



Master Plan for Developmental Services  
Workgroup 4 Meeting #4 - Summary  
**Thursday, October 31, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. PT**  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

## **Attendance**

### **Workgroup Members in Attendance**

- Aderonke Adejuyigbe
- Alison Morantz
- Amy Westling
- Dora Contreras
- Jesse Rocha
- Leticia ("Lety") Garcia
- Mark Melanson
- Sylvia Yeh
- Tina Ewing-Wilson
- Victor Lira

### **Facilitators and Workgroup Chairs/Leads in Attendance**

- Oscar Mercado (Co-Chair)
- Will Leiner (Co-Chair)
- Joe Perales (Equity Lead)
- Jonah Frohlich (Facilitator)

## **Public in Attendance**

Over 100 public attendees attended the meeting via Zoom video conference.

## **Review Timeline and Process for Creating Ideas and Recommendations (slides 5-6)**

Workgroup 4 facilitator Jonah Frohlich reviewed the process and timeline for developing recommendations and what to expect at the remaining workgroup meetings.

## **Review Updates to Priority 1 Recommendation #1 and #2 (slides 7-13)**

The workgroup reviewed the updates to Recommendation #1 focused on Service Definitions. The updates were based on workgroup and community member feedback. Updates also made the recommendation easier to understand.

The workgroup reviewed the updates to Recommendation #2 focused on Service Authorization Standards. Equity lead Joe Perales also noted the updates to the recommendation to address service denials and appeals.

The workgroup discussed additional changes including adding language to ensure that these recommendations account for resource availability differences across the state. The Workgroup agreed to the additional proposed changes that were discussed. The Master Plan team agreed to make proposed changes and update the two recommendations.

## **Discuss Priority 1 Recommendation #3 – IPP (slides 14-21)**

The workgroup discussed a new recommendation focused on the Individual Program Plan (IPP) Process. The group highlighted that DDS has done work related to the IPP process as required by the 2023 California Senate Bill 138. This recommendation will build upon the IPP process standardization work DDS has already completed and will continue to develop.

A workgroup member shared their experience with the appeals process, highlighting the lack of trust when her own service coordinator was called as a witness against her. They emphasized the need for better support and guides for advocates during appeals. The workgroup agreed, suggesting independent supports were needed for self-advocates. The workgroup also agreed that clearer documentation about the process is needed for people who want to appeal regional center decisions. Another workgroup member stressed the importance of having surveys or evaluations after IPP meetings. The surveys would help document the experience individuals and families have during this process.

The workgroup noted that the newly created IPP template from DDS should include a QR code for an anonymous survey. This would allow individuals to give feedback about the process that goes directly to DDS.

## **Break (5 minutes)**

## **Discuss Priority 1 Recommendation #4 – Vendorization (slides 22-29)**

The workgroup reviewed the definition of Vendorization and the vendorization requirements in Senate Bill 138. The group highlighted that DDS is completing work related to vendorization that is required by the 2023 California Senate Bill 138. This recommendation will build upon the standardization work DDS is doing.

The workgroup discussed the recommendation and emphasized the importance of the Senate Bill 138 requirements. They discussed the important role of the service provider directory to monitor services and address capacity issues. The workgroup discussed changes they would like to see to the recommendation to make sure it reflects the kinds of organizations are able to become vendors today. The workgroup discussed other updates they would like to make to the recommendation including:

- Streamlining the vendorization process and exploring services that might not need vendorization;
- Delays in vendor payments;
- The need for high-quality standards and evaluations of the vendors;
- Concerns about courtesy vendorization; and,
- The challenges faced by vendors with complex needs.

The workgroup also discussed the regional centers' use of community resource development plan funds and the need for more information about how those funds are used. The workgroup discussed the complexities of these funds and the importance of developing services to prevent institutionalization. The workgroup supported this new recommendation if these changes could be made. The Master Plan team agreed to make proposed changes and update the recommendation.

## **Discuss Priority 2 Potential Recommendation Ideas (slides 31-41)**

The workgroup introduced priority 2 and discussed the first potential recommendation idea which focused on information technology system modernization. Workgroup members agreed that this should be drafted into a recommendation to be reviewed during the next workgroup meeting.

### **Break (5 minutes)**

With the remaining time, the workgroup discussed the next set of priority 2 potential recommendation ideas. The workgroup agreed to move forward with drafting recommendations related to data collection and analysis for research and equity grants. The workgroup did not have an opportunity to discuss the

idea for surveys to better understand the experience of individuals and families but agreed to consider it as a recommendation at a future workgroup meeting.

## **Public Comment (slide 44)**

A summary of public comments is included in the Public Comment summary document which is available with [other meeting documents](https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/) (<https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>).

## **Meeting Materials:**

- Discussion PowerPoint and other meeting documents on the [Master Plan web page](https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/mpds-committee-workgroup/) (<https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/mpds-committee-workgroup/>).