

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-8  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-2300



DATE: August 6, 2015

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL VOLUNTEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR  
THE SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification on conducting meetings of local volunteer advisory committees, which were established by law to provide oversight of the Self-Determination Program. Consistent with the agreement referenced in the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) June 5, 2015, memo, all local volunteer advisory committees have met at least once. However, the Department has received a number of questions/comments regarding whether or not these local volunteer advisory committee meetings should be open to the public.

Consistent with California Government Code, sections 11121 and 11123 all local volunteer advisory committee meetings must be open to the public and conducted in accordance with all the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

For questions regarding this letter, please contact Betsi Howard, at [betsi.howard@dds.ca.gov](mailto:betsi.howard@dds.ca.gov) or (916) 653-7710.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

JIM KNIGHT  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Chief Counselors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Disability Rights California  
Self-Determination Program Advisory Group  
Santi J. Rogers, Department of Developmental Services  
John Doyle, Department of Developmental Services  
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**