

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

5-yr State Plan Development: Regional Meeting Survey Responses

People with disabilities know what they need to be independent and an active part of their communities. The purpose of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is to make sure that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families get the services and supports they need.

SCDD wants to help and we need information from you. Please fill out and send us this survey.

1. Please check up to 3 areas of greatest need for services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities?

Service Areas (Please check up to 3)	
24	Child Care
52	Education & Early Intervention
73	Employment
43	Formal and Informal Community Supports
36	Health
41	Housing
19	Quality Assurance
42	Recreation
30	Safety/Abuse Prevention
32	Self-Determination
58	Transportation

Who are you? (Please check one)	
13	Someone with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability
61	Self-Advocate
65	Family Member/Advocate
5	Community Advocate
6	Educational Service Provider
2	Community Member
11	Service Provider/Vendor
5	Regional Center - Staff
	Other: VMRC Board Members;

2. In the areas you checked, describe the service gaps that you have experienced.

1. **Childcare:**

- A. Gap in services
- B. Need respite for long term so I can get away for a week. The providers need to be professionally trained.
- C. Lack of childcare and after school care
- D. The issue of Day Care, and the difficulty people have obtaining it, was brought up by one member of the group.
- E. Childcare issue with Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center.
- F. Day care for child care
- G. A lot of centers don't want kids with special needs & don't have the proper skills.

2. **Education:**

- A. At 3 all services are cut and depending on when they end and when the new school year starts there is a gap in service delivery. Example my child turned 3 in April and school didn't start until September so for 5 months no services.
- B. Lack of speech and social skills training
- C. The services at school are provided when and how they want not always what is best for student
- D. Services are based on diagnosis not always on what the student really needs.

- E. Parents are overwhelmed by the process and not knowing how to find out about the system/process. Suggested to have advocate go to meeting with them.
- F. More training beyond the basic IEP is needed
- G. Gap in knowledge/services if you come into the system via adoption
- H. If inclusion is mandated, why is it not enforced?
- I. More information is needed on policies and procedures
- J. Disability Rights California resource shared
- K. Funding & Accessibility
- L. Early intervention is important
- M. Education and Early Intervention should be separate Goals/Topics
- N. Gaps in receiving speech therapy for children under three.
- O. Behavior services for children with disabilities other than autism need to be funded.
- P. A “personal information” goal should be in IEP’s.
- Q.

3. **Employment:**

- A. Transition from school employment (workability) to out of school employment, typically when workability ends so does job. It is seen as a disincentive to keep individual on without funding
- B. Need to build partnerships, use yelp reviews to create jobs and give feedback to employers who are hiring people with disabilities
- C. There are no events currently that recognize employers hiring people with disabilities
- D. In South Bay they are forming a business advisory committee
- E. There needs to be more of a dialogue with employers about what the needs are and get creative with building collaborations- create new jobs and truly customize employment
- F. Good transition plans for students is critical
- G. Educate and train staff in supported employment
- H. More employment options
- I. Better job coaching to help support and facilitate employed people.
- J. Lack of competitive employment options – lack of education and self-determination; lack of adequate transportation options.
- K. Effective job development and support for creating and being successful in employment.
- L. Employment continues to concern her
- M. Little meaningful employment
- N. There always could be better employment possibilities
- O. Not adequate employment opportunities or even how to identify them
- P. There are very limited programs in Stanislaus County that offer employment training. The programs that are available have little or no funding to grow.
- Q. Employment must be inclusive or provided in an inclusive setting.
- R. Not enough opportunities for proper employment.
- S. Workability is not made available to students on academic track. If they are, it’s not well supported.
- T. Lack of employment training and opportunity. DOR only supports career or education passed with a 2.0 GPA.
- U. Create more jobs
- V. When placing applications for employment or housing I have observed that consumers don’t get call backs especially for employment opportunities.
- W. He forgets to do things and he does not have experience

- X. Many of the consumers I have worked with do not have their high school diploma, therefore it is hard for them to find employment.
- Y. How to gain and keep a well-paying job and be educated in how we can function in our community and know how to not be taken advantage of because people are mean and take advantage of people like me.
- Z.

