



Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 4 Meeting #6- Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT

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.

Before the public comment session began, facilitator Jonah Frohlich said that the Master Plan team had heard that many self-advocates would like to make comments. He said it was extremely important to make sure there was space and time for self-advocates to share their thoughts and experiences. Because of this, the public comment session began by prioritizing self-advocate comments.

Themes from public comments included:

Barriers to Service Access and Delivery

- People shared concerns about long delays and barriers in moving to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). They suggested creating a dedicated team to handle these issues.
- Many expressed frustration about delays in getting services. They called for faster processes to determine eligibility and access support.
- Some emphasized the need for regional centers to take responsibility before sending individuals to generic services. They said regional centers should actively identify and support children with IEPs.

Accountability and Transparency

- People highlighted the need for IT systems to focus on the needs of those they serve. They also called for better coordination among Master Plan workgroups on making recommendations related to system accountability.
- There were discussions about the role of regional center boards in ensuring accountability and meeting the needs of those they serve.
- Concerns were raised about how data is collected, analyzed, and used. People stressed the need for actionable data and transparency in sharing and using it.



Equity and Inclusion

- Comments highlighted the need to address disparities in access to services, particularly for people of color and the Hispanic community.
- There was an emphasis on the importance of implicit bias training for regional center staff to ensure culturally sensitive interactions with individuals and families.

Support for Families and Caregivers

- There was an emphasis on considering data and statistics about siblings of people with disabilities as they are current and future caregivers.
- Comments suggested having subject matter experts at regional centers to explain financial statements and services, empowering families to understand and actively participate in data aggregation.

Safety and Abuse Prevention

- Personal stories shared about abuse faced by individuals with disabilities called for formal surveys and real solutions to address disability abuse and sexual assault.
- There is a need for more serious consequences for regional centers and vendors to prevent abuse and ensure the safety of individuals with disabilities. These should be taken into account when making recommendations for the accountability priority in this workgroup.

Collaboration and Community Engagement

- Comments emphasized the need for coordination among Master Plan workgroups to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure recommendations are most impactful and include community input.

Improving Service Delivery and Outcomes

- There was a discussion about the importance of linking Individual Program Plan (IPP) goals to outcomes and ensuring personal goals are measurable to improve quality of life.
- Comments suggested incorporating specific outcomes into the vendorization process to differentiate service types and improve accountability.