Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 4 Meeting #5-Thursday, November 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 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:

Appreciation and Commendation

- Multiple comments expressing gratitude for the efforts of the workgroup, co-chairs, and volunteers.
- Commenters also expressed satisfaction with the progress and productivity of the meetings.

Equity

- There was a comment that the Master Plan team should ensure that the voices of those served by the system are heard and represented in the master plan.
- Comments said there is a need to address disparities in access to services, particularly for people of color and the Hispanic community.

Transparency and Accountability

- There were comments about the need for transparency about how the system is performing. There were also some concerns shared about protecting client information. Commenters said that it should be clear what data is being shared, who the data are being shared with, and why the data are being shared.

- There were comments about the need for greater accountability for regional centers that fail to comply with regulations or provide adequate services.

Service Delivery Improvement

- Commenters shared frustration with delays in service delivery and the need for more efficient processes for determining eligibility.
- Commenters also said that the delivery of services and support, particularly for children, need to be improved.

Collaboration and Community Engagement

- Comments said that grantees and other organizations should work together to support the community rather than compete against each other.
- Commenters also recognized the importance of community engagement in the grant making process. They said that the process should encourage contributions of various stakeholders to get their unique perspectives.

Future Vision and Recommendations

- Multiple commenters emphasized the importance of creating a master plan that will benefit future generations.