



Summary of Public Comments Received During Meeting #7- Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Public in Attendance:

Over 360 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 Workgroup Roundtable activity, and end-of-meeting sessions. Themes from public comments included:

Changing Demographics and Service Needs

- The need for increased, appropriate, and trained service provision in behavioral health, mental health, and physical health to match the expanding I/DD population;
- The need for improvements in housing for people with high support needs;
- The need for improvements in the safety net system. The safety net system is the range of public benefit programs that support people who need services;
- The need for improvements in behavioral support homes. These are residential facilities that provide non-medical care for people with developmental disabilities; and
- The opportunity to utilize the family teaching model solution for addressing various support needs

Support for Self-Determination

- Strong support for the self-determination program and the need to remove barriers to entry to this program;
- The need for oversight of FMS (Financial Management Services). This program helps people with Individual Program Plans (IPPs) manage their budgets and spending; and
- The need to ensure that features of SB 1281 are addressed in the Master Plan

Regional Center Structural Concerns

- The need for new leadership, fresh ideas, and better innovation at regional centers;
- The need for improved coordination and communication between regional centers and service providers;
- Increased gap funding to pay for generic services and make sure services are provided to all families;
- Improved regional center ability to use all funding efficiently;
- The desire for reinvention of the regional center system;
- The need for regional centers to focus on MediCal and self determination programs and connecting services to the community;
- The need for regional centers to improve service delivery in a way that is respectful to people from different cultures; and
- The need for an independent agency to oversee the regional centers to ensure accountability and transparency

Involvement and Voice of the Community

- The importance of including the I/DD community in the decision-making process

Education and Employment

- Improved education and job training for individuals with I/DD

Barriers in Service Delivery

- The importance of reducing long waiting times, complicated paper processes, and a lack of support from regional center staff; and
- The desire to ensure regional centers do not cut out programs for children

Concerns about Conservatorship

- The need for legal alternatives to conservatorship such as power of attorney; and
- The need for an improved process to terminate conservatorship