



Summary of Public Comments Received During the Master Plan for Developmental Services Committee

Meeting #11 - Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This summary reflects the themes and ideas received from public comments provided during the public comment period. Public participants were invited to speak and share their comments with the committee in person and using the Zoom chat and Q&A. Themes from public comments included:

Immigration Services

- All regional centers should provide immigration services to families

Self-Determination and Alternatives to Conservatorship

- Protect the Self-Determination Program, ensuring clients can choose their providers freely
- Support clients pursuing higher education in colleges and universities
- Provide alternatives to conservatorship, offering more support for independence

Inclusion and Equity

- Ensure services and processes are inclusive and fair, addressing barriers faced by marginalized communities
- Create a diverse Equity Committee for each regional center, independent of the centers
- Address systemic racism and ensure equity officers genuinely represent clients' needs

Advocacy and Support

- Create an independent advocacy network to support individuals without a natural support circle
- Provide specialized designations for vulnerable individuals to ensure they get the necessary support and services
- Ensure advocates have long-term relationships with clients and are independent of regional centers or DDS

Healthcare and Legal Support

- Ensure clients have access to healthcare services, including dental care, with appropriate accommodations
- Offer legal representation and support for clients, especially when involved in the justice system

Awareness, Accountability and Feedback

- Increase community awareness of services and ensure all self-advocates' feedback is considered
- Develop a quality assurance system to evaluate service providers and ensure accountability
- Standardize access to information and feedback mechanisms across all DDS and regional center systems

Employment and Training

- Improve access to employment opportunities and competitive wages for staff supporting clients
- Increase training for service coordinators and support staff to meet clients' needs effectively
- Advertise job opportunities within the Developmental Service System to colleges and universities

Crisis Support and Emergency Preparedness

- Ensure regional centers have emergency support protocols, including financial assistance and legal representation
- Develop specialized support for clients in mental health or behavioral health crises

Continuity of Services for Foster Youth

- Ensure continuity of services for foster youth moving between regional centers
- Provide training to county probation departments on understanding developmental disabilities and behavior de-escalation methods
- Speed up intake and evaluation processes for detained youth suspected of having developmental disabilities