



Summary of Public Comments Received During Meeting #6- Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Public in Attendance:

Over 270 public individuals attended the meeting. Attendees participated via Zoom, by phone and in-person.

This summary reflects the themes and ideas from public comments provided in writing and verbally during the meeting's public comment opportunities. The three public comment opportunities took place during pre-meeting, the World Café activity, and end-of-meeting sessions. Themes from public comments included:

Self-Determination Program

- Support for the Self-Determination Program, emphasizing its importance and asking for transparency and assistance in accessing the service.
- Support for creating a 22nd Regional Center that focuses on the Self-Determination Program
- Backing for laws that support more transparency related to services

Housing and Services

- Highlighting the need for housing and services for people with developmental disabilities
- Making services easy to access and allowing individuals to choose their service providers
- Reducing delays in providing services
- Offering person-centered services and training for Regional Center staff
- Increasing the breadth of medical providers who accept Medi-Cal and can appropriately serve people with developmental disabilities
- Making it easy for families and individuals to get clear information about available services and how to get them

Regional Center Operations

- Addressing staffing shortages and high turnover at Regional Centers
- Ensuring Regional Centers follow the Lanterman Act
- Spending funds quickly and smoothly to help people get the services they need

- Integrating data, assessments, and applications across Regional Centers and providers
- Investing in higher education opportunities for people with developmental disabilities
- Including Community-Based Organizations and Family Resource Centers in Regional Center activities
- Building trust, transparency, accountability, equality, and standardization across all Regional Centers
- Creating opportunities for consumers to give feedback to Regional Centers

Advocacy and Rights

- Recognizing communication as a basic human right
- Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities as they grow older
- Having Service Coordinators act as advocates for individuals and families, not as gatekeepers
- Increasing pay for Regional Center staff
- Calls for regular updates, clear processes, and engaging stakeholders in the Master Plan

Independent Living

- Helping people with developmental disabilities live independently, whether in their own home, with family, or in living communities
- Ensuring more representation of lived experiences within Regional Center systems and staff