

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
REGIONAL CENTER PURCHASE OF SERVICE PUBLIC MEETINGS SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS
AND PLAN TO PROMOTE EQUITY AND REDUCE DISPARITIES ANNUAL REPORT TEMPLATE**

As indicated in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4519.5(g) and (i), regional centers are required to hold public meetings for community members within three months of posting annual purchase of service data on their websites. Regional centers submit an annual report to the Department of Developmental Services (Department) by May 31st. The Department reviews and provides feedback to the regional centers on the report, prior to its posting by August 31st. The following pages include the required components of the report. A list of questions is provided to assist regional centers when preparing the report in addition to the inclusion of regional center's public meeting notes, public comments, presentation materials and a plan with recommendations for increasing equitable access in purchase of services and supports.

Regional center name: Westside Regional Center

Person filling out report: Rosalinda Mata

Date of completion: 5/27/25

PROPER MEETING COMMUNITY INCLUSION

W&I Code section 4519.5 (g)" ...each regional center shall meet with stakeholders (community members) in one or more public meetings regarding the (purchase of service) data... consider the language needs of the community and shall schedule the meetings at times and locations designed to result in a high turnout by the public and underserved communities."

1. **How many meetings did your regional center conduct?** 2
2. **Did your regional center hold at least one meeting by March 31st?** Yes
3. **How were the meetings scheduled to accommodate community participation? Select all that apply.**
 - Webinar (e.g., GoToMeeting, YouTube)
 - Virtual platform (e.g., Zoom)
 - In-person
 - Hybrid
 - Other

If "Other" selected enter here.

PROPER MEETING NOTIFICATION

W&I Code section 4519.5(g) "...regional centers shall inform the department of the scheduling of those public meetings 30 days prior to the meeting. Notice of the meetings shall also be posted on the regional center's internet website 30 days prior to the meeting and shall be sent to individual stakeholders and groups representing underserved communities in a timely manner."

4. **Was the Department informed at least 30 days prior to ALL meetings?** Yes
5. **How was the Department informed? Through indirect notification (RC meetings, eblast, social media)**
6. **Were notices of ALL meetings held, posted on the regional center's website 30 days prior to each meeting(s)?** Yes

7. **Select the best option that represents when individual community members impacted by disparities and barriers to equitable access to services and supports were informed? 30 days or more**
8. **What outreach efforts were utilized to inform individual community members impacted by disparities and barriers to equitable access to services and supports of the meeting(s)? Select all that apply.**

- Newsletter/Eblast
- POS meeting specific email
- Public meeting
- Social media
- Community partners
- Website (e.g., event page or calendar)
- Blog post
- Everbridge or another type of automated phone recording
- Mail
- Text
- Phone call by regional center staff
- Other

E-mail blasts were sent on 2/4, 2/18, 3/3 and 3/17.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE

W&I Code section 4519.5(g) "The regional center shall provide participants of these meetings with the data and any associated information related to improvements in the provision of developmental services to underserved communities and shall conduct a discussion of the data and the associated information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for that community, including providing alternative communication services."

9. **What languages were offered during the meeting(s)? Select all that apply.**

- English
- Spanish
- Mandarin
- Cantonese
- Hmong
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- ASL
- Other

If "Other" selected enter here.

10. **Did the meeting(s) include any of the following? Select all that apply.**

- Meeting(s) held in several languages
- Closed captioning provided
- Materials were provided in several languages
- Information was presented in plain language (i.e. easy to understand)
- Other

If "Other" selected enter here.

11. Describe how the cultural and linguistic needs of the communities were considered.

The registration invitation welcomed the public to inform WRC of their language needs. Also, for our Spanish speaking community, we provided a presentation that was conducted in Spanish (by Spanish speaking staff) with simultaneous English interpretation.

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

W&I Code section 4519.5(i)(1)(A) "Actions the regional center took to improve public attendance and participation at stakeholder meetings, including, but not limited to, attendance and participation by underserved communities."

12. Was the goal or purpose of the meeting communicated? If so, describe how?

Participants were informed that the goal of the public meetings was to provide transparency regarding POS spending for individuals of various ethnicities served by WRC. In addition, the public meetings provided our WRC community with an opportunity to elicit feedback and contribute ideas on areas of needed improvement.

13. What methods were used to provide an environment that allowed attendees to feel comfortable and interact with each other? Select all that apply.

- Allowed for small group conversations
- Introduced staff in attendance
- Allowed attendees to introduce themselves
- Provided chat rooms (e.g., zoom chat function)
- Chat feature was enabled
- Opportunity for public comment
- Provided opportunities to ask questions
- Other

14. Based on attendance did you observe any of the following? Select all that apply.

- Attendees engaged in public comment
- Innovative ideas suggested by attendees
- Diverse perspectives shared by attendees
- Attendees requested additional explanation/clarification on the information shared
- Other

If "Other" selected enter here.

15. Overall, how many individuals from the public attended the meeting(s)? Select best estimate. 50-100

16. What efforts did the regional center take to improve public attendance and participation, including any new strategies? Select all that apply.

- Collaborated with community partners
- Offered focus groups
- Offered meetings in multiple languages
- Offered multiple meeting opportunities
- Outreach through group meetings
- Outreach via flyers/public service announcements/social media
- Provided translated materials
- Shared via Everbridge
- Offered meetings virtually
- Offered meetings during non-business hours or on weekends
- Not applicable
- Other

If "Other" selected enter here.

