to improve the oversight activities of DDS in connection with the conservatorship assessment and reporting services of regional centers.

It may be appropriate to have the Association of Regional Center Agencies included in future conversations on these issues. The participation of ARCA could be helpful as we move toward ensuring that clients receive the full benefit of ADA-compliant conservatorship assessment services.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas F. Coleman
Legal Director, Spectrum Institute
tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org