4. Formal & Informal Community Supports

- A. Full inclusion and education
- B. It's important to have the community support so that other goals can be met
- C. If a student has a Certificate of Completion prior to the age of 22, and all the "boxes" are checked, they should be able to enter an adult program, and not be forced to remain in a transition program.
- D. Need more services for older adults.
- E. Safe, with a quality program, service enriched residences for adults with dd. A community residence.
- F. Consistent problem of one system passing to another, e.g., Kaiser vs CCS.
- G. Transitioning to adulthood, there is a lack of support for teaching independence, self-advocacy.
- H. Most of the time, the service coordinator doesn't see client needs, just wants to follow policy.
- I. Train all service coordinators
- J. There are not good quality programs. The ones we've been offered are bad.
- K. Came in-between our family schedule for accommodation when we have other business to take care of while he's at home
- L. Show on special skills, work as teams and learn from other
- M.

5. Health

- A. Quality & Ease of Access
- B. Supporting people in living healthy and active lifestyles
- C. Access to dental clinics
- D. Inform parents of low income and (EL) English learners
- E. Gaps in who to turn to for help with MediCal Waiver, respite, IHSS
- F. Hard to find doctors that accept health plan
- G. Few medical providers
- H. Integrate people in the community with more support.
- I. Problem obtaining medical equipment. Son with quadriplegia. Need a special car seat for him now that he's older. Have been waiting over a year.
- J. Service coordinators don't truly look at client needs.
- K. Monitoring healthy needs and well-being of an individual
- L. Self-abuse through mental health services, meds evaluation and receives (illegible)
- M.

6. Housing

- A. Lack of accessible and affordable housing
- B. Housing and adult services in general need to be discussed more.
- C. No accepting applications
- D. Lack of Housing forces people in group homes to share rooms
- E. There always could be better housing
- F. Lack of low income housing

- G. No homes for adults with developmental disabilities if parents aging and person requires full-time care. Told “no openings” for the last 4 years.
- H. Parents have many concerns about where their developmentally delayed/disabled child will live, how they will pay for it, who will help them.
- I. Housing –options of converting parent’s house to apply for government grants.
- J. Lack info on getting affordable housing. Problems with manager

7. Quality Assurance

- A. Protecting benefits such as Social Security
- B. Vendor Quality Assurance
- C.

8. Recreation

- A. Consumer described her demonstrating bad behavior and changing her attitude with recreational activities, which helped her stay busy.
- B.

9. Safety/Abuse Prevention

- A. Abuse of people should be talked about
- B. Safety/abuse prevention
- C. They lack knowledge on how to protect themselves against abuse and knowing if they are being abused.

10. Self-Determination

- A. Self-determination gives people the independence they need to reach goal areas
- B. I think self-determination should start during early intervention. Good quality early intervention, help parents and students to learn how to advocate – access services and resources.
- C. Self-determination from the beginning.
- D. Self Determination is taking too long to come to our area
- E.

11. Transportation

- A. Safe/comfortable bus stops: General public safety & accommodation that tie into accessibility issues and compliance
- B. Critical to being able to work and be a part of the community.
- C. The lack of decent transportation was again brought up.
- D. lots of problems for individual services
- E. Transportation is difficult, especially for people who use wheelchairs
- F. Transportation id an ongoing issue for most of us
- G. More consumer awareness on bus/public transportation
- H. how to take public transportation
- I.

