



Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 3 Meeting #3 Monday, September 30, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 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:

Finding Help and Support

- Many people said it is hard to find help and support. Even if they know about an opportunity, it is difficult to understand the process and get the help they need.

Inclusive Education

- Some parents are worried that special education programs are not inclusive enough. For example, one parent said their child only has partially inclusive recess and suggested that students should be included more and given choices.

Career Choices

- There were suggestions to introduce career options in the disability sector to high-school and college students. People suggested that awareness of these careers could even start as early as middle school. People emphasized the importance of creating clear career paths and providing better pay based on training levels.

Vendor Accountability

- Many comments were about the need for vendors to be held accountable for the quality of their work. Some people said vendors are not monitored or supervised. They indicated when there are rate increases the money does not go to the employees providing the direct services. People receiving services should evaluate vendors, and this information should be used to improve services.

Legislative Changes

- There were concerns about the need for legislative changes to address issues with occupational codes and rate studies. For example, California uses multiple Occupational Codes for different services, and a legislative fix was required for the rate study.

Training Programs

- Suggestions were made to create and expand training programs for service providers, including the Direct Support Professional (DSP) University. This training would allow DSPs to achieve different levels with corresponding wage enhancements.

Funding and Support

- Comments highlighted the need for funding and support for new job areas and businesses. One participant mentioned that the state or government should help fund these new job areas and support people to start a business.

Self-Determination Program

- Many participants praised the Self-Determination Program (SDP) for its positive impact on their lives and called for its expansion and improvement. For example, one participant mentioned that the SDP is a "magnificent and efficient" program for their children.

Updating Terminology

- Suggestions were made to update terminology to better reflect the communities being served. For example, one participant suggested changing the problem statement language from "immigrant and minority communities" to "immigrant and racial or ethnic minority communities."

Community Representation

- Participants stressed the importance of including diverse backgrounds in advisory and decision-making groups.

Regular Communication

- There was a request for regular communication with the disability community to build and maintain trust. Participants emphasized the need for community involvement in decision-making processes to ensure their concerns are addressed.