



Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 2 Meeting #6 - Tuesday, December 17, 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:

Bureaucracy and System Navigation

- Public members highlighted the issue of bureaucracy within the CalHHS system, pointing out the confusion and delays caused by departments and agencies telling individuals and families that other departments are responsible for their services.
- Public members emphasized the need for clear recommendations on who will be responsible for implementing services and where the funding will come from.

Community Integration and Acceptance

- Public members mentioned the challenges of feeling welcome in a community, especially when service animals are not welcomed in places like churches.
- Public members discussed the role of adult siblings as successor caregivers and the need for the system to recognize their contributions.

Self-Determination Program (SDP)

- Public members supported SDP as a beneficial approach for individuals with disabilities, especially those who are non-verbal, particularly after parents or other caretakers are deceased.
- Public members shared positive experiences with SDP, noting improvements in services and cognitive abilities for their children.



Conservatorship and Alternatives

- Public members stressed the importance of providing alternatives to conservatorship and ensuring parents are informed about these options.
- Public members expressed concerns about the lack of information and resources for parents of nonverbal children.

Transportation and Accessibility

- Public members suggested a pilot program for using Uber for transportation to therapy sessions.
- Public members discussed the need for safe and reliable transportation options for individuals with disabilities and recommending how this will be implemented and with what funding source(s).

Cultural Sensitivity and Understanding

- Public members emphasized the need for the master plan to consider the cultures and traditions of different communities, particularly Hispanic families.
- Public members highlighted the importance of respecting cultural differences and the role of family support.