12. Comments from Self-Advocates:

- A. I got pay only .48 and .88 cents at WATCH every 2 weeks- not a lot of money
- B. I want to have a job in the community
- C. Yes I experienced this

- D. Both transportation and employment
- E. Not finding jobs in the community without losing SSI, knowing how to look and find jobs being able to live in an apartment with low income without Section 8
- F. Health- my anxiety
- G. It takes too long to get home on MV (transportation)
- H. It takes too long on the bus in the afternoon to get home
- I. Need a job
- J. I need help for money management
- K. More buses at night to get home, more community health fairs
- L. House
- M. My trouble is because I go to WATCH (day program) I am not happy there and I need to get out now because I'm getting married this year and I do not think that WATCH is the right place for me anymore because they will not let me do what I want to do.
- N. Employment- more understanding with money management
- O. MV Bus
- P. City Bus
- Q. I am saving up money to get my apt
- R. I can't get certain places
- S. No transportation- stuck at home
- T. Only have MV transportation
- U. Transportation I would like help in the community
- V. Transportation is a big issue because of ramps and not enough of them
- W. I want to get a job but it is very hard
- X. Haynes Bus (a residential care home transportation)
- Y. Childcare, education & early intervention
- Z. Housing
- AA.

13. Comments from Service Provider/Vendors:

- A. No support for employment programs. HUGE gaps in transportation availability
- B. The school system needs more education on how to deal with behavior issues of children with disabilities
- C. Misinformation and no clear communication
- D. Would like to find more businesses open to employ our clients. More vocational/volunteer opportunities
- E. ILS not allowed to "get into" employment w folks we serve- however- services are inadequate, lack imagination, and refer to 1 hr per week "jobs" as "employment" huge quality of life issue- self-esteem, money. I have a client who has been in "job readiness" at a Day Program (WATCH) for 4 years- she has no resume, no interview skills and NO JOB! As her ILS worker- I am told to "stay out of it" but it affects her every day- I am teaching her to advocate for herself- but we need to stipulate that lives are slowly eroded by these marginal practices. The question of segregation was settled a long time ago...maybe
- F.

14. Comments from Regional Center staff:

- A. Living in a small community, housing is very limited, and also transportation
- B. Need more training how to ride the city bus. Staff need to be fluent in American Sign Language

- C. Having an option other than respite through VMRC would be very useful. Also trying to find competitive employment for consumers who need some accommodations (shorter shifts, working certain areas of the stores etc.) Dentists are very needed. The surgicenter in Atwater closed so our consumers are left with the Salida Surgery Center or UCSF.
- D.

3. How can the State Council better help people with intellectual/developmental disabilities?

1. Training is needed to help families be connected to the community, parents tend to rely on one another
2. Parents find it hard to have to dig for information especially when agencies who are supposed to support families are not sharing the information as it should be.
3. For new parents coming in it is very overwhelming
4. Organizations are just doing their job.
5. More conferences focusing on education are needed.
6. Need a road map of how to navigate getting started in the system
7. Need to create better ways to share information and get the word out to families and expand the network
8. Join CAC for a forum of connectedness
9. Hold gatherings without a fully structured day so parents can share info and walk away with information and a new network of connections.
10. School districts tend to see parents as hostile perhaps holding community conversations with someone who can represent the parents to bridge communication gaps and build community amongst the families and districts.
11. Better response to state political situations that affect people: having a bigger voice.
12. Slow response time to big issues.
13. Meet more frequently so the decision making body can speak
14. Giving more importance and support to committees
15. Encourage more people to join! □
16. Outreach and outreach training-streamline the process to make it more user friendly and more simple.
17. Promoting financial independence and decisions with funded services.
18. Push Self-determination
19. Transparency
20. Supporting healthcare accessibility in all areas
21. Get more information out to families about resources available to them and how to access them.
22. Act as a liaison between the LEA's and Regional Center
23. Outreach and clear information in different language to our families
24. Individual advocacy and assist with IFSP, IPP and informal meetings, mediation and fair hearings
25. Help in individual cases is critical, otherwise our most vulnerable people and families are at risk in critical ways. Some families and clients need someone at a meeting with them to get the services they need and to learn how to advocate by example.
26. Not sure
27. Individual advocacy is needed. Self-Advocates frequently need assistance with advocacy issues, especially in the IPP process
28. Do not know
29. Prvide more funding in order to expand services
30. Have Dena keep coming to the board meetings and self-advocacy meetings to know what is going on
31. Have a great conference for people like CHOICES
32. Train consumers & families, individually and a group