17. Who were the meeting(s) attendees? Select all that apply.

- Self-advocates
- Parents/family members
- Regional center staff
- Board members
- Community advocates
- Community based organizations
- Department staff
- Other

If "Other" selected enter here.

18. List the names of the partner agencies, community partners, and community-based organizations that participated in the meeting(s).

Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, Westside Family Resource and Empowerment Center, Disability Rights California as well as various WRC vendors that that serve the Westside Community

COPIES OF MINUTES AND ATTENDEE COMMENTS

W&I Code section 4519.5 (i)(1)(B) "Copies of minutes from the meeting and attendee comments"

19. Does the regional center report include a copy of the meeting minutes (notes) and a copy of the raw attendee comments? **Yes**

20. Which of the following themes reflect what attendees expressed as important, challenges and barriers faced? Select as top concern, concern or not a concern for each.

	Top Concern	Concern	Not a Concern
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Regional center services satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case management satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of regional center knowledge/service options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of community trainings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Concern with language and cultural competency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service coordinator/staff training concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caseload concerns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication/outreach concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of regional center trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmet needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service accessibility concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rates and vendorization concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vendor concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lack of community, regional center, and other community member collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Need for advocacy training and support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. Were there any additional topics or themes mentioned in the meeting(s) that are not listed in question 20? Please list and indicate if they were a top concern (mentioned by multiple people).

Some of the public that attended the listening sessions (Community Conversations) mentioned that they would like to see information be delivered in a consistent manner by reliable sources to cut back on confusion and frustration which is a common theme.

IDENTIFIED DISPARITIES IN POS DATA

W&I Code section 4519.5 (i)(1)(C) "Whether the data...indicate a need to reduce disparities in the purchase of services among consumers in the regional center's catchment area."

22. Did the regional center report data about number of instances when written copies of individual program plans (IPP) were provided at the request of consumers or their legal representatives more than 45 days for threshold languages and 60 days for non-threshold languages after request was made?

Yes

23. Summarize the type of disparities that were identified and discussed (e.g., by race/ethnicity, primary language, residence, age, diagnosis, etc.)

Disparities in funded services continue to exist between the three largest ethnic groups:

- Per capita spending for Latinx/Hispanic population:
 - \$6,675 per capita for children 0-2 years
 - \$11,459 per capita for children and adults between the ages of 3-21
 - \$55,665 per capita for adults 22 years and over
- Per capita spending for Black/African American population”
 - \$6,035 per capita for children 0-2 years
 - \$14,072 for children and adults between the ages of 3-21 years
 - \$75,628 per capita for adults 22 years and over
- Per capita spending for White population
 - \$6,068 per capita for children 0-2 years
 - \$17,244 per capita for children and adults 3-21 years
 - \$94,494 per capita for adults 22 years and over

Although the differentials are sometimes attributed to higher utilization of residential services by White adults, funding discrepancies continue to be present in funding for Latinx/Hispanic and African American children that live in the family homes.

The dollar amounts that are listed in the use of social recreational services (contained in full report) underscore the possibility that social recreation (including tutoring) is being accessed more readily by Latinx/Hispanic and African American children in comparison to the utilization of other traditional services. However, services such as camps, which also involve overnight camps, are not as frequently accessed by Latinx/Hispanic individuals. There may be some cultural factors as well as language issues that could be a barrier and may need to be explored further in the future. In addition, social recreational services are utilized more by families who are English speaking versus Spanish speaking though their ethnic background may be Latinx/Hispanic.

REGIONAL CENTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLANS TO PROMOTE EQUITY AND REDUCE DISPARITIES

W&I Code section 4519.5 (i)(1)(C) "...If the data do indicate that need, the regional center's recommendations and plan to promote equity, and reduce disparities, in the purchase of services."

24. What other venues were utilized, in addition to holding the POS annual meetings, to gather information to develop the regional center's recommendations and plan¹ to promote equity and reduce disparities? Select all that apply.

- Other regional center meetings
- Feedback requested from support groups
- Recommendations from focus groups
- Surveys
- Call for public input (e.g., social media, eblasts, website)
- Other

Other listening opportunities were held via the quarterly "Community Conversation" platform on 9/19/24 and 12/11/24.

25. Does the regional center's attached report include how the prior year's recommendations and plan were implemented? [Yes](#)

REPORTS POSTED ON INTERNET WEBSITES

W&I Code section 4519.5 (c)(1)(B).

The Department posted final, de-identified Fiscal Year 2023/24 Annual POS reports on its website. Regional centers shall post a link on its internet website to the reports on the Department's webpage.

26. Did the regional center post a link on its internet website to the reports on the Department's webpage? [Yes](#)

IDENTIFIED RESTORED SERVICES IN POS DATA

W&I Code section 4519.5(a)(8) "the numbers, percentages, and total and per capita expenditure and authorization amounts, by age, as applicable, according to race or ethnicity and preferred language, for all combined residence types and for consumers living in the family home, regarding the following service types..."

27. Did the regional center report data on the numbers, percentages and total and per capita expenditure and authorization amounts, by age, as applicable, according to race or ethnicity and preferred language, for all combined residence types and for individuals living in the family home, specific to the following service types:

Select all that apply:

- Camping and associated travel expenses
- Social recreation activities
- Educational services
- Nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance and music

¹ Regional center to attach recommendations and plan.