

Guiding Principles

The Task Force expressed strong interest in capturing the principles that should be fundamentally included in every subject area and used as a goal or guide when considering changes to the community system. Also, it was recognized that some topics, such as the 2014 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), will necessarily have an impact on each area. Specifically, the overarching principles and topics for consideration under each subject area are:

1. The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act guarantees regional center services for the life of the consumer, thereby creating an entitlement program in California.
2. The core component of the service delivery system is a comprehensive person-centered Individual Program Plan (IPP), also referred to as a whole person or authentic IPP, which is carefully crafted and enables choice.
3. Consumers must be empowered to make choices and receive the services and supports they need to lead more independent and productive lives in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the individual. Consumers must be at the center of any problem analysis or solution, with the objective of providing services that people want. Emphasis should be placed on consumer choice, self-determination and consumer-directed services.
4. Ensuring consumer health and safety is critical, which includes protecting individuals from harm and abuse, and providing appropriate crisis intervention and response.
5. Services must be culturally and linguistically appropriate and responsive to the consumer and his or her family.
6. Any model of care or service must receive sufficient and stable funding to be successful in accomplishing its goal and be sustainable. The adequacy of resources is an issue that permeates all aspects of the service system.
7. The tenets of community integration and access reflected in the 2014 CMS regulations for HCBS must be incorporated throughout the service system, including but not limited to consumer choice; consumer independence; consumer rights to privacy, dignity and freedom from coercion and restraint; opportunities for integrated employment; and settings that meet consumer-specific provisions based on these principles.
8. There must be fiscal accountability, transparency and fiscal responsibility in the service system, including maximizing the use of federal funding.
9. An appropriate framework for monitoring and quality assurance should be built into services.
10. Technology should be utilized.
11. Developmental center resources (land, staff and buildings) should be leveraged or made available to benefit consumers in the community.
12. Flexibility should be incorporated into the system to address choice and special circumstances, such as allowing Health and Safety exemptions.