



Master Plan for Developmental Services  
Workgroup 2 Meeting #5 - Summary  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2024**  
**11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT**  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

## **Attendance**

### **Workgroup Members in Attendance**

- Gloria Wong
- Alessandra Aldai
- Brian Zotti
- Carolina Navarro Garcia
- Katie Hynes
- Mariana Molina Nava
- Marie Poulsen
- Elena Tiffany

### **Facilitators and Workgroup Chairs/Leads in Attendance**

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

### **Public in Attendance.**

Over 65 public attendees attended the meeting via Zoom video conference.

### **Welcome & Introductions (slides 1-4)**

Kecia Weller, co-chair for Workgroup 2, opened the meeting and welcomed workgroup members and the public. Kecia facilitated introductions among workgroup members and reviewed the agenda.

### **Review our Process for Creating “Big” Ideas and Recommendations and our Progress (slides 5-6)**

Kecia presented an overview of the process the workgroup is using to create its recommendations. She also shared more information about the timeline of the workgroup’s meetings and discussions of different priorities.

## **Review Universal Goal 2: Make life transitions, easier better and on time Problem Statement (slides 7-11)**

During the discussion, the group first considered all the public comments and valuable input received. They emphasized the importance of making transitions smoother, more efficient, and timely. This includes transitions at any age, such as entering the regional center, moving from early start to school services, aging, and end-of-life planning. They also highlighted other types of transitions like marriage, divorce, parenthood, loss of a family member, and career changes.

Next, the workgroup developed a problem statement focusing on who is left behind. They emphasized people with disabilities, especially those with multiple disabilities. They identified barriers such as:

- Lack of information in plain language or preferred language;
- Unclear rules and application forms;
- Lack of assistance during major transitions;
- Shortage of qualified providers;
- Waiting lists for services;
- Lack of providers in rural areas; and
- Economic insecurity.

They discussed if there were additional groups that might be left behind. They also decided to separate the lack of plain language materials from preferred language.

The workgroup then reviewed a graphic on life transitions, noting that while many are age-based, there are various other types of transitions. They provided examples in their problem statement, emphasizing that all transitions matter and barriers should be eliminated to ensure people get the support they need. At each transition point, the recommendation is that everyone receives timely information about the transition and what to expect next. This will allow them to prepare adequately. The discussion also included specific ideas for supporting people during these transitions.

## **Review Universal Goal 2 Draft Recommendation 1, 2 and 3 (slides 12-28)**

During the discussion, the group reviewed the universal goal and the information about life transitions. They emphasized that every person facing any life transition should have the option to choose a person-centered plan (PCP) as part of each transition. They clarified that PCP is different from individual program planning (IPP), PCP focuses on individuality, choice, empowerment, and strengths. The group discussed the need to identify what each person needs to prosper, including natural supports, regional center (RC) services, and other services. They also talked about ensuring equality between PCP and self-

determination program (SDP) and addressed questions about oversight for the RCs.

The workgroup emphasized the importance of making information understandable to the community and reflecting what the community wants. They discussed the need for diverse stakeholders to be involved in the process and to provide continuous feedback. The group agreed to add a mechanism for feedback at the beginning of the transition process.

Next, the group reviewed the DDS Person-Centered Future Planning (PCP) service, and the option of navigation supports provided by someone chosen by the individual. They discussed the need for peer navigation supports and agreed to reword a recommendation to emphasize this. The group also highlighted the importance of training. It needs to be, done by certified person-centered planners. The planners need to be accountable and make sure it is clearly communicated.

For people leaving high school, the workgroup recommended that transition supports start at age 14 and continue until the person completes the transition. They emphasized the need for decision-making supports and training for RC and school staff. The group also discussed reducing the number of individuals leaving high school who are initially conserved and working with diverse stakeholders to achieve this. They highlighted the need to educate physicians about conservatorship and to provide peer navigation supports for children transitioning from high school to adulthood.

The workgroup discussed the importance of benefits counseling for individuals transitioning from high school or college into employment. They agreed to increase the number of benefit counselors at regional centers and to ensure that people who want to work can receive benefits counseling before they start working. The group also recommended that DDS and DOR enter into an agreement to ensure continuous employment services.

The discussion then moved to universal goal 2 draft recommendation #3. This focuses on provisional eligibility and the need for early transition planning for families receiving a diagnosis. The group emphasized the importance of navigation supports and the need for navigators to be knowledgeable about local resources and to follow up with families. They also discussed the need for good service coordination and the importance of ensuring that health-related needs are met, including funding for speech therapy.

Finally, the workgroup addressed the challenges of early start referrals and the timelines for evaluations and diagnoses. They identified gaps in services and agreed to write recommendations to address these issues. The group emphasized the need for continuous feedback and follow-up to ensure that all these good ideas are implemented effectively.

## **Discuss Universal Goal 2 “Big” Ideas (slides 29-31)**

During the workgroup discussion, the group addressed the distinction between focusing on aging caregivers and providing services to older adults with I/DD as they become seniors. They emphasized the importance of introducing people to community senior services, as some aging caregivers play a crucial role in everyone's lives. One member shared a personal experience of having to discover a senior center independently, highlighting the need for regional centers (RCs) to offer support in transitioning from adulthood to older adult services.

The group then discussed the need for crisis support systems and the importance of having a mechanism for providing crisis services. They talked about the significance of adult services and the need to separate the needs of individuals from those of their caregivers. Coordinated family supports were intended to address the needs of people living with aging caregivers and those with I/DD. The group agreed to discuss these topics in more detail and to ensure that people receive the support they need.

The workgroup explored the idea of coordinating services for older adult RC clients. They discussed the challenges of finding supported living services providers who could coordinate these services and identified a gap in the current system. The group suggested looking for opportunities within existing programs and offering suggestions for what might need to be created to address this gap.

The discussion then moved to improving the intake and assessment process for people entering the RC system. The group identified concerns with the current process, including the time it takes and the gaps in services. They emphasized the need for new members to feel a sense of belonging and discussed the importance of community activities within the regional center. The group also highlighted the challenges faced by individuals over 18 who are not identified until later and the need for clinical discretion to qualify them for services more quickly.

The workgroup then addressed the importance of end-of-life planning and having an advanced directive. An Advance Directive is a legal document that outlines a person's wishes for medical care if they are unable to communicate their wishes. They discussed the need for regional centers to bring up these topics and ensure that individuals and their families are prepared for end-of-life decisions. The group also emphasized the importance of having support and materials available for these discussions.

The conversation then shifted to the need for more supports and resources for parents with I/DD, especially women who are at higher risk for pregnancy complications. The group discussed the importance of using evidence-based models, which are approaches that have been proven to work. They talked about using them for parenting services. They talked about the need for better coordination between the courts and child welfare services. They also highlighted the challenges faced by individuals with ADHD and the need for timely assessments and support services.

Finally, the workgroup emphasized the importance of having end-of-life discussions and informational materials available. They talked about the need for advanced healthcare directives. They discussed the importance of making these topics a part of a regular practice within the regional center system. This will help to make sure individuals, and their families are prepared for these transitions. The group agreed to gather additional feedback and continue discussing these important topics.

## **Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings (slides 32-38)**

Krystyne McComb presented on #FutureofCalDDSServices photo campaign. Kecia encouraged the members of WG 2 to participate in this photo campaign and her photo was shared as part of the presentation.

Co-chair Yvette Baptiste then walked through the next steps for the December 17th meeting. She also shared the dates of upcoming meetings and the next public stakeholder committee meeting.

## **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](#).