



Disability and Guardianship Project Disability and Abuse Project

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January 20, 2017

Secretary Diana Dooley
Health and Human Service Agency
1600 Ninth Street #460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Meeting to Discuss Role of DDS in Regulation and Oversight
of Regional Center Functions in Limited Conservatorship Proceedings

Dear Secretary Dooley:

I am writing to request a meeting with you or the liaison officer or agency official with responsibility for oversight of the Department of Developmental Services.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the need for DDS to take an active role in regulating and monitoring the important functions that regional centers should be providing in connection with limited conservatorship proceedings. Our research indicates that DDS has not been providing any oversight in this regard. We believe this is adversely affecting regional center clients who become involved in such proceedings.

We have tried in the past to engage DDS in conversation about this problem but our outreach efforts were unsuccessful. With a new director at DDS, we have reached out again. However, we feel that with the rights of 43,000 conservatees at stake, and with thousands of new petitions being filed each year, this matter should be brought to the HHS Agency. Perhaps you and your staff can help us get DDS more interested in addressing this problem.

I will be making a presentation at the Public Policy Conference of The Arc of California on March 26, 2017 and will be available to meet with public officials on March 27. Five of my colleagues at Spectrum Institute will join me in these meetings.

We would very much like to meet with you if you are available sometime on March 27. I would appreciate hearing from your scheduling person to arrange a mutually agreeable time to meet and open a conversation on this topic.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas F. Coleman
Legal Director, Spectrum Institute
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cc: Nancy Bargmann, DDS
Encl.

p.s. We worked together in 1980 in connection with the formation of the Governor's Commission on Personal Privacy. I have enclosed some materials that memorialize our communications.