33. Not many services for adults once no longer school-aged. Don't want them sitting around the house.
34. Parent has 2 adult children who need 24-hour supervision. Both "moderate." "They weren't accepted into supported employment because they are not potty trained. So they are at home. All programs regional center has shown us are awful. Many parents facing the same situation. Why can't they at least continue to provide speech therapy? Physical therapy?" Parent has respite hours, but there's lots of turnover because the pay is so low.
35. Parent of 18-year old toured a vocational training program. There was not enough staff, no safety, not enough supervision. "This was no place for a child to develop and be happy."
36. At son's program, there was physical, mental, and emotional abuse. Since then, parent has kept son at home. Notified the regional center. "How is this possible to have them at home and not in a program? Regional center says to try a residential facility. Do you think I'm going to trust one after this?"
37. Need more Quality Assurance. When regional center checked on a program, they thought it was OK. Parent asked service coordinator "Would you put your child in such a program?" The regional center is supposed to visit every 2 years and day programs know when they are coming so they prepare.
38. In the Southgate/Huntington Park/Bell Gardens/Paramount, there are no physical therapy or appropriate recreational programs.
39. Not enough programs for adults to learn vocational skills.
40. Need more volunteer opportunities. Regional center says it's our job to find them.
41. One parent recently moved to San Fernando Valley; son lives in Norwalk. Mom wants son to be moved closer to her. "Housing is a big issue."
42. Job placement – emphasis seems to be mostly on those people diagnosed as either high or low functioning, not those that fall in between.
43. Need more focus on education. Schools are not doing full psychological evaluations, just summaries. They need to be supervised more closely.
44. Kids not being prepared for life after school, such as college, jobs, advocacy. Schools aren't training them. There are more services available for young kids.
45. Go to Sacramento and open up more supported employment opportunities.
46. Create a hotline for issues that come up "after-hours."
47. Restore IHSS hours. Provide letters in Braille.
48. Restore recreational services. "Our kids aren't that accepted. My 18-year-old son likes to play in toddler areas, but is told he can't be there." Need specialists in recreation services. "When recreation services were removed, his abilities regressed."
49. Have more listening sessions. Online surveys. Have a place on your web site for immediate feedback regarding service issues.
50. Continue having workshops. 24/7 Hotline
51. Better outreach to Spanish-speaking communities, plus all other languages
52. Develop a single plan of action for families/individuals to help manage multiple agencies involved
53. Increase support to persons seeking needed county and state help. Show how to demonstrate needs.
54. Proper housing for quality living
55. DOR needs to be improved. Those with hidden disabilities need as much support as those with visible disabilities.
56. College DSPS offices aren't streamlined to appropriately support those with learning disabilities.
57. Have a Hotline: phone or email available for parents to communicate their issues immediately.
58. Provide the support, according to needs of the client
59. Do more outreach to Spanish speakers
60. Train all service coordinators

61. The state council will provide necessary needs for the developmentally disabled people like establish more day programs, safety parks for recreation and for outdoor activities.
62. Being educated in how to better help people like me who has intellectual/development disabilities so they can better understand our needs as people.
63. Teaching them to behave and treat well like normal disability person
64. By providing all the service and help state council can give day care, help with transportation, help getting health insurance
65. Job readiness trainings
66. Making sure adults with intellectual disabilities get the life skills training to be successful in community setting.
67. Provide families with info access help for their loved ones
- 68.

