

Recommendations

1. Develop Committee-sponsored legislation to make statutory changes compelling Regional Centers to operate with transparency and accountability required of public agencies, such as Whistleblower protections and requirements to provide specified operational information to the public. This legislation would maintain the existing privacy rights of consumers.
 - a. Amend GOV 8547, the California Whistleblower Protection Act, to extend protections to Regional Center employees reporting to the State Auditor.
 - b. Amend GOV 9149.20, the Whistleblower Protection Act, to extend protections to Regional Center employees reporting to the Legislature.
 - c. Amend WIC 4905(a) to create penalties for acts of retaliation against Regional Center employees who file complaints.
 - d. Amend CORP 5233, which addresses self-dealing in public benefit corporations, to
 - i. Option 1: create a prohibition against issuing contracts that financially benefit a family member of a Regional Center administrator, *or*
 - ii. Option 2: to require the Regional Center to declare such transactions in annual financial statements.
2. Request that the Legislative Analyst's Office conduct analysis and make recommendations to the Committee regarding the creation of an Inspector General for the Department of Developmental Services. Specifically, the Legislative Analyst should address the advantages and disadvantages of having an Inspector General located within DDS, and options for assigning this responsibility to other existing auditing or investigative agencies. The Committee would request that the Analyst prepare this analysis for consideration in the current budget negotiations.
3. Request to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee for the California State Auditor to audit selected Regional Centers with respect to their internal controls, conflict of interest, and the extent to which they provide access to public information.