

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TASK FORCE SAFETY NET WORKGROUP

Need to agree on a working DEFINITION and SCOPE of Safety Net

“Safety Net” definitions in general use (per Google search – NO references to DD SAFETY NET)

- a large strong net to catch circus acrobats who fall or jump from a trapeze
- a back-up boyfriend or girlfriend
- any means of protection from hardship or loss
- collection of services provided by the state or other institutions ... which prevent individuals from falling into poverty beyond a certain level.

“Safety Net” discussion suggestions specific to California DD system

- “SAFETY NET SERVICES The DC Task Force members identified the appropriate role of the State to be that of providing the placement of last resort, so that there will always be a safety net of essential services if/when service providers are unwilling, unable or unavailable in the community to provide the appropriate level of residential care, particularly for individuals with significantly challenging behaviors.” (from Fairview/Porterville Closure Plan)
- “The closure plans will ... also include innovative community service models and the maintenance of a **state-operated safety-net**. Efforts will focus on: ... Utilizing some DC assets to continue and refine **state-operated safety-net** services that may include crisis centers, small-scale integrated housing, clinical services, and other necessary services for individuals with developmental disabilities.” (Santi Rogers, from Sonoma DC Closure Plan)
- “Can’t say NO” provider.”
- “Placement of Last Resort”

Additional discussion items:

- Draft Safety Net definition
- Safety Net as a placement vs Safety Net as services and supports to maintain a placement.
- Safety Net should include BEST PRACTICES
- Person-Centered Planning (as mandated by new HCBS rules)
- Evaluation of possible dental – medication – etc reasons for crises
- Use of DC staff to provide safety net services – (see list of Specialized Services of DC staff)
- Use of generic services to provide safety net (i.e. County Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams)

SAFETY NET DRAFT DEFINITION FOR DISCUSSION BY DS TASK FORCE

Timely access to essential services and supports necessary for persons with developmental disabilities to maintain health and safety and to address **medical, psychiatric, behavioral, residential, staffing, equipment, or other needs**, when those services and supports fail, are interrupted, are not available, or additional services and supports are necessary for an urgent or emergency need.

May or may not require a change in placement.

Stabilization + last resort