

Advisory Committee Meeting
October 20, 2023

**Office of Administrative Hearings' Response to
Committee Recommendations**

Agenda Item 13:

Recommendation:

That Office of Administrative Hearings, known as OAH, Administrative Law Judges, referred to as ALJs, and Pro Tem mediators remind participants of the OAH ALJ/Pro Tem survey form at each mediation, and conclusion of each hearing.

OAH Response:

OAH will inform ALJs and Pro Tem mediators to remind participants of the survey form at the conclusion of each mediation and hearing.

Agenda Item 14:

Recommendation:

That OAH create a policy or procedure to ensure that at prehearing conference, any accommodation or interpretation is adequate, functional, and accessible by all parties, so long as OAH is timely notified of the need for accommodation or interpretation.

OAH Response:

OAH does everything in its power to make sure that the reasonable accommodations are implemented and functioning.

Agenda Item 15:

Recommendation:

That OAH post on its website the entities it contracts with to provide interpreting services.

OAH Response:

OAH contracts with Interpreters Unlimited for language interpretation, Signglasses, LLC for video conference sign language interpretation, and Hardeman Realtime, Inc. for Communication Access Real-Time Translation, also known as CART, services. OAH will provide copies of the contracts upon a California Public Records Act request.

Agenda Item 16A:

Recommendation:

That upon timely request from a petitioner or self-represented parent to a due process hearing, the OAH will provide an in-person mediation or due process hearing. A timely request is a request made 10 calendar days prior to the mediation or due process hearing.

OAH Response:

OAH will continue to consider requests for in-person mediations and hearings on a case-by-case basis. OAH will explore the possibility of convening meetings of interested persons in Northern and Southern California with members of the special education community to discuss in person mediations and hearings, including the logistics on how any proposal for conducting in person mediations and hearings would be implemented.

Agenda Item 16B:

Recommendation:

That upon request from a petitioner or self-represented parent of a due process hearing, OAH will provide an in-person mediation or due process hearing.

OAH Response:

OAH will continue to consider requests for in-person mediations and hearings on a case-by-case basis. OAH will explore the possibility of convening meetings of interested persons in Northern and Southern California with members of the special education community to discuss in person mediations and hearings, including the logistics on how any proposal for conducting in person mediations and hearings would be implemented.

(This space is intentionally left blank. Text continues on the following page.)

Agenda Item 17:

Recommendation:

That OAH shall coordinate ALJ trainings with representatives from the parent community, school districts, student attorneys, and school district attorneys to present on pertinent and important topics related to special education, and post on its website the dates of the training, the topics, and who is presenting.

OAH Response:

OAH will post a week after training the list of training and names of presenters on its website and will continue to take agenda items regarding ALJ training from interested parties.

Agenda Item 18A:

That OAH provide information to the advisory committee and to the public of each search engine that is available to access the dashboard, and that OAH inform the public of any challenges in accessing the dashboard.

OAH Response:

OAH will make its Dashboard available on both Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge web browsers and will post on its web page of any known technical problems people may have in accessing the dashboard.

Agenda Item 18B:

Recommendation:

That the cases included on the OAH interactive dashboard be searchable by parent-filed cases and district-filed cases through a dropdown menu feature.

OAH Response:

OAH does not currently have the technical capability to have cases searchable by parent-filed and district-filed options through a dropdown menu.

Agenda Item 19:

Recommendation:

GROSNER: that OAH clarify what is meant by "Information protected by the Deliberative Process Privilege regarding OAH's decision making process."

OAH Response:

The committee did not reach Agenda Item 19.