



November 13, 2020

Ernie Cruz, Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Community Operations
Department of Developmental Services
1600 Ninth Street, Room 320, MS 3-9
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Cruz:

This is in response to a letter from DDS dated September 16, 2020 concerning the Harbor Regional Center caseload ratio data. Our draft response has been emailed to the HRC e-bulletin distribution list consisting of more than 21,000 families, service providers staff, and other interested individuals & organizations who have registered to receive HRC electronic bulletins seeking their comments. It was also posted on the HRC website.

We are aware that Harbor Regional Center, like virtually all other regional centers, has been unable to meet the caseload ratio targets established by DDS in all cases... notwithstanding our efforts to do so.

Although we know you are clearly aware of the realities, we do feel the need to point out that a regional center's ability to meet caseload ratio expectations is dependent upon the funding we receive for salaries and benefits. In the case of our service coordination staff, our actual annual costs per service coordinator for salary and benefits is now, on average, more than \$35,000 over that which is provided for in the core staffing formula even in a year with no operations reductions. And the operations budget reductions have continued to be applied and have amounted to more than \$2.5 million *for our regional center alone*. Accordingly, we consider it an astonishing and commendable achievement that we have been able to keep the caseload ratios as low as they are.

We are hopeful that going forward the regional center system will receive the state support that is needed for all centers to implement the mandates that have been put into place by our elected officials so that people with developmental disabilities and their families can be provided with quality services, timely delivered and such that California's promises to the federal government with respect to caseload ratios have a reasonable likelihood of being kept.

We hope this information has been helpful to someone. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patrick Ruppe
Executive Director

c: Board of Trustees