69. Comments from Self-Advocates:

- A. Work on jobs
- B. Yes they should
- C. Advocate for more money from the state
- D. Help advocate about independent living
- E. I would like help with work while on the job. Help presenting my needs to an audience
- F. Being comfortable, having a voice speaking up for myself
- G. Better bus drivers, they are mean
- H. Get better MV bus drivers who are nicer
- I. They can get me out of the WATCH Program and get me started on a job. They can support me in my future life as a woman and a good wife
- J. Get transportation on the weekend. I am on the transportation bus in San Andreas
- K. To help me go out to community events/shopping
- L. People First
- M. Continuous training
- N. Help me save money
- O. Help me get Driver's Ed
- P. Continue trainings
- Q. More help with finding my voice in the community
- R. The State Council has always been a great service- area board 6 is very involved with CHOICES & SAC6
- S. Transportation- Dial-a-ride we need more help with this
- T. Affordable housing
- U. More activity
- V. Work skills training
- W. We don't talk about abuse prevention
- X. Guide to community resources

70. Comments from Service Providers/Vendors:

- A. Continue to exist and support/advocate for the members of the disabled community.
- B. Maybe go into elementary schools and help educate the teachers and aids to better meet the needs of the children

- C. Provide persons with disabilities with more information on how to live everyday life
- D. More community events like health fairs
- E. To have a regional office available and open

71. Comments from Regional Center staff:

- A. Advocate for more funds
- B. Need more training to work with staff to interact with community
- C.

4. What kind of training would you like to receive?

1. School districts tend to see parents as hostile perhaps holding community conversations with someone who can represent the parents to bridge communication gaps and build community amongst the families and districts.
2. Create a book describing IEP process- (DRC website info was shared as existing resource)
3. Have more panel presentations
4. Have a new way to get feedback from families so they can share information and suggestions- BLOG
5. Lack of resources when individuals are transitioning from ER to Mental Health Aftercare services. A gap in services exists- lack of info- poor discharge planning
6. Parent, Families and caregivers- advocacy training
7. Paramedical training
8. Community access and education training
9. Making sure trainings are in plain language and well understood by all.
10. Communication about available trainings-Mail and websites
11. Making sure trainings are available to everyone
12. Trainings with DOR
13. Student led IEP training
14. Committee member training
15. Physical education training
16. More training about Regional Center Services
17. Training on the legal requirements of the Lanterman Act as it pertains to transition to adult services
18. Resources available for low income, self-determination
19. Inclusion, least restrictive environment, in general ed class
20. Training of regional center staff to educate them on transition, and parts of the Lanterman Act.
21. Teaching people how to do a person-centered plan (and being the focus person before you lead one) was suggested as a future training.
22. More training for families that are English learners needs to be provided.
23. What trainings are being done for regional center service coordinators regarding transition?
24. Any training is great
25. How to encourage creation of different housing options
26. Special workshops at VMRC pertaining to housing etc.
27. Vocational training to be able to work
28. Transportation- they aren't nice sometimes. We need to hold them accountable
29. Changes in special education.
30. Paralegal services.
31. Behavioral training.

32. Life skills – how to get a job, find recreation, transportation.
33. Being safe in the community.
34. Trainings for law enforcement to better manage people with developmental and behavioral issues.
35. More about IHSS reductions and funding.
36. Difference between high school diploma and Certificate of Completion. “We sometimes have to make choices without having the full understanding of what it means.”
37. Training about what resources are there. What type of programs are out there?
38. What services can a regional center provide? “They always say ‘we’re not responsible.’ So what are they supposed to be doing?”
39. The services we get are because we have to go to hearings. You need money to pay for an attorney. It’s not fair.
40. Safe community access
41. Health safety/abuse; quality assurance
42. Patient rights under all systems (medical, regional, etc)
43. Law enforcement training
44. Give each family the laws of different agencies
45. How to navigate the laws
46. Help with preparing young adult to transition: SSI, Media-Cal, other entitlement programs, DOR
47. Train our kids how to self-advocate for themselves
48. Housing options – government and parents
49. Medical, mental health training, special education training
50. Educational & Religious training
51. I would like to be trained on a job that pays well so that we can have a sense of self-worth and know we can provide for ourselves.
52. Health training to let people stay healthy and happy
53. Different ways and techniques to provide child care, how to have better health, and help to provide transportation
54. He cannot attend any kind of training because he cannot concentrate in his brain
55. Training on how to prepare consumers for different types of job settings
56. Abuse prevention
57. Training as to other resources available in case of a family emergency for our daughter while the person taking care of her is not available- options

