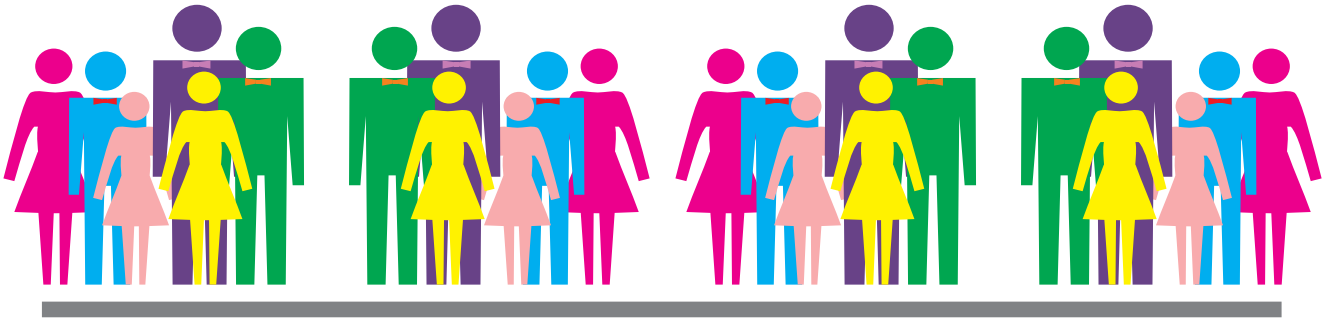
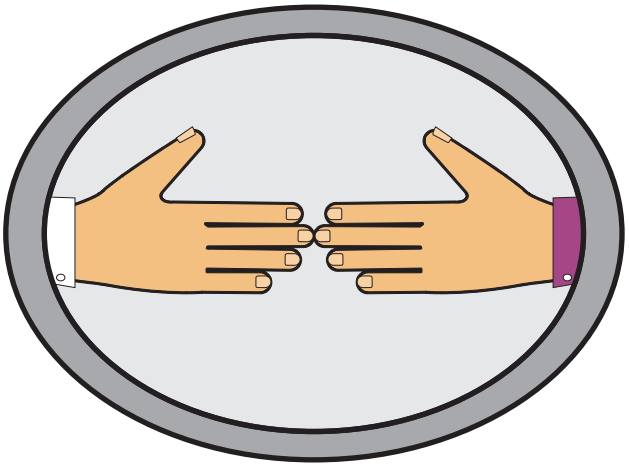
Department of Developmental Services

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Community conversations with people with developmental disabilities in California

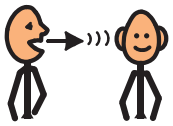


CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) was started in 1992 by the director of the DDS to give consumers a voice at DDS.

The CAC gives DDS information about important issues that effect consumers in California and provides consumers information about things that DDS is doing.

The CAC makes the decision about what they do from information members get from the community about DDS issues and community priorities.



In the fall of 2002, The Consumer Advisory Committee took their Vision Statement, *My Life - My Way* to People First groups, Self-Advocacy groups and local CAC meetings in communities throughout the state, and two developmental centers.

Committee members talked with about 400 people about what choices they make in their life today and what choices they would like to make.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Our Vision Statement:

My Life - My Way

"People with developmental disabilities in California will live their life the way they want"

Donald Roberts
Valley Mountain

Lori Sloan
San Andreas

Nyron Battles
East Bay

Robert Margolin
Sonoma D.C.

David Miller
Alta

Kim Rucker
San Diego

Leland Jacobs
South Central

Debra Beeter
Far Northern

Daniel Dawkins
Fairview DC

Betty Pomeroy
Redwood Coast

Colette Madore
Harbor

Maria Marquez
East Los Angeles

John Graber
Harbor

Tina Ewing-Wilson
Inland

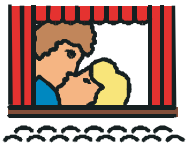
Consumer Services
Coordinator
(916) 654-3717
mlong@dds.ca.gov

Michael Long

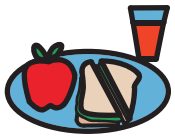
COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENT PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

