Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 2 Meeting #7 - Thursday, January 16, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT

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

Conservatorship vs. Alternatives

- There was a strong call for agencies to provide information on alternatives to conservatorship and not push conservatorship without discussing other options.
- Families want alternatives to conservatorship to be prioritized and even made into law. They want to be sure they have the best choices for their children.

Access to Generic Services

- Accessing generic services like Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is challenging due to long waiting lists and bureaucratic hurdles. This leads to delays and denials of necessary support.
- There is a need for improvements in the quality and efficiency of these services, as current systems are often inadequate and slow.

Self-Determination Program (SDP)

- SDP is seen as a crucial option for independence and quality of life, but there are significant barriers that need to be removed to make it more accessible.
- Families and advocates are pushing for SDP to be implemented without barriers, ensuring it remains a viable option for all.

Emergency Preparedness

- There are significant concerns about the lack of preparedness and response from regional centers during emergencies, highlighting the need for better planning and support.
- Improved emergency services and planning are necessary to make sure that families and individuals receive timely and effective assistance during crises.

Coordination and Communication

- Better coordination between regional centers and other agencies is needed to make sure there is good coordination in delivering services. This will help to avoid the "ping pong effect" of people being bounced between systems.
- Effective communication and collaboration with local cities, counties, and nonprofits are essential to provide comprehensive support and resources.

Accessibility

- Accessibility challenges, such as transportation and service availability, need to be addressed to support families in accessing necessary therapies and services.

Transparency and Accountability

- There was a call for more transparency in regional center processes. Transparency means that people served by the regional centers understand and are aware of how decisions are made.
- There was also a call for better accountability for service delivery. Accountability means making sure services are delivered according to rules, or criteria. Rules include having clear timelines and criteria for accessing services.
- Participants want regional centers to be held accountable for meaningful change, with measurable outcomes demonstrating their effectiveness.