58. **Comments from Self-Advocates:**
 - A. Real job Training
 - B. Money management
 - C. Yes for trainings
 - D. Being able to ride the public bus with assistance
 - E. Help with basic need at home like doing laundry, budgeting, cooking
 - F. Training for bus drivers
 - G. Training for the MV drivers
 - H. Better transportation and getting around on my own. Teach me about being a good wife and partner for my husband to be.
 - I. Due to my situation- I need help finding places/areas that I can go to
 - J. Roommate, help with medication
 - K. None
 - L. I will like to live on my own

- M. Bus trainings
- N. Help me get more training to be more independent
- O. More Independent living services
- P. Helping with finding a job
- Q. In the future live on my own and learn to cook
- R. Be more responsible
- S. Job training. Help to get a job
- T. Learn how to cook
- U. Educating people about what is abuse
- V. Transportation tx
- W. Recreation options
- X.

59. Comments from Service Providers/Vendors:

- A. I would like to see more social security benefits education and training
- B. I would like to see more classes on how to deal with ADHD
- C. More trainings on how to be more independent
- D. Support for ALL areas!
- E. Need more support services and get all staff course to learn sign language
- F.

60. Comments from Regional Center staff:

- A. Any that is available
- B.
- C.

5. What else would you like the State Council to know? (You may use the back of this page to write more.)

1. Mandatory POST training for law enforcement with people (getting academies and all entities on board)
2. Address bullying in schools and among educators
3. Address more in home support issues
4. Supporting the need for service animals- providing resources regarding benefits and accessibility to service animals.
5. Any reduction in services to people with disabilities will tax other public services and always be detrimental. Increasing services will always relieve burdens on jails, emergency rooms, etc.
6. A large number of parents do not know about developmental disabilities and which disabilities qualify for services like regional center. Sometimes our (EL) families and low income are not able to get access to health, medication, access to housing – especially it is hard to afford rent, is hard to afford medical services and medication.
7. English learners need help giving resources to parents – teach the students to ask questions – start them early learning how to advocate for themselves.
8. Head Start is going to be using sixth graders to work on advocacy skills with the younger kids.
9. Community needs some place to turn!

10. It helps to build confidence in parents when you have support at the first couple of meetings when you are new to the system.
11. The technical assistance that was provided to her a few years ago was so beneficial to her, because parents are not considered when changes occur.
12. There is a huge need for individual technical assistance from the Council.
13. Her daughter was not selected in the pilot program for self-determination, so she did not get to focus on the things that she wanted to with her daughter.
14. Please add more possibilities for individuals with disabilities.....need funding please!!
15. Our services keep getting cut. How are we supposed to live in the community without help?
16. Need more of these listening sessions. We each represent hundreds more people who could not come.
17. Need more use of social media and Facebook for immediate communication.
18. Provide stipends for people to come to these meetings. Some are using respite hours or paying for child care to come here today.
19. Why won't the regional centers tell us about these meetings?
20. A lot of us don't use the internet or social media. Make sure to use all means, high-tech and low-tech. I learned about this meeting from another parent. The regional centers won't educate us.
21. The changes in special education/pre-advocate advocacy
22. There needs to be interlinking between systems, whether it is one social worker per an individual.
23. Multiple problems and communication with Media-Cal, regional center, school districts, etc when patient needs prescription meds, medical equipment
24. Better day programs
25. Pay for private recreation
26. Listen to the community and do more meetings like this. Have a more effective way to respond to complaints
27. Train all service coordinators
28. How we can help ourselves in becoming productive citizens in our community and how to find and keep a job to be able to support ourselves so that we can feel that are contributing to our community.
29. The same as I say on above
30. That more information about the service areas (listed above) should be advertised more so people can get the training/help individuals need.
31. Note that the families taking care of their children are having some difficulty caring for their loved one especially when the people looking after them has medical emergency and need someone to care for the loved one while at home or not able to be alone. Lives with most of the time. But there are a few instances when things change like bus schedule, her sister has to be on her job for emergency. There are also occasion when Nora is not available when she stays at her dad for doctors apt (illegible) medical center tries to post a great difficulty for me the mother because she really try to grab all my attention and at times can be stressful. Marie has behavior problem and can post a great difficulty for my (illegible) Marie's sister is single and so if she ever get married knowing that I will not have full support system from her. What can I expect from you for help? If she lives independently will I get a support system in place for her in her unit? With a minimal help for her sister if she get married what can I expect from you?

