



Master Plan for Developmental Services
Workgroup 2 Meeting #7 - Summary
Thursday, January 16, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Workgroup Members in Attendance

- Elena Tiffany
- Katie Hynes
- Marie Poulsen
- Chloe Medina
- Dustlyne Beavers
- Kaitlynn Truong
- Carolina Navarro Garcia
- Alessandra Aldai
- Dr. Larry Yin
- Mariana Molina Nava

Facilitators and Workgroup Chairs/Leads in Attendance

- Yvette Baptiste (Co-Chair)
- Kecia Weller (Co-Chair)
- Edith Arias (Equity Lead)
- Catherine Blakemore (Facilitator)

Public in Attendance.

Over 75 public attendees attended the meeting via Zoom video conference.

Welcome & Introductions (slides 1-4)

Co-chair Kecia Weller opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and facilitated introductions and an icebreaker. Kecia reviewed the agenda.

Review our Process for Creating “Big” Ideas and Recommendations and our Progress (slides 5-7)

Co-chair Yvette Baptiste presented an overview of the priorities and universal goals, highlighting that this meeting would focus on Universal Goal 3. She explained the process for generating big ideas and drafting recommendations. Yvette provided an update on the timeline, noting that the workgroup's work to

develop recommendations will be completed by the end of February. Yvette also acknowledged the ongoing wildfires in Los Angeles and their impact on the community

Review Priority 3/Universal Goal 3 Problem Statement (slides 8-10)

Workgroup 2 facilitator Catherine Blakemore greeted everyone and reviewed the priority 3 universal goal and problem statement. She proposed a change to the language to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. Her suggestion was agreed upon.

One workgroup member raised a concern about the lack of childcare resources. They suggested that access to childcare should be included under basic needs. Another member emphasized the isolation faced by many parents and individuals with ID/D. They proposed creating a resource center where the community can gather, share information about activities, such as free museum days, and make friends.

Equity Lead Edith Arias highlighted the challenges faced by undocumented individuals in accessing community resources. One reason is due to identification requirements, which Catherine acknowledged can contribute to isolation. Kecia stressed the importance of having financial resources beyond SSI/SSDI for a better future.

Yvette discussed the need for regional centers to consider the family as a whole, not just the individual with a disability. She stressed the need to provide support that aligns with family needs, including childcare. Catherine noted similar points raised by another participant about understanding family and individual needs. She emphasized the importance of broad recommendations to build community support.

The discussion also touched on the problem statement for priority 3/universal goal 3, with one workgroup member suggesting the inclusion of low literacy as a factor. Catherine and others discussed how people can be left behind due to lack of knowledge about service animals, overwhelming paperwork, and the need for social recreation opportunities.

Review Priority 3/Universal Goal 3 Draft Recommendations 1,2, and 3 (slides 11-23)

Catherine reviewed Priority 3/Universal Goal 3: Recommendation 1, which is "Increase access to benefits and services to meet basic needs." She emphasized the need to address this issue in the master plan. Kecia highlighted the financial struggles of those involved with the Social Security Administration (SSA) system, noting they are often stuck below the federal poverty line (FPL).

Yvette mentioned a community member's suggestion about regional centers collaborating with cities and counties to improve access to social and recreational opportunities. This suggestion could be implemented using Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or meetings to understand and overcome barriers. Another participant asked about expanding family resource centers to include everyone, making them known as community hubs where isolated individuals can make friends. Catherine agreed, suggesting broadening the mission of these centers and including individuals with I/DD as mentors and supporters. Another member agreed with the importance of resource centers and said this could also be done by other community-based organizations.

Edith stressed the importance of raising awareness and educating service providers (of generic and other services) in cities and counties to reduce stigma experienced by people with I/DD. Yvette pointed out that family resource centers have been partners in the system for over 30 years. She suggested involving other nonprofits to address special populations' needs.

Catherine reviewed Recommendation 2, which is "increase opportunities for people with I/DD to participate in local community programs, services, and activities." One workgroup member discussed participant-directed services and the self-determination program. Catherine agreed to include these options to increase flexibility in the traditional system. Kecia shared personal experiences of how community partners and service providers help her fully participate in activities. She emphasized the need for support options.

Yvette raised the issue of making sure community settings welcome all people and are not segregating individuals with I/DD from individuals without I/DD. Catherine agreed, suggesting that community resources should be available to all types of people. The discussion also covered the importance of transportation for accessing various services. Catherine and Edith agreed on the need for broader language to include all transportation needs.

Catherine mentioned Workgroup 5 co-chair Elizabeth Hassler's proposal to enhance mobility training, and Catherine discussed the need for flexible models and better coordination among public transit agencies. Yvette mentioned the support needed for vehicle conversions and home modifications to make them

accessible to people with disabilities. Catherine agreed on the importance of making information on these supports available.

Kecia highlighted the significance of civic participation for people with I/DD, sharing her experiences in leadership roles. Catherine and Edith mentioned how civic participation can include advocacy, which is working for a cause you believe in, and working with community-based organizations. Yvette suggested encouraging self-advocates to get involved in civic participation and policy input. Catherine agreed on the need for recommendations to address including people with lived experience in civic activities.

Catherine concluded by discussing next steps. She explained there will be a survey to obtain workgroup member input on all the recommendations. There will also be opportunities for small group participation to review and discuss the recommendations. She explained members can choose what works for them and how they would like to give feedback. Kecia and Yvette emphasized the importance of community input and making recommendations understandable to as many people as possible.

Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings (slides 24-25)

Catherine walked through the next steps for the February 25th meeting. She also shared the dates of upcoming public stakeholder committee meetings.

Public Comment

At the end of the meeting, Catherine invited the public to provide comments during a 30-minute public comment period. A summary of public comments is included in the Public Comment summary document which is available with other meeting documents [here](#).

Meeting Materials:

- Discussion PowerPoint and other meeting documents on the [Master Plan web page](#).