CHOICES PEOPLE HAVE TODAY

I choose my own friends

I do what I want on  weekends

I spend my own money

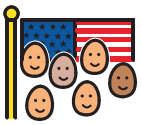
I  cook whenever I want

I eat out

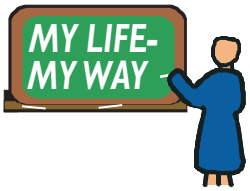
I decide how to spend my own free time

I live in my own place

I make my own decisions

I have the  freedom to work when I want

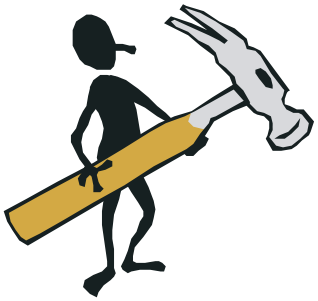
I work where I want to work

I can 

go to college

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*



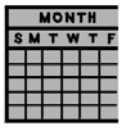
WORK

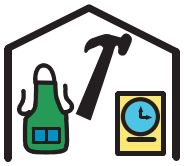
White collar jobs

Jobs that let me use my mind, not just my body

Own my own business

Make more money to better myself

More jobs and hours 

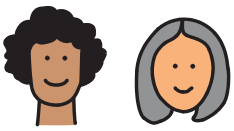
More  jobs, less day programs

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*

HOUSING

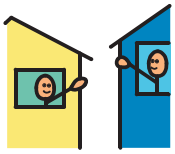
Live in an affordable house

Live safely 

Live on my own, not with my family

Having more choices on where to live

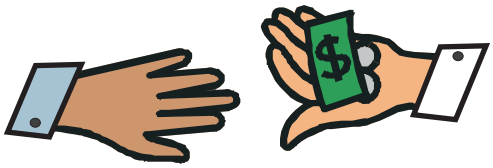
Having a choice of roommates

Live independently in the community 

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*

MONEY

Be my own payee 

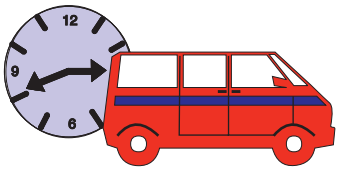
Hire and fire my own staff

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*

TRANSPORTATION

More public transportation

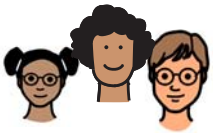
Available and reliable  para-transit

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*

RELATIONSHIPS

Spending time with friends

Seeing my  family more often

Seeing my family at holidays

Time with boyfriends and girlfriends

Getting married with needed supports

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

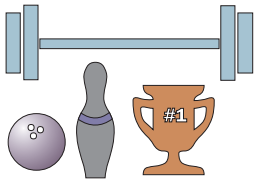
People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*

PERSONAL CARE

More doctors to see

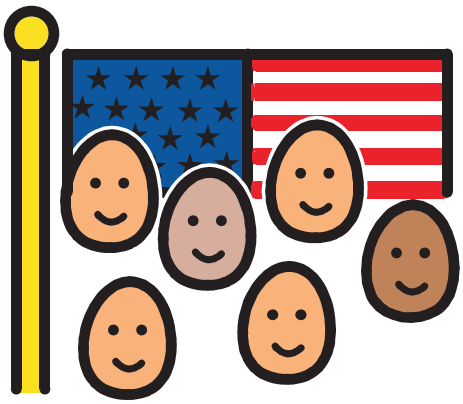
Training doctors who see people with disabilities

Good and healthy food available

More  recreation opportunities

PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

People said they would like to have ***more choice*** *in the following area:*



PERSONAL FREEDOM

More time in the community

Making the choice to go on a diet

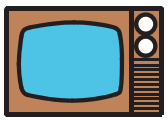
Go on more vacations

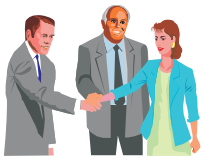
Living my life outside the "*system*"

PERSONAL STORIES

Comments about Group Homes

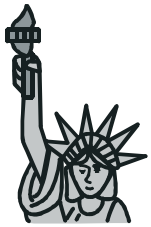
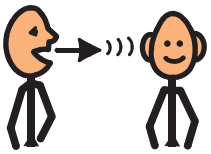
Choices people want

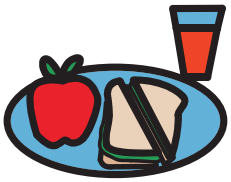




- to decide their own medicine
- to wear clean clothes, not dirty clothes
- to decide their own bedtime, not have a schedule
- to watch their own television programs and times
- to see boyfriends and girlfriends when they want
- to invite more visitors to come over

Concerns about staff

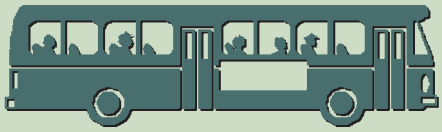


- need more training on how to help people
- are not informed of people's rights
- staff and consumers speak different languages
- in an emergency nobody is there during the day
- people are put on diets without their permission

PERSONAL STORIES

I don't like being told I have to have a job I do not want!

I don't like my parent being told that my job has been changed and they did not call me to tell me about it, or, if I wanted the job.

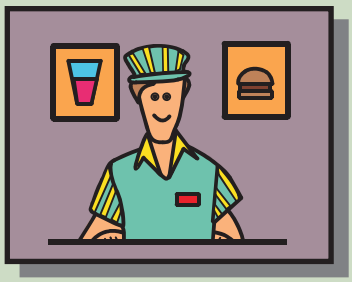


The buses stop at dark so I cannot go to meetings or places at night.

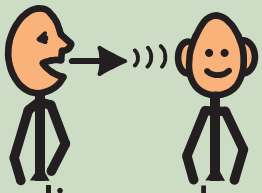
It's my $

and they can't take it away from me. How I use my $$ is my own business.

I want to be a "restaurant girl" not a janitor!



I said I wanted to help people and then I was told to clean up, mop and sweep.



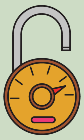
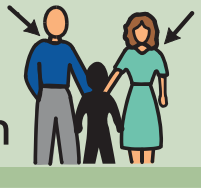
I am not listened to about what work I want and like.

PERSONAL STORIES

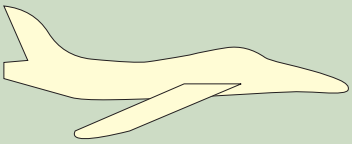
I got my freedom and went to court to be free.
I told them

"I do not want to be conserved." Having a conservator means not being in control of my life and making choices, it is being controlled.

Many people said they want

- to spend their money the way they want
- more personal privacy 
- a variety of food choices
- to be treated as adults, not children 

I want to take a vacation.



I do not want a service coordinator to tell me it is too dangerous because I can get hurt.

NOTES AND IDEAS

For more information about the CAC contact:
Department of Developmental Services
Office of Human Rights and Advocacy Services
Attention: Carol Risley
1600 9th Street, Room 240
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-1888

BRC™

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