

Plenary #1

The Big Contract

The details and operation of the basic contract with DDS that outlines regional center responsibilities, including some that are specific to the board of directors

Brian Winfield

Brian Winfield has served as the Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Developmental Services since being appointed by Governor Brown to the position in December 2018 where he has responsibility for all program areas of the Department, to include regional center technical assistance and oversight, State Operated Facilities Division, Federal Programs, the Office of Statewide Clinical Services, and other areas. Prior to that, beginning in 2015 he served as Deputy Director, Community Services Division and had responsibility for the services provided under contract by the 21 regional centers and their community providers. He also previously served as Assistant Deputy Director of the Community Services Division for nearly two years, as a Staff Services Manager III for ten years, and as a Staff Services Manager I and Community Program Specialist II, which contributed to his 20 years of service with the department. Prior to joining the department, Brian was a case manager and resource developer at Alta California Regional Center.

Heather Flores

Heather Flores is the Executive Director for Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC), which serves over 21,000 individuals in the heart of California covering over 11% of California's geographical territory and is also a Mayoral-appointed City of Fresno Commissioner with over seven years on the Disability Advisory Commission. Heather holds a Masters in Psychology from Texas A&M University – Kingsville and began her career working as both an educator and a mental health social worker in Texas. She has worked directly with children as a Special Education teacher for Tulare County Office of Education and for 21 years part-time as a Psychology instructor with College of the Sequoias, Clovis Community College and Madera Community College. Additionally, she worked for California Mentor developing homes and working with individuals residing in the Family Home Agency (FHA) model and acting as a statewide trainer for Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and FHA direct support professionals. Heather values collaborative community partnerships, believing that we share the same vision, to help support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in achieving their hopes and dreams.

