



## **Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 1 Meeting #7- Tuesday, January 28, 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:

### **Accountability and Oversight**

- There is a need for regional centers to be accountable for their actions. Outside oversight and training for board members should be in place to prevent retaliation
- The process of requesting services is difficult because regional center staff have all the power to update the client development evaluation report, making it hard for clients to challenge decisions during hearings
- There are abuses by regional centers, and penalties for misconduct should be enforced. A stronger network of families is needed to address these issues
- There is bias, corruption, and abuse of power within regional centers. Independent training for board members and protections against retaliation are needed
- There is a lack of proper oversight in regional centers. When suspicious reports are questioned, they are often removed without explanation

### **Self-Determination Program (SDP)**

- Advocacy for families, better communication with high schools, and person-centered planning are important to provide necessary resources to families
- SDP has positively impacted lives
- Clients are uncertain if there is a standard guideline on how much funding can be approved for an individual in the SDP

## Conservatorship

- Better auditing and reversibility of conservatorships are needed, along with support for individual decision-making. Reversibility means a decision to conserve an individual can be changed
- There is a need for legal alternatives to conservatorship