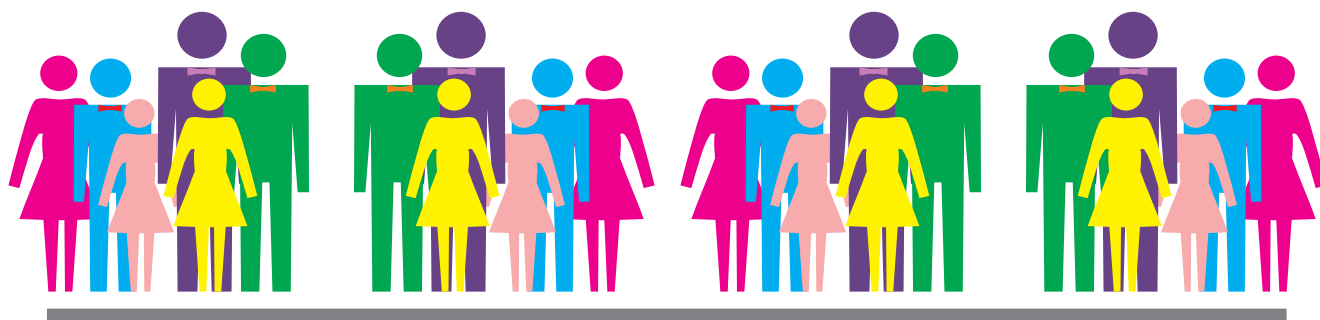
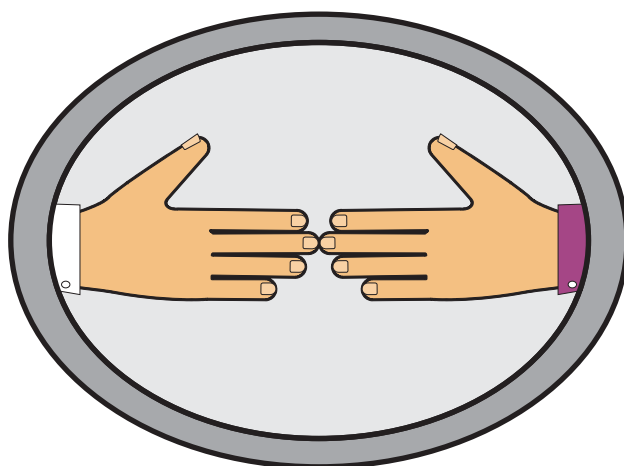


Department of Developmental Services
CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE



*Community conversations with
people with developmental
disabilities in California*



CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE



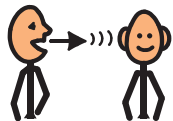
The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) was started in 1992 by the director of the DDS to give consumers a voice at DDS.



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

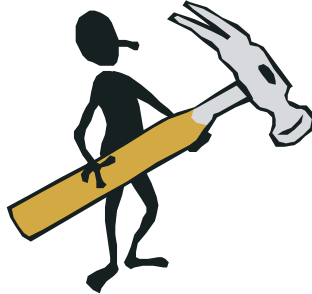
I have the  freedom to work  when I want

I work where I want to work 

I can  go to college

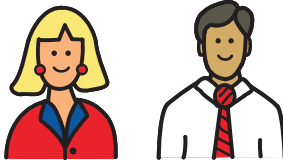
PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

