

dLCV Public Awareness and Goals Committee Report July 2023

The dLCV Public Awareness and Goals Committee met on July 11, 2023 and reviewed the input from the public input survey, reviewed and affirmed the proposed FY 24 Goals and Focus Areas, and developed proposed targeted underserved populations for the next fiscal year.

Public Input Survey Summary:

We have received 159 responses so far to this year's public input survey which ran from 4/24/23-7/8/23. The survey was posted on the dLCV website and sent out through social media, staff, and Board, Council and Committee Members. 56.7% of the respondents were individuals with disabilities, a 14% improvement from last year. We saw a noticeable improvement in our responses by race and region. In addition, there was a more balanced representation across the Commonwealth in both categories. This data can be viewed in the attachment. Access to government services, abuse and neglect and housing issues were consistently the highest-ranking issues across various groups.

The Committee noted several ways to improve the survey. This included making sure the instrument is readily accessible in other languages, making sure to capture not only individuals with disabilities, but also the responses of those answering the questions for individuals with disabilities. We discussed continuing to adjust our categories, such as including barriers to dental care, as well as brainstorming how to expand the distribution and participation of the survey.

If you would like to read through the various written responses, which put "meat on the bones" of the numbers, that information is posted to the committee page on the website.

Goals and Focus Areas:

The Committee tightened up the proposed FY 24 Goals and Focus Areas to allow a more focused approach to our FY 24 work plan. This included making a distinction between our mental health and community settings facility work, creating a specific focus area on maintaining compliance with the U.S. v. Virginia settlement agreement, targeting our Medicaid work on appeals, making our Vocational Rehabilitation and barriers to employment and healthcare Goals more succinct, and selecting 2 specific groups to target for our underserved focus area. These two groups include the Spanish speaking community and children and youth in foster or kinship care. A copy of the proposed Goals and Focus Areas is included in this package.

Selecting the underserved groups:

The Committee reviewed demographic race and ethnicity data from the dLCV public input survey respondents and race and ethnicity data from our current FY 23 clients. The Committee believes our work to support the Spanish speaking community has been effective and wants it to continue. The Committee then discussed other groups and the limited work dLCV is completing right now for children. The Committee believes targeting children and youth in foster or kinship care would allow us to have a greater impact on children's advocacy issues in FY 24.

Next Steps: The Committee will continue to assess and strengthen the survey instrument and distribution over the coming months and will reconvene in September to review dLCV's proposed objectives (work plan) for FY 24.