



Disability and Guardianship Project Disability and Abuse Project

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January 16, 2017

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

Re: Request for Meeting to Discuss Improving DDS Oversight and Regulation of
Regional Centers and Their Function in Limited Conservatorship Proceedings

Dear Ms. Bargmann:

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss serious problems with respect to oversight and regulation of an important function of regional centers. DDS can play a role in helping to ensure that regional center clients receive access to justice in limited conservatorship proceedings. Unfortunately, access to justice in these proceedings is being systematically denied due to flaws in various aspects of the limited conservatorship system, one of which involves regional centers.

At our request, the Judicial Council and the State Bar are in the process of addressing other parts of the problem – seeking to formulate improvements from their own independent perspectives.

The Department of Developmental Services is the only agency in the Executive Branch that has any role to play in connection with these proceedings. Regional centers have a direct and important function in limited conservatorship cases. However, because DDS is not providing guidance, regulation, and oversight of these functions, the quality of the services in these cases varies significantly among the 21 regional centers. (<http://spectruminstitute.org/rc-report.pdf>)

I will be in Sacramento on March 26 to deliver a presentation at the Public Policy Conference of The Arc of California. Dr. Nora Baladerian and I would like to meet with you and other appropriate DDS personnel the next day to discuss ways in which DDS can take a pro-active role to improve access to justice and to protect the civil rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are involved in limited conservatorship proceedings.

We would appreciate a morning meeting on March 27 if possible. I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas F. Coleman
Legal Director, Spectrum Institute
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cc: Brian Winfield, Community Services Division
Rapone Anderson, Regional Center Branch

Enclosure:
[Booklet of Reference Materials](#)