



**Master Plan for Developmental Services  
Workgroup 2 Meeting #3 - Summary  
Tuesday, October 1, 2024  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

## **Attendance**

### **Workgroup Members in Attendance**

- Alessandra Aldai
- Brian Zotti
- Dustlyne Beavers
- Elena Tiffany
- Gloria Wong
- Dr. Larry Yin
- Kaitlynn Truong
- Katie Hynes
- Mariana Molina Nava
- Marie Poulson

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

- Yvette Baptiste (Co-Chair)
- Kecia Weller (Co-Chair)
- Catherine Blakemore (Facilitator)

## **Public in Attendance**

Over 100 public attendees attended the meeting via Zoom video conference.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Kecia, the co-chair of Workgroup 2, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She led a round of introductions so that all participants could share who they are.

## **Reviewing Our Progress (slides 5-6)**

Kecia led the discussion about the workgroup's goals and progress so far. Yvette shared updates about the work done to date. Yvette said the focus is on improving access to services for families. The group talked about the need for clear communication and understanding of what services are available to individuals with disabilities and their families.

## **Review Our Problem Statement for Priority 1 (slides 7-9)**

The workgroup reviewed the main problems they are trying to address. They discussed how individuals and families often struggle to find and use the services

they need. The conversation highlighted the importance of defining generic services—services that are available to everyone, not just those with disabilities. The group recognized that these definitions need to be clear and understandable.

### **Continue Brainstorming Our “Big” Ideas (slides 10-13)**

The workgroup spent time discussing its problem statement and 3 “big” ideas for priority.

Discussion of the problem statement included the importance of regional centers and the Department of Rehabilitation, taking responsibility for providing timely and effective help.

Participants shared stories about navigating the system. They pointed out that sometimes families are told to use one service instead of another, which can be confusing. Sometimes they are bounced back and forth between different services agencies.

The group discussed 3 “big ideas” and agreed that families should have the choice to decide how to use services based on their unique needs. For example, individuals and families should decide how to use their In-Home Supportive Service hours.

Other comments on navigation and generic services included:

- Caseloads are too high for service coordinators to effectively help people navigate generic services.
- It might be helpful to have categories of generic services. Based on ages, or by type of service.
- It was suggested that it would be helpful to know which generic services are most often used; and which generic services are hardest to get. One member shared the hardest generic service to get is housing.
- Some regional centers have insurance specialists who deal with Medi-Cal and private insurance.
- Hold managed care plans accountable when they do not have enough providers to serve individuals. This means they don't have adequate provider networks. The burden should not be on the individual or family member to figure which agency pays for required services.
- A question was raised about whether WG5 is addressing rental vouchers through the ID/D system.

One idea that came up was to create a central resource page. This means that DDS would post the standard generic services information on its website. Regional centers and other organizations link to this page. This would make it easier to provide update to date information.

## **Review Our Draft Recommendations Based on Our “Big” Ideas (slides 14-18)**

Catherine introduced the draft recommendations based on the “big” ideas discussed at the last meeting. One key recommendation is to develop a standardized information packet. This information would help individuals and families identify their needs and understand the resources available to them. It would make it easier to find the right services.

A second recommendation was about clarifying the definition of generic services. The workgroup agreed that service coordinators should receive better training about generic services. This training would help them communicate more effectively with families and avoid misunderstandings that can cause delays in getting services. The group emphasized the need for clear rules about what a generic service is. The workgroup wants to create recommendations that make these definitions clear. This would help make sure that individuals and families receive timely help without added stress.

A recommendation addressed the importance of “gap” funding. Gap funding means the regional center pays for a generic service when there is a delay. The topic of delays in approving services was energetic. A member noted, delays can almost seem like tactic to ultimately deny access to services. The group acknowledged that current law requires regional center to provide medical services when the generic service is not available within 60 days. One person commented this should be 30 days. Another person mentioned the need for clear timeline standards for determining final eligibility for services.

The workgroup is committed to refining these recommendations. They want to make sure the proposals are practical. They also want to make sure they are focused on the real experiences and needs of individuals and families. The goal is to create a clear and helpful set of recommendations to improve access to services for everyone.

## **Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings (slides 19-20)**

Catherine outlined the next steps, The workgroup agreed to gather additional feedback ahead of the next meeting, At the meeting on October 18th, the workgroup will finalize its Priority 1 recommendations. It will also begin its discussion of Priority 2.

## **Public Comment**

At the end of the meeting, there was a 30-minute public comment period. A summary of public comments is included in available with other meeting documents here: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>.

**Meeting Materials:**

- Discussion PowerPoint and other meeting documents:  
<https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>.