



Master Plan for Developmental Services
Workgroup 4 Meeting #6 - Summary
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Workgroup Members in Attendance

- Aderonke Adejuyigbe
- Alison Morantz
- Amy Westling
- Cheryl Whittle
- Dominique Mellion
- 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 80 public attendees attended the meeting via Zoom video conference.

Welcome and Introductions (slides 1-4)

Jonah welcomed everyone and shared the agenda. The workgroup would review three recommendations and discuss ideas for the third priority area. He stressed the importance of hearing from self-advocates during the public comment period. He asked everyone to give self-advocates an opportunity to speak first.

Timeline and Process for Developing Recommendations (slides 5-6)

Jonah reviewed the timeline. He said there will be two more workgroup meetings, one in January and one in early March. He also asked members to review the recommendations that have been updated since the last workgroup meeting. He encouraged workgroup members to give feedback using tracked changes or comments to help improve the recommendations.

Discuss Priority 1 and 2 Recommendations (slides 7-31)

The workgroup focused on recommendations to: (1) improve intake and assessment processes; (2) performance measures; and (3) IT systems.

The intake and assessment recommendation emphasized the need for standardized intake and assessments for all. The workgroup was concerned that current processes are not effective for individuals who are "high masking" or for people with multiple diagnoses. Members of the workgroup said that regional centers should accept assessments from outside clinicians, including those conducted internationally. The group stressed the importance of supporting inclusive assessments that use language that reflects the complexity of needs. They also said that staff should have implicit bias training to address disparities. The group also discussed how a provider shortage impacts the assessment process timeline and that this needs to be addressed in the Master Plan. Jonah said that a survey will be sent to the workgroup members to collect more feedback on this recommendation.

The performance measures recommendation prioritized service quality and outcome measures. Workgroup members said that measures should focus on person-centered results and help identify gaps in services, such as respite care and support for individuals with high needs. Members of the workgroup also said that providers need time to make changes to their systems to report measures. They also said that it was important to hold providers accountable, but also develop measures and processes that don't place a heavy burden on them.

The workgroup recommended that input from self-advocates, families and service providers was needed to inform the measure development process to help make sure the measures are relevant and effective.

The IT systems recommendation stressed the need for better integration and sharing of data to enhance service coordination. Members of the workgroup said that the case management and finance systems should prioritize privacy and security and be flexible so that they can be updated to support future needs. Training for families, service providers, and other stakeholders will be essential for successful implementation and adoption of new systems. Members of the workgroup requested a briefing from the California Community Living

Network to better understand the PAVE system they are developing and how it may fit into this recommendation.

Discuss Priority 3 Ideas (slides 32-37)

The workgroup discussed ideas for improving accountability in the developmental disability services system as part of priority 3 recommendations. Equity lead Joe highlighted the need for a stronger accountability framework to ensure fairness and reliability.

One idea focused on creating clear guidelines and timelines for urgent assistance. A workgroup member shared how delays in service plans can cause serious consequences, like losing medical coverage or missing payee changes. The group suggested a system or checklist to prioritize urgent needs, such as medical emergencies or risk of homelessness. They agreed there should be consequences for regional centers and vendors that fail to meet these timelines, especially when client safety or well-being is at risk.

The group also discussed holding regional centers and vendors accountable for harm or neglect, such as denying basic services or failing to protect clients from abuse. Members stressed the need for stronger accountability measures, including penalties when services or care are not provided, particularly in cases involving serious risks like injury or neglect.

Jonah shared additional ideas related to accountability, including strengthening oversight through the state auditor, the Little Hoover Commission's report findings, and AB 1147. The group discussed how modernizing technology and improving contracts between regional centers and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to ensure greater accountability. Jonah also asked for input on creating incentives and payment systems to support accountability, with a goal of finalizing recommendations for this priority by the end of January.

The group concluded that the priority 3 recommendations should focus on strengthening accountability at all levels of the system, improving transparency, and establishing clear timelines and consequences for regional centers and vendors to ensure timely and effective support for clients.

Discuss Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings (slides 38-39)

Workgroup members volunteered to draft the newly discussed recommendations. The workgroup was also invited to continue to share their feedback on the recommendation ideas for priority #3. The Master Plan Team emailed a survey to collect their feedback before the next workgroup meeting on January 29.

Public Comment (slide 40)

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

Meeting Materials:

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