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## FAQS ABOUT THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Department of Development Services (DDS) has worked closely with many self-advocates, family members and stakeholders to revise the regional center appeals process. DDS and the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) agreed that an Advisory Committee will be an important way to continue to receive input. This Advisory Committee will focus on the hearing and mediation process related to the Lanterman Act.

**Q1: What is the purpose of the Office of Administrative Hearings Advisory Committee (OAHAC or Advisory Committee)?**

A1: The Committee will provide input to OAH and DDS about ways to improve the hearing and mediation process.

**Q2: Who are the members of the Advisory Committee?**

A2: The Committee will have up to 18 members. Individuals and families receiving regional center services will be at least half (1/2) of the total members. Other members include Disability Rights California; the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, representatives of regional centers; the Association of Regional Center Agencies; the Office of the Clients' Rights Advocacy; and developmental services advocacy organizations.

**Q3: How long can an individual serve on the Advisory Committee?**

A3: For the initial term, each applicant may request to serve either a two- or three-year term. A member may apply for a second term. A member may serve only two consecutive terms. There is not a limit on the total number of terms a member may serve over time.

**Q4: How often does the Advisory Committee meet?**

A4: The Advisory Committee meets virtually (online) two times a year. Generally, the meetings will be in the Spring and Fall. There may be additional meetings as requested by DDS and OAH. Also, new members will attend an orientation session about the purpose and expectations of the Advisory Committee.

**Q5: Can members of the public attend Advisory Committee meetings?**

A5: Yes, the meetings will be open to the public. Public comment will be taken at each meeting.

**Q6: Will language interpretation be provided?**

A6: Yes. Spanish translation and American Sign Language will be available for each public meeting. Meetings also will provide language interpretation in the preferred languages of participants and in languages requested by members of the public in advance of each meeting.

**Q7: What responsibilities does an Advisory Committee member have?**

A7: Members should anticipate attending and actively participating in each meeting. If a member is not able to attend two meetings, the OAH and DDS may appoint a replacement member to complete the term. Individuals who have submitted an application will be considered for appointment to a vacant position.

**Q8: What is the application process and timeline?**

A8: Individuals who want to be on the Advisory Committee must complete an application on a computer. Here is the [link to the online application \(Solicitud de membresía en español\)](#) **Applications for the initial group must be submitted to DDS by January 31, 2023.** After that, applications will be accepted throughout the year.

**Q9: What if I need help completing the application?**

A9: If you need help completing the online application, you can ask for help from any of the contacts below:

- A trusted friend or family member
- Your local Clients' Rights Advocate
  - Call (800) 390-7032 (TTY 877-669-6023) for Northern California
  - Call (866) 833-6712 (TTY 877-669-6023) for Southern California
- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
  - Call (833) 818-9886 to get connected to your local office
- The DDS Ombudsperson at [ombudsperson@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ombudsperson@dds.ca.gov) or (877) 658-9731

**Q11: Who selects the members of the Advisory Committee?**

A11: The Director of OAH and the Director of DDS, or someone they designate, will decide together who the committee members will be, in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4717. Efforts will be made to ensure that the OAHAC membership reflects the diversity of all individuals served by regional centers.

**Q12: Where can I ask other questions?**

A12: Please send any other questions you may have to [OAHAC@dds.ca.gov](mailto:OAHAC@dds.ca.gov).

