



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
District East Independent Oversight Committee (IOC)
Public Meeting Minutes Summary
Wednesday, Oct 13th, 2021 – 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Call to Order

This meeting is being held virtually due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns.

Meeting called to order by Suzanne Hessman. The date was Oct 13th, 2021 at 5:04 pm. The address of the meeting was Virtual, no physical address.

Welcome and Introductions

- Attendance in Person: **None This meeting was virtual only due to COVID-19 concerns**
 - Attendance by Google Meets: **Susan Kingsbury (by Phone), Suzanne Hessman, Kin Counts, Elizabeth Bird,**
 - Absent: **Sarah McGovern, Tonia Schultz, Amanda Godek**
 - Public in Attendance: **None**
 - Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA): **Larry Allen**
 - Healthcare Plan Liaison (UHCCP): **None (Mercy Care) Vera Kramarchuk**
 - DDD staff: **Jeffrey Yamamoto-DDD IOC Liaison, Megan Taylor-District Program Manager for District East, (DPM), Leah Gibbs – DDD OIFA Administrator.**
 - **The Committee, DDD, Mercy Care Employee** introduced themselves.
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Call to Public

Suzanne Hessman: Called for public to announce themselves. There were no public on the call.

DDD Staff Updates

Leah Gibbs updated the IOC with the current information from DDD.

- Public Health Emergency Flexibilities will continue with the exceptions of the Vendor trainings for their Direct Care Workers (DCW) staff and the total annual Respite hours change back to 600hrs per year. Both these are back to their original time frames and hours.
- Member parents can continue to be provided as paid attendant care for their minor children.
- Support Coordinators can conduct meetings in person given proper mitigations.
- Virtual visit is still in place and home delivered meals are still in place.
- AHCCCS has submitted request to Medicaid/CMS to continue funding of both paid parental attendant care for minor children and home delivered meals programs to be extended beyond the Public Health Emergency with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA)
- Roll out of the Person-Centered Service Plan (PCSP) is happening and all the division is now using the new plan.



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- Booster Pfizer COVID vaccinations are being recommended by Center for Disease Control (CDC) for select categories of individuals who are at higher risk of hospitalization/death.
- DDD had 5 public forums to address the increase in State budget for DDD and the largest increase is going to raising the rates for attendant care and respite services.
- November is “Family Caregiver Awareness” month. Various events are planned for the Month. Please see the DDD webpage for times and dates.

Leah Gibbs gave a summary of the DDD updates from the DDD COVID-19 webpage from 10/12/2021.

- 46,268 members being served by DDD
 - 41,196 members are living in their own home/family home
 - 5,072 members are living in licensed facilities
- 3,378 members tested positive for COVID-19
 - 2,155 residing in their own/family home
 - 1,223 residing in licensed facilities
- 82 Member deaths attributed to COVID-19 (37 lived in a family/own home & 45 lived in licensed facilities).
- Tracking weekly counts, Data above is from 10/12/2021
- Currently there are 54% of the available members who can receive the vaccine has been vaccinated.

Megan Taylor (District Program Manager for District East, DPM) updated the committee. She informed the IOC that in District East there are currently around 11,000 members being supported by DDD. There are still approximately 70 vacancies in DE support coordination and supervisors yet to be filled. There are 2 new units being added to District East. Division is combining the Early Intervention Units to one statewide. There will be a new Interim District Program Manager is Melanie Stamps.

Megan Taylor also added that the Division has moved to a new “Person-Centered Service Planning” document and that the form/document gives a standardized form for all.

ADOA Update

Larry Allen: Updated the committee that the Annual Report was due by the end of last month.

Suzanne Hessman acknowledged that she understood the deadline for the annual report. She’s working to finalize it.



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Health Plans Updates

United Healthcare Community Plan (UHCCP) Was not present for this meeting

Mercy Care liaison Vera Kramarchuk was present for the call. She informed the Committee that the at home vaccinations are still available and still has the transition for the Augmentative Communication Devices. She asked for questions.

Suzanne Hessman asked if the booster shots would be available for at home also.

Vera Kramarchuk replied that she did not know but would ask.

