

Tom Coleman - Spectrum Institute

January 15, 2019

Supervisor Nate Miley
Alameda County
Board of Supervisors

Re: The Path Forward

Dear Nate,

I have prepared a report focusing on steps toward conservatorship reform – both in Alameda County and in California.

The forum that you sponsored was very helpful in showing both individual injustices and systemic problems.

The afternoon roundtable showed: (1) a willingness of relevant agencies to listen and learn; and (2) the need for hard data on what is really happening during the conservatorship process. It appears that officials and agencies involved in the process have not been paying close attention to the system itself. They just process cases. Statistics on cases, procedures, and outcomes seem to be lacking. So we really need your staff to follow up with these agencies on getting the answers to the questions posed in the handout materials.

This system is complex and the problems are entrenched. This cannot be easily fixed. It will take time, resources, and commitment.

The report I have written suggests that the Office of the District Attorney should take the lead. Although they are not directly involved in the conservatorship process, that office has the jurisdiction to investigate what is happening with each agency that is involved and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and these agencies on how the process can be improved – indeed how it must be modified to conform to the requirements of the ADA and relevant state laws.

Please review this report. If you think it has merit, please share it with Nancy O'Malley. Once she reviews it, perhaps we can schedule a meeting in Oakland so that all three of us, and Tony Chicotel if he is available, can discuss it further.

Thank you for showing an interest in these issues and for beginning your "due diligence" with respect to the need for conservatorship reform.



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