32.

33. Comments from Self-Advocates:

- A. We need more money now
- B. I am grateful for this conference today
- C. I appreciate this conference!

- D. I'm a determined young woman who will not give up on what I want. I'm going to stay firm and will not let people get away with me
- E. I need to learn more about SAC6 (Self Advocacy Council 6)
- F. You could help me when I'm out having a good time as in the public
- G. No
- H. Area Board is so awesome and they really care about the people they help. They been by my side a 100 percent
- I. Help with budgeting my money and not spending it badly
- J. Help each other
- K. Public sensitivity to disabilities.
- L. More dissemination of info about community options & accommodations.
- M. Promoting employment – meaningful – using my education.

34. Comments from Service Providers/Vendors:

- A. It is vital for the disabled community in the valley to continue to have the local area office available to access.
- B. 😊
- C. It would be nice to have a website so we can take time to complete this survey
- D.

35. Comments from Regional Center staff:

- A. I know one person one place in an Adult School, this person is deaf but staff don't use sign language-use app on I phone or Android
- B.

Notes:

(2-28-15: RO 13) We had a much larger group in attendance than the sign-in sheet reflects. Because we had our session during the lunch time, a number of people came a little late, and did not sign in, or elected not to sign in for other reasons. By way of a head count done by both Debbie Marshall and myself, we had 50 people in the room at all times, although some other people drifted in late, or out early.

People very much appreciated the opportunity to speak up about what areas of concern they have. Each participant was asked to put a red dot on three of the Service Areas identified on the Survey question number one. The butcher paper on the wall identified each area, and people were given time to locate their "dots". There was a general consensus that ALL of the service areas were critical.

At this point (Question #5), many people had to leave to attend other workshops, but they were asked to complete the surveys available at our table and distributed here. From the resource room, we received 23 completed surveys. Many people asked if the survey was available on line, and many participants asked to be included on our distribution lists.

(2-21-15: RO 1)

(2-12-15: RO 13) This was a lively group that truly enjoyed having the opportunity to discuss these concerns, and could have stayed longer. Unfortunately, not all of them completed their surveys during this time, and many said they would send them when they had a chance to provide responses that are more thoughtful.

A suggestion was made to start conversation classes to empower ESL students and parents with advocacy skills. A comment was made that school site councils are getting money, but it is not going to special education, so maybe this would be a pot of money available to start these classes. More training for ESL parents on how to access resources. Do outreach in ways other than email – the “All Call” system employed by school districts was used as an example of a way to do outreach.

Another suggestion was made to do training on IPP ENFORCEMENT

There was conversation regarding transition, and viable employment options vs. sheltered workshops. Self-determination was brought up; as someone believed, it was just a pilot program, so information was provided regarding that issue. The use of UBER as an alternative transportation was discussed, as the length of time people spend on the public transportation system is excessive. Safety issues were brought up regarding this topic.

(2-9-15: RO 6)

(2-6-15: RO 6) Self Advocacy Council 6 Area Meeting of Self Advocates (from all 5 counties); SCDD Representative present (Kerstin Williams); Representative Languages- American Sign Language; # of attendees: Self-advocates (350), SCDD staff (2), VMRC (4), Department of Developmental Services & DDS Safety Net Staff (5), and Service Providers (8).

(2-28-15: RO 10) A Spanish translator assisted.

(3.30.15: RO 6) Local Day Program Input

(2.7.15: RO 10) Only 1 survey was received