



Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 3 Meeting #1- Friday, August 9, 2024 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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:

Service Provider Workforce Development and Training

- Develop strategies to recruit and retain quality Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), including offering competitive compensation and support and recognizing and valuing the skills required for the job.
- Evaluate and improve working conditions to ensure a safe and supportive environment for service providers, particularly those in high-risk or rural areas.
- Ensure service providers receive comprehensive training to handle behavioral issues and provide appropriate support, including training to further facilitate community integration for individuals with disabilities.
- Explore methods to enhance the preparedness of service providers to meet the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities. For example, providers need more training to support individuals who are or have been justice-involved.

Diversity and Representation

- Promote fair and inclusive representation in all advisory and decision-making bodies to ensure that diverse perspectives are represented.

Support for Self-Advocates and Families

- Explore and promote alternatives to conservatorship to offer more choices for individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Increase training and awareness about alternative support options to empower informed decision-making.

- Support self-determination by providing resources and guidance for individuals to pursue careers aligned with their interests and abilities.
- Improve transition support for individuals moving from high school to adult life, including educational and vocational guidance.
- Offer ongoing education and training opportunities to help individuals with disabilities achieve their career goals.
- Collaborate with educational institutions and vocational programs to provide comprehensive support.
- Expand career options for individuals with disabilities, including opportunities for traditional employment and entrepreneurial ventures.

Support for Micro Enterprises

- Increase support and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to start and manage micro enterprises, such as selling food or being a social media influencer. Support could include funding, training, and support for obtaining necessary permits.
- Incorporate support for micro enterprises into broader service planning and resource allocation, ensuring individuals are well informed about this option.
- Increase training for service providers, including at DDS and DOR, on how to provide individualized supports for consumers interested in microenterprise.

Administrative Simplification

- Streamline processes and reduce bureaucratic barriers to make it easier for individuals to access necessary services and employment opportunities.
- Focus on simplifying paperwork and procedures to enhance accessibility and reduce frustration for individuals and families.