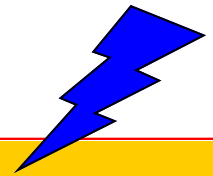


Action Item #3



November 15, 2024

ISSUE:

Section 416.19 of the Health and Safety Code was amended to require the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to develop guidelines to address potential conflicts of interest that may arise when a regional center services as the DDS Director's designee for conservatorship matters, while also being responsible for service coordination.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, FNRC has only four (4) clients conserved by the Director of DDS. This situation could present conflicts if the individual acting as conservator also serves as the Service Coordinator or is their supervisor. In such cases, they could influence the direction of the Individual Program Plan (IPP) while also making service and financial decisions on behalf of the conservator.

The new policy prohibits the designee from being the Service Coordinator, their supervisor, or anyone else within the same case management unit. It also outlines the responsibilities of the Service Coordinator and Associate Director of Client Services in meeting client needs and fulfilling contractual requirements. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, providing annual conservatorship training for service coordinators, conducting biennial assessments of client needs, and supporting clients in making independent decisions.

ACTION REQUESTED:

We respectfully request that the document, Far Northern Regional Center Delegated Conservatorship Policy dated November 4, 2024 be approved by the FNRC Board of Directors.