Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 2 Meeting #5- Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 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:

Need for Advanced Directives and Self-Determination

- Public members highlighted the importance of having advanced directives. An Advance Directive is a legal document that outlines a person's wishes for medical care if they are unable to communicate their wishes. This is important for individuals in self-determination programs to ensure their preferences are respected if they become unable to manage their plans.

Continuous and Inclusive Support Systems

- Public members noted the necessity of continuous funding for navigational support, rather than relying on grants, to assist individuals through various life transitions.
- Public members expressed the need for Regional Centers (RCs) to be better prepared for late-stage diagnoses, particularly for conditions like autism.

Eligibility and Access to Services

- Public members emphasized the urgency of streamlining the eligibility process for services, as delays can significantly impact those in need.
- Public members noted that immediate support should be provided during the eligibility process to prevent gaps in necessary services.

Bold and Inclusive Recommendations

- Public members suggested that recommendations should be more innovative. They should address existing inequities, particularly for underserved communities, including people of color and the deaf community.
- Public members expressed concern that current recommendations are not sufficiently bold or new, and that they often reflect ongoing but inadequately implemented initiatives.

Disconnect Between Committee and Community

- Public members highlighted a perceived disconnect between the committee's discussions and the community's experiences. This disconnect can lead to a lack of effective implementation of recommendations.
- Public members noted that their voices and recommendations are often not taken into account, creating frustration and a sense of being unheard.

Barriers and Systemic Issues

- Public members expressed frustration with systemic barriers, such as bureaucratic processes and inequitable access to services.
- Public members noted the need for advocates to help navigate these systems, as service coordinators may have conflicts of interest.