Purchasing Employment Supports

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The Goal

- DOR's State Plan says the goal is "the smooth and seamless transition for students with disabilities from school to employment."
- Systems need to work together towards competitive integrated employment.

The Function of the Regional Center

- To fill in gaps in needed services.
- In 1971 it was written, "The Centers attempt to utilize services for which the [developmentally disabled] person is eligible before purchasing those services with Regional Center funds."
- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4648(a)(8)

Federal Funding

- California began receiving federal funding for its developmental services in 1982. This funding is provided through a Medicaid Waiver.
- The federal government will not pay for services through the regional center that are available through:
  - Medi-Cal
  - Public education
  - Rehabilitation

“Blended” Versus “Braided” Funding

- According to the U.S. Department of Labor:
  - The term **"blended funding"** is used to describe mechanisms that pool dollars from multiple sources and make them in some ways indistinguishable.
  - **"Braided funding"** utilizes similar mechanisms, but the funding streams remain visible and are used in common to produce greater strength, efficiency, and/or effectiveness.

Least Costly Vendor

- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4648(a)(6)(D)
- The least costly vendor must be chosen if:
  - Comparable quality;
  - The vendor is able to accomplish all or part of the consumer's individual program plan; and,
  - The individual doesn't have to move to a more restrictive program.

Services for Individuals 18-22

- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4648.55
- Limits the regional center's ability to purchase services if:
  - The individual is 18-22;
  - Eligible for special education; and,
  - Has not received a diploma or certificate of completion

Services for Individuals 18-22 Continued

- On the other hand, the regional center will assist the individual to access needed services through generic agencies.
- When invited, the regional center service coordinator may attend the individualized education program (IEP) planning team meeting.

Tailored Day Service

- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.21
- Tailored Day Service helps individuals to work on:
  - Employment ;
  - Volunteer activities;
  - Self-advocacy;
  - Pursue postsecondary education; and,
  - Increased integration
- The service is instead of other day or work services.
- Total cost cannot exceed 80% of a different program.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA)

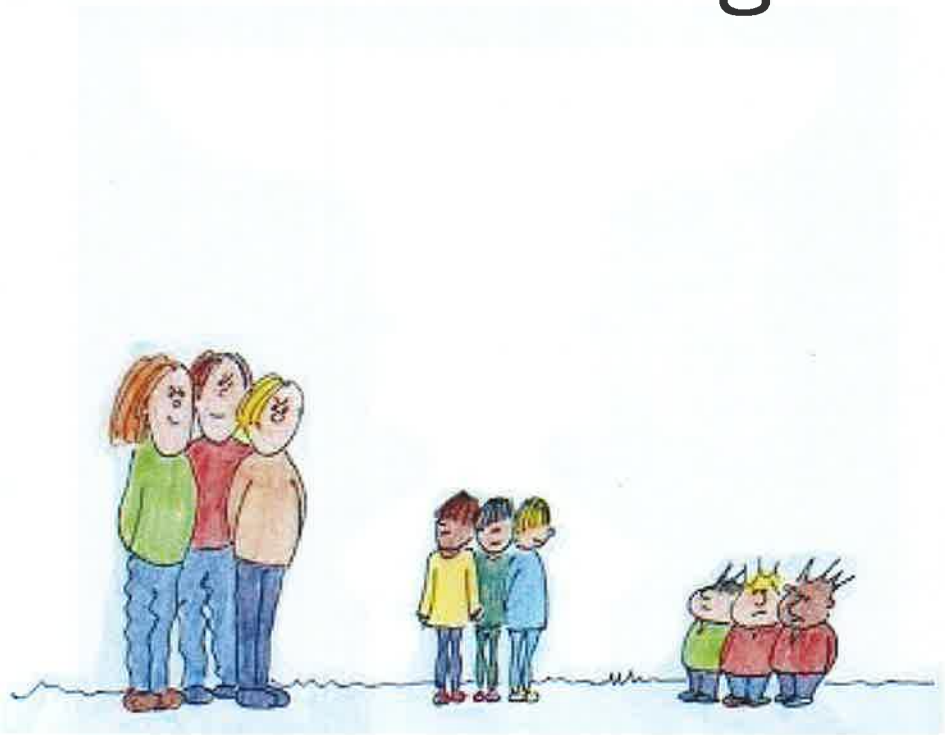
- Focus should be on competitive integrated employment.
- Limitations on individuals under age 24 going to subminimum employment.
- More work services have to be accessible for people with disabilities.

Home and Community-Based Services Rules

- Individuals should have access to the community and people in it.
- Individuals get to decide what a "good life" looks like to them.
- Available service models may change.

Limitations on Education Funding

- Funding follows cycles.
- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4648.55 says that school districts can contract with regional center vendors, BUT…
- Most programs are not nonpublic schools under Education Code Section 56034.



Limitations on DOR Funding

- Rich federal match, but lots of federal expectations.
  - Goals
  - Populations served
  - Expectations for providers
- Order of Selection in place because of limited budget.

Potential Solutions

- Clearly identify individual goals.
- Think outside the box.
- Test potential solutions.
- Understand limitations to flexibility.
- Seek cooperation between agencies.

TIME FOR QUESTIONS
QUARTZ