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



WORK

White collar jobs



Jobs that let me use my
my body



mind, not just

Own my own business

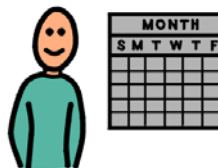


Make more



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

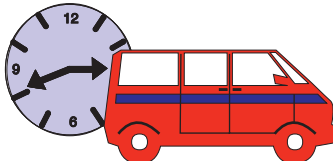
PEOPLE WANT MORE CHOICE

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



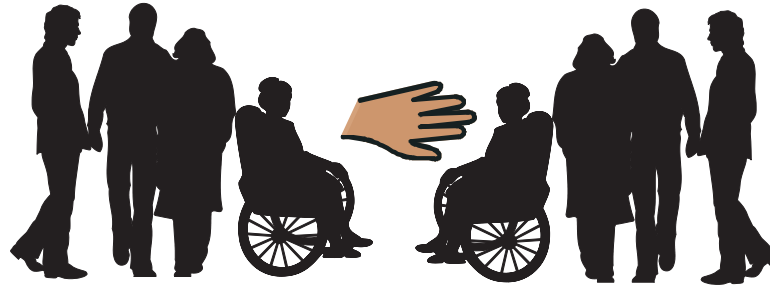
TRANSPORTATION

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

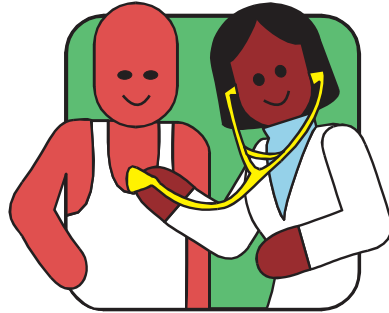
Seeing my family  at holidays 

 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

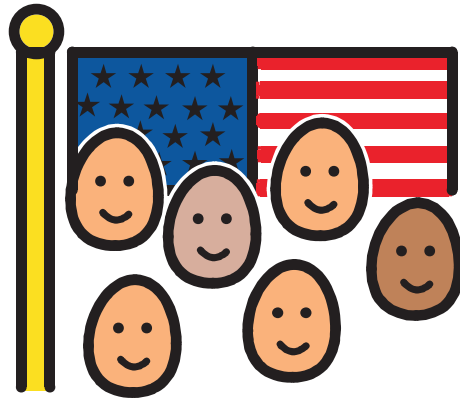
 Training doctors who see people with disabilities

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

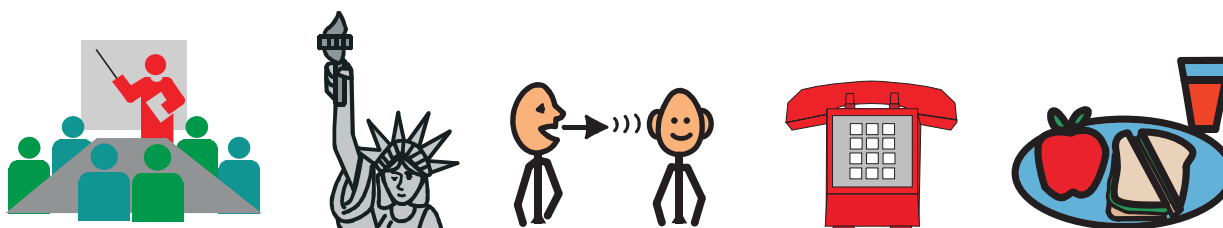
Comments about Group Homes

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!

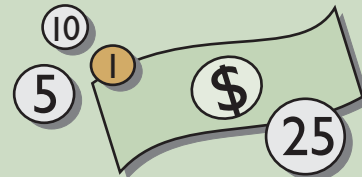


I don't like my parent being told that my job has been changed and they did not call me to tell me about it, or, if I wanted the job.



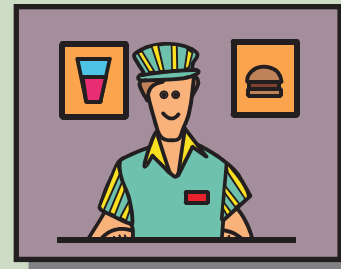
The buses stop at dark so I cannot go to meetings or places at night.

It's my \$

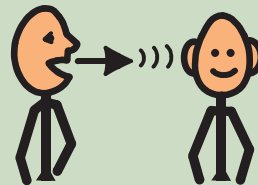


and they can't take it away from me. How I use my \$\$ is my own business.

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.




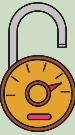


PERSONAL STORIES

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

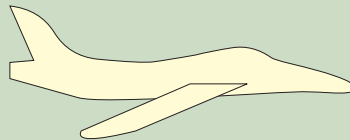


“I do not want to be conserved.” Having a conservator means not being in control of my life and making choices, it is being controlled.

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.

