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.
Our Vision Statement:

My Life - My Way

“People with developmental disabilities in California will live their life the way they want”
COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENT PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

Redwood Coast
Sonoma
Far Northern
Alta
East Bay
San Andreas
Valley Mountain
South Central
East Los Angeles
Inland
Fairview
Harbor
San Diego
San Diego
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 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 said they would like to have more choice in the following area:

- Be my own payee
- Hire and fire my own staff
People said they would like to have **more choice** in the following area:

**TRANSPORTATION**

More public transportation

Available and reliable para-transit
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 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:

- 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
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.

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.

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