



## **Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 1 Meeting #8- Thursday, February 20, 2025, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

This summary reflects the themes and ideas received from public comments provided during the workgroup meeting. Public participants were invited to share their written comments throughout the meeting using the Zoom chat and Q&A. The last 45 minutes of the meeting was devoted to verbal public comment. Themes from public comments included:

### **Regional Center Boards and Meetings**

- Participants highlighted issues with transparency in board meetings, such as not providing Zoom options and posting meeting materials.
- Participants called for more uniform practices across regional centers to ensure public access to meetings and materials.
- Participants expressed concerns about the board's decision-making process and the lack of public input.
- Participants called for better conflict of interest management and rotation of board members to ensure fresh perspectives.
- One participant emphasized the need for independent teams to ensure that regional centers respected agreements and rights of served individuals.

### **Public Comment and Advocacy in Board Meetings**

- Participants highlighted the importance of open public comment periods and access to Zoom for board meetings.
- Participants reported that public comments were often ignored or dismissed, and this needs to be addressed to ensure community voices were heard.
- Participants emphasized the need for clear follow-up processes when services were approved but not provided.

### Service Accessibility and Quality

- One participant shared that some regional centers failed to follow up on approved services, leaving clients without necessary support.
- Participants emphasized the need for incentives to attract service providers to remote areas.
- Participants reported that service coordinators and supervisors often harassed and intimidated parents, which should be addressed in the Master Plan.

### Education and Support for Individuals

- Participants noted that attending school is sometimes harmful to children, and regional centers should provide services during school hours.
- Participants requested that more information be given to parents of children exiting the Early Start Program at 3-years-old.
- Participants recommended including tutoring and powers of attorney in the Master Plan.
- Participants called for better training and education on conservatorship and self-determination programs.
- Participants recommended including someone to monitor the participant choice specialist position in IPP discussions.

### Gratitude

- Participants expressed gratitude for the hard work of the workgroup and hoped for positive changes from the Master Plan.