



## **Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 3 Meeting #5- Friday, November 22, 2024 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.PT**

This summary reflects the themes and ideas received 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:

### **Direct Support Professional (DSP) Focus Group**

- Public comment suggested organizing a direct support professional (DSP) focus group to gather feedback on their experiences, challenges, and suggestions for improvement.
- Participants should not be chosen by service providers and should represent diverse communities who can offer direct insights (e.g. urban vs. rural).

### **Maximizing Federal Reimbursement**

- Public comment suggested aligning service coordination guidelines with Medicaid's targeted case management laws to ensure clarity and maximize federal reimbursement.

### **Challenges with Regional Centers**

- There are concerns about a lack of respect and accountability within some regional centers (RCs) toward community needs and with respect to implementing DDS initiatives.
- Families are frustrated over the lack of visible change and skepticism about RCs' responsiveness to the Master Plan.
- Public comment suggested increased monitoring and involvement from DDS in regional center activities.

### **Parent and Family Advocacy**

- There are concerns about parents feeling excluded from advocacy efforts in education systems and regional centers.
- Both self-advocates and their families should be empowered in navigating complex systems for better support.
- Public comment stated support for a decision-making processes that accounts for the voices of parents and families, especially from underrepresented groups.

### **Strategic Resource Allocation**

- Public comment emphasized prioritizing impactful changes for the Master Plan, such as competitive wages and smaller caseloads.
- There are concerns about overlapping workgroup sessions impacting participation and creating duplicative recommendations.
- The public cautioned against overloading the Master Plan with too many ideas.