

## Overview of Master Plan Community Engagements

**Community engagements since the October 9<sup>th</sup> Master Plan Committee Meeting overview:**

HOST	COMMUNITY	DATE
California Association of Health Facilities Conference	Non-profit trade association representing skilled-nursing facilities and intermediate-care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities	10/2/2024
Valley Mountain Regional Center LVAC	Local Volunteer Advisory Committee	10/17/2024
Northern L.A. County LVAC	Local Volunteer Advisory Committee	10/17/2024

### CAHF Conference

- Even though there are perceptions that all beds are utilized, many Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) beds are empty, making the current model unsustainable.
- When infrastructure (homes or sites) is lost due to bed underutilization it can be very costly to acquire new space given the housing market.
- Client placements often go to community care homes first, and ICFs believe they are used as a last option by RCs.
- Clients can face long delays for day program service authorizations, which limits client access to ICFs.
- ICFs are interested in providing end-of-life care as an option for residents.
- ICFs want to partner with DDS to update their model if changes are needed, including reducing overall bed numbers.
- Competing with higher local wages makes staffing difficult for ICFs.
- ICFs request clearer communication and transparency with Regional Centers and DDS.
- ICFs want others to better understand the wide array services and support they provide.

### SDP LVAC – VMRC and NLARC

#### VMRC

- Financial Management Services (FMS) need better quality controls and accountability.
- FMS should hire more trained staff and make timely payments to avoid losing vendors.
- Penalties should apply when FMS payments are late.

- Few people have joined SDP and the reasons why need to be better understood.
- Service Coordinators (SCs) need more training on the self-determination process.
- Flexibility is needed to allow family caregivers to provide certain medical support that they may be better suited to provide than a service provider.
- Special education programs lack sufficient support and accountability for students.
- Parts of vetoed SB1281 should be reviewed for inclusion in the master plan.
- FMS monitoring and sanctions are needed to address service quality and abuse issues.

## **NLARC**

- Getting started in the SDP is hard, and independent facilitators (IFs) are critical, but more high-quality training is needed.
- Service Coordinators (SCs) often lack clear guidance on SDP and give conflicting information. The system struggles to attract and retain SCs.
- There is a need for SCs who specialize in SDP or dedicated SDP teams in Regional Centers (RCs) to improve continuity and reduce repeated efforts for individuals in the program.
- Simplify and add flexibility to the SDP spending plan process and involve FMS from the beginning for better alignment.
- Create a single portal accessible to all parties (service recipients, RCs, IFs, FMS, and vendors) to improve communication and transparency in the SDP.
- Recommendations for DDS and RCs to adopt a universal vendor invoicing system and client data system to streamline operations and oversight in SDP.
- DDS should collect data on SDP participation and services utilized by different cultural communities to better understand and target equity issues.
- RCs should actively promote SDP to providers unfamiliar with it to expand access.
- Consequences are needed when RCs don't follow established timelines or when FMS doesn't adhere to the spending plan to ensure accountability.

## **Community Engagements for Future Report Outs**

- Tribal Developmental Disabilities Symposium
- Convening with Rural NorCal Communities
- Focus Groups series with Service Coordinators
- Korean Families Support Group
- SAC6 Self Advocacy Council
- California Foundation for Independent Living Centers Meeting
- DVU: Equity Conference