

Overview of Master Plan Community Engagements

Prepared for the February 12th Master Plan Stakeholder Committee Meeting

HOST	COMMUNITY	DATE
Self-Advocate Listening Party– IRC	A convening of self-advocates from Inland Regional Center to discuss and share their thoughts and experiences.	1/21/25
Hlub Hmong Center (HHC)	HHC is a leading Hmong advocacy organization using culturally driven methods to tackle social justice disparities. Their mission is to ensure the survival, well-being, and prosperity of the Hmong people and their rich cultural heritage.	1/23/25
UCI Health- The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Empowering Women of Color	Empowering Women of Color is a Black, African American and Bi-racial parent and caregiver support group for those who have children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. The group meets monthly to share experiences, successes, challenges, family impact and resources.	1/28/25
National Council on Severe Autism	The National Council on Severe Autism (NCSA) is an advocacy organization focused on addressing the unique challenges faced by individuals with severe autism and their families. Its mission is to promote policies and services that support meaningful care, resources, and quality of life for this population.	1/28/25

Self-Advocate Listening Party – IRC

- Make it easier to talk to regional centers by improving outreach, answering calls and emails faster, and treating people with respect.
- Train service coordinators better, especially on self-determination, housing, jobs, and benefits.
- Help people get services like IHSS, dental care, and independent living by sharing clear lists of what's available and how to qualify.
- Support housing and jobs by helping people find affordable places to live, connecting them to work, and matching training to their skills.
- Make moving from school to adulthood easier with programs that teach life skills, job training, and social skills.

- Create more chances to be social and active with community events, support groups, and help building relationships.
- Make sure all regional centers offer the same services by using clear rules and sharing data better.
- Get and keep good service providers by offering better pay, fewer cases to manage, and more training.
- Give better support for people with mental health needs or those in the justice system by training providers and offering more services.
- Take the burden off families by having a community navigator to guide them and making sure service coordinators connect people to the right help.

Hlub Hmong Center

- Build trust with Hmong family groups, known as “clans”, by working with leaders and organizations to strengthen relationships and support community member professional development goals.
- Increase cultural awareness by respecting Hmong values and traditions. Hire community members and create mentorship programs for family support.
- Make services easier to access by providing translation help and resources for non-English speakers.
- Support and train staff by offering better benefits, recognizing cultural needs, and teaching managers how to work with diverse communities.
- Create job opportunities by partnering with schools to connect Hmong students with career programs and employment.
- Improve data collection by tracking Hmong-specific data on services, staff, and challenges to find better solutions.

Empowering Women of Color

- Provide monthly training on communication, cultural competency, empathy, and soft skills to improve interactions with families.
- Train staff on local resources and community needs to make services more personalized and effective.
- Encourage clear communication for all intake and assessment processes by setting standard timelines, document templates, and follow-up steps in plain language.
- Hire more assessors from diverse backgrounds to improve culturally informed evaluations, reduce barriers and make accurate diagnoses.
- Make the intake process easier by simplifying paperwork and using digital tools like DocuSign.

- Regional centers should shift tone of communications from transactional to supportive by offering personalized help instead of standard responses.
- Give parents more choices by offering culturally tailored training and expanding service options.
- Improve operations by working with experts to increase efficiency, helping reduce caseloads and encouraging service coordinators to research client needs before meetings.

National Council on Severe Autism

- Make housing options more transparent by allowing families to meet staff and residents while ensuring they keep control and support over care for their loved one, especially in institutional settings.
- Expand housing choices, including ADUs, shared homes, group homes, and institutional settings. Explore creative solutions like repurposing empty malls and office buildings for community living and recreational use.
- Hire staff based on empathy, compassion, and common sense rather than just formal degrees. Tap into workforces like veterans, retirees, and first responders.
- Build a strong caregiver workforce trained to support individuals with complex behavioral needs, focusing on person-centered care.
- Require regional centers to provide mandatory transition planning for individuals living with aging caregivers.
- Collect and share clear data on housing availability and future needs, especially for individuals with complex care requirements.
- Treat housing as part of a care continuum tailored to each person's needs, keeping person-centered care at the core of the system.
- Invest in early and ongoing interventions to help individuals with developmental disabilities maintain and grow essential life skills.