Discussions of DDD Policy and/or Legislative Issues

Suzanne Hessman and Kin Counts informed the committee about an incident brought up by **Kin Counts** about an incident that a member's family was unable to visit with them "...due to Governor's policy "for mitigations. The Family had not visited the member in over a year. This seems to be a human rights violation. She also brought up that the incident was "Closed" while it was being investigated as a possible "Quality of Care Concern" (QOC) and that the Division closed the case before a finding was received.

Leah Gibbs explained to the committee that it seems like it should be investigated but there are many medical group homes which have strict mitigation strategies still in place for their medically fragile members. As she doesn't know the specific member or circumstance she can't comment correctly. Every facility has a Pandemic Plan which is available to the families and if they don't agree with it, they can bring it to the attention of DDD. Family can make the request of their pandemic plan to the facility.

Leah Gibbs also stated that once an incident reaches a QOC status the Quality Management Unit takes over the incident and all external reports will cease to go forward and is only resolved in a "peer review" status and is not privy to the public. This is a legal determination and not something DDD has control over.

Suzanne Hessman asked to get the citation for the law so she can understand it and possibly work to change the law through a legislative action.

Suzanne Hessman will craft a letter to ask DDD Quality Management Unit to please send the IOC the citations for the QOC privacy of resolution to an incident. This letter will be forward to both the DDD IOC Liaison and the ADOA IOC Manager as a formal request.

Suzanne Hessman asked if there is a General Counsel in ADOA or does it all go to the State Attorney General's (AG) office which could address the legal question brought up in the "DDD Policy and Legislation" section of the minutes.



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Larry Allen was unsure if ADOA has anyone, but it can always be elevated to the AGs office.

Jeffrey Yamamoto added that there is general counsel in DDD and if necessary, it can also be elevated to a higher source.

Discussions of “Request to Speak” information

Suzanne Hessman requested that the Request to Speak information be brought to the attention of the IOC. This is to show the members that legislative process can be accomplished through an easier route. She asked to show the flier and link to the IOC. Jeffrey did present both the link and the information to the committee.

DDD IOC Liaison Updates

Jeffrey Yamamoto asked Suzanne to be the Facilitator to Quarterly Statewide IOC meeting. She agreed. She also requests an invitation to the meeting on Oct 20th.

Jeffrey Yamamoto informed the IOC that weekly IRs are being downloaded and that the redaction team has caught up all Septembers IRs.

Action Items: Follow up. Asking Suzanne for the letter for DDD on QOC law. Also, to Archive the finished IRs in the Google Drive. He will also send out the link and information on the “Request to Speak” flier Suzanne had sent to the liaison.

Discussion of Membership for the IOC

Suzanne Hessman asked if there has been any movement.

Jeffrey Yamamoto stated that there hasn’t been and there has been some difficulty working with the DES Volunteer coordinator.

Discussion of Incident Reports (IR) & Behavior Plans (BP)

Suzanne Hessman asked the only categories they wish to review are the CLOSED Emergency Measures, Death, Neglect, Physical Abuse, Human Rights and Other Abuse.

CLOSED Categories:

Death- Suzanne

Other Abuse- Sarah

Emergency Measures- Amanda

Physical Abuse- Susan



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Human Rights- Kin

Neglect- Tonia

For September IRs, the Committee members have been loaded in the shared drive **697** incident reports. This included **45** open and **652** closed reports. ATPC had **66** totals with **26** open and **40** closed.

Type	Open	Closed
Accidental Injury	0	90
Consumer Missing	0	16
Deaths	1	8
Emergency Measures	0	4
Human Rights	2	9
Legal	0	1
Medication Errors	1	56
Neglect	11	46
Other Abuse	1	2
Other Behavior	1	211
Other Hospitalization, Unknown injury	24	199
Physical Abuse	3	9
Property Damage	1	1
Suicide	0	0
TOTALS	45	652

The desired IRs will be divided among the members.

Number of Questions for QIM: members of the committee will comment on incident reports directly and the liaison will send to QIM.

Number of Behavior Plans turned in by IOC Members: 0

The Program Review Committee (PRC) is being attended to by Susan Kingsbury and Kin Counts.

Adjournment

Suzanne Hessman adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm. The next District East IOC meeting will be held on Wednesday Nov 10th, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Will be virtual meeting should COVID-19 concerns still be in effect.