



## **Summary of Public Comment from Meeting #2**

The Committee meeting ended with a public comment period, where attendees shared comments verbally and through the meeting Q&A and chat functions. Major themes from the public comment are summarized below:

- **Committee Representation and Public Participation:**
  - Public commenters shared concerns with there being sufficient Hispanic representation in Committee and the Master Plan development process.
  - Public commenters shared that numerous barriers are felt in receiving services as Hispanics, including regional center staff who do not respond to consumers and provide incorrect information.
  - Public commenters shared that it would be helpful if parents had more remote options for connecting with regional centers, since transportation remains a barrier to receiving services.
  - Public commenters shared that the public needs more time to review and understand the Master Plan.
  - Public commenters shared that the current set-up of the Master Plan Committee meetings feels like a presentation and does not feel like an open forum to provide comments freely. Many public commenters shared the importance of keeping the virtual meeting chat open for dialogue amongst meeting participants.
- **Access and Equity:**
  - Public commenters shared that gatekeepers at RCs and agencies need to be removed.
  - Public commenters shared the Master Plan must ensure individuals basic needs are met, including directly addressing domains such as education and personal safety.
  - Public commenters shared that self-advocates and families need to be owners of data if the system is going to be data-driven.
  - Public commenters shared their experiences of discrimination against the Latino/Hispanic community in the DD system should be

acknowledged and addressed, especially considering the fact that approximately 40% of the DD population identifies as Latino/Hispanic.

- Public commenters emphasized the importance of accessibility for self-advocacy, especially for individuals with disabilities such as autism. They recommended having more sessions and methods for the public to provide more input, including through chat on zoom.

- **Workforce:**

- Public commenters shared that trust between families and providers is an important aspect for developing a stable workforce.
- Public commenters shared regional center service coordinators level of training is inconsistent and self-advocates/families do not get the sense that they are always fulfilling the duties of their position, especially when serving those who identify as Hispanic.
- Public commenters shared system navigation issues and workforce shortages make it difficult to maintain independent care and secure Independent Living Services providers.
- Public commenters shared that in some instances service coordinators are not adequately trained and deny services inappropriately.

- **Self-Advocate and Family Experience:**

- Public commenters shared parents and caregivers should have more flexibility and be more of an active partner with service coordinators when determining services provided to children.
- Public commenters shared that some self-advocates are experiencing trauma from the service delivery system and believe they are being incorrectly denied services in some instances.
- Public commenters shared many in the DD community are feeling the stressors of being an aging caregiver.
- Public commenters shared client satisfaction isn't sufficiently taken into account by the DD system.
- Public commenters emphasized the need to focus on IPPs, retrain all case workers to write more meaningful IPPs and also mentioned that the IPP does not include social services which is a gap.