

ANNUAL REPORT 2018
INDEPENDENT OVSIGHT COMMITTEE
District South: Tucson

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

It is a pleasure to submit our 2018 Annual Report for the Independent Oversight Committee (IOC) in Tucson with support to Yuma because there was no IOC operating in Yuma. The new Sierra Vista committee was in the process of rebuilding during this period.

Independent Oversight Committees, previously known as the Human Rights Committees, were established under ARS 41-3801 and function as independent advisory and oversight bodies across the State. The Committee includes professionals and paraprofessionals, as well as interested parties.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDEPENDENT OVSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Independent Oversight Committee of dedicated volunteers, in addition to providing independent oversight and review and making recommendations, functions under the Open Meeting Law and follows District-specific Bylaws.

SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

This calendar year brought several challenges to the basic functioning of the Tucson Independent Oversight Committee. As mentioned in previous year's reports, Behavior Treatment Plans continue to be inconsistent in structure and order and are difficult to read. The Tucson committee feels that the lack of consistent quality and general unreadability of the BTPs represent real violations of human rights for members due to the inability of care givers and service providers to understand the plans. We would like to see a more consistent format for BTPs and the use of wording that is easily understood by all service providers.

The committee in Tucson has enjoyed tremendous growth over this past year, due to robust recruitment effort both locally, by Donna-Marie Terranova, and statewide. As of December 2018, the committee had nine members.

The committee recognizes the challenges faced by the Quality Assurance team over the past year and wishes to commend Pauline Selmer for her devotion to the Division and its members and her continued professionalism in the face of less than ideal working conditions. Ms. Selmer has consistently provided information as requested and has excelled in her explanations of situations for which the committee had questions.

The Tucson IOC committee continues to meet at the downtown office located in the Department of Economic Security building located at 400 W. Congress Street. This facility can accommodate our growing group very well. Liaison Jeffrey Yamamoto has taken over the duties of reserving our meeting rooms, notifying members of upcoming events, obtaining the Incident Reports and Behavior Treatment Plans for committee review, recording and drafting meeting minutes, and numerous other tasks required to support the committee. He has greatly improved the functioning

of the committee and has not only provided guidelines to keep the committee in compliance with meeting laws, but has actively advocated within the Division to help the committee to function better and more efficiently. This committee is deeply grateful for the addition of Mr. Yamamoto in the administrative capacity and we value his dedication to the goal of helping the committee live up to the potential and vision in the protection of human rights for the population served by the Division.

The Tucson committee is working to find efficient and effective ways to protect the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities through ever-evolving procedures and systems. We continue to work with the HERO team to develop new channels of inter-agency communications so that we can do our job more effectively. We have found that our new oversight by the Department of Administration has changed very little in the way that we function. We are optimistic that we will be able to better fulfill our purpose as we continue to work with the State and community agencies to serve the members here in District South.

MEMBERSHIP

The Tucson Committee

The Tucson committee membership grew throughout the 2018 year. The members include in December of 2018:

Lynda Stites (Co-Chair)
Genevieve Valenzuela
Lynne Tomasa
Tyler DeMers
Jessica Richards (Co-Chair)
Christine Small
Bill Burnett
Rachel Allen
Cynthia Fielding
Bliss Gifford

DES Staff supporting the committee include:
Jeffrey Yamamoto, Independent Oversight Committee Liaison
Department of Economic Security
Division of Developmental Disabilities

Richard Kautz, CPM
Advocacy and Special Projects Manager
Department of Economic Security
Division of Developmental Disabilities

The Tucson committee membership continues to grow in the 2019 year. We had at the fiscal year ending June 2019 a full complement of 15 members on the committee.

The Sierra Vista Committee

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Donna-Marie Terranova, Volunteer Coordinator for District South, has actively recruited new members for the Sierra Vista region as well as Eric Houghtalin DDD IOC liaison.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The IOC's are groups of volunteers with Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) staff offering clerical support and providing the committee with Incident Reports to review and Behavior Treatment Plans to approve.

STATISTICS

	IR's Reviewed	BTPs Reviewed	Meetings Held	Volunteer Hours
Tucson annual 2018 (12 months)	707	72	11	321 (2018)
Tucson fiscal 2019 (6 months)	2640	32	5	141 (2019)

The number of Incident Reports increases dramatically since August of 2018 when DDD started to report all incoming incidents. This has caused a historic increase of at least 100% in reported incidents.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The District South committee has utilized the DDD systems to track and review Incidents throughout our District. As a result, we have stopped using our own tracking system. We do have concerns that the Division uses too many resources printing out Incident Reports that we do not need and have not requested. These extraneous reports simply are shredded, unread. If the output could be better filtered and tailored to our needs we feel we would not be wasting so many resources like paper, toner, and, most importantly, time by Division staff. The blanket requirement that all IRs be printed out is wasteful. We would like to work with the Division to reduce this waste in the future.

This concludes the annual report of the Independent Oversight Committee, District South: Tucson.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Stites
District South: Tucson Independent Oversight Committee Chairperson
