

April 5, 2021

To California State Assembly Committee on Human Services

Assembly Member Lisa Calderon (Chair)
Assembly Member Laurie Davies (Vice Chair)
Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assembly Member Steven S. Choi, Ph.D.
Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson
Assembly Member Mark Stone
Assembly Member Carlos Villapudua
Assembly Member Christopher M. Ward

RE: AB 813 (Mullin) DDS Service Outcome Pilot – PAVE: SUPPORT

Cal-TASH is the California chapter of [TASH](#), the international leader in disability advocacy. Founded in 1975, TASH advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect, and institutionalization. TASH works to advance inclusive communities through advocacy, research, professional development, policy, and information and resources for parents, families and self-advocates. The inclusive practices TASH validates through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people. This is why we are proud to support AB 813 (Mullin) DDS Service Outcome Pilot, PAVE, because it will help improve the quality of services and increase transparency by linking California funding to defined services with measurable outcomes.

AB 813 establishes an innovative data-driven pilot project. It will develop and test measurable service standards with defined outcomes. That data does not currently exist in California and has made it difficult for policymakers to link measurable outcomes to appropriate funding levels.

The proposed pilot project also addresses the fundamental issues of racial disparities, inequities, service quality inconsistencies and funding deficiencies that continue to plague our developmental disability service system.

Administered by the Department of Developmental Services, AB 813 will help define, track, measure and deliver quality outcomes in the developmental disability service area. These outcomes will include clear and consistent standards for service delivery, and measure the success that consumers experience as they use these services to access their chosen ways of life.

To effectively support all people with developmental disabilities, disadvantaged communities, people of color and low-income populations, the State must design a service system that:

- Ensures health and safety during changing circumstances
- Creates a person-centered service structure based on user-defined results
- Effectively uses resources by matching specific services with needs
- Easily used by people of all sociological and educational backgrounds
- Delivers culturally competent services so individuals can use them based on their personal identities
- Includes linguistic variations for service users' preferred language
- Pays competitive wages to help recruit and retain quality support professionals to provide services
- Hires & trains skilled employees who help professionalize the system.

The Pave Pilot Project will Pave the way Forward and help ensure government resources are precise linked to measurable outcomes.

PAVE's solution is to:

- Define clear, consistent, and measurable service outcomes
- Create an outcome-based curriculum outline for training DSPs, case managers, service users, and their support circles
- Work with experts in applied statistics and total quality management to create ways to measure quality service outcomes
- Build a software prototype that can use person-centered purchasing to collect satisfaction and usage data from DDS clients.
- Create a small three-year pilot project for testing
- Provide a full report to the State regarding initial results and prepare a proposed DDS system implementation plan

Cal-TASH respectfully asks for your support of this important legislation. This pilot project is the path forward for improving the quality of services and a more efficient use of state resources. As we all begin to focus on the future, we strongly urge your support on AB 813.

Sincerely,

Jodie Agnew-Navarro, President

Aja McKee, Co-President

About [Cal-TASH](#):

Cal-TASH supports practices that promote our resolution that all people, regardless of their label or perceived level of disability, should have the supports they need to direct the course of their own lives, and to live and participate successfully in inclusive schools and communities.

CC:

Elena Ortiz, Legislative Aide Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin

elena.ortiz@asm.ca.gov