



**Division of Developmental Disabilities  
District South Independent Oversight Committee  
Meeting Minutes & Action Items  
Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Committee Chairperson, **Chere Solorzano**. The date is July 12, 2021 at 1:10 pm. **The meeting took place Virtually due to COVID-19.** Physical location when meetings resume in person will be at 2981 E Tacoma St, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance Virtually:

- **Keith Jansen**
- **Genevieve Valenzuela**
- **Chere Solorzano**

Absent:

- **Gloria Brunell**

Public in Attendance: **None**

Health Plan Liaisons:

- **Laurie Ganzemiller** (United Healthcare)
- **Karen Kramer** (United Healthcare)

ADOA:

- **None**

DDD:

- **Octavia Lamb** (IOC Liaison)
  - **Michelle Pollard** (DDD NCI Coordinator)
  - **Leah Gibbs** (DDD OIFA Administrator)
  - **Barbara Carty** (Program Review Committee Chair)
  - **Joseph Tracewell** (District South Quality Improvement Supervisor)
  - **Pauline Selmer** (District South Quality Improvement Manager)
  - **Nicolette Fidel** (Deputy Assistant Director, Network)
  - **Joseph Jensen** (District South Quality Improvement Supervisor)
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**Call to Public**

**There were no members of the public on the call**

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**DDD Staff Updates**

**Leah Gibbs** gave an update on the recent townhall meeting. AHCCCS approved for respite hours to increase to 720 hours during the pandemic from 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021 and as of 10/1/2021 the respite hours will go back to 600 hours. AHCCCS has tied several of the flexibilities to the end of the Public Health Emergency. Early in the year there was correspondence from the Department of Health Services to each of the governors of the state letting them know that they expected the Public Health Emergency declaration to last through the end of the year/2021. Some of the flexibilities had to do with Support coordinators and conducting virtual visits for 90-day reviews compared to in-person visits, the division continues to have virtual visits as a preference as long as the member can be seen and know that the member is doing well, if the member is not able to participate in virtual visits support coordinators are making arrangements to see members in-person.

**Leah Gibbs** continued to say that with the flexibilities it has allowed parents of minor children to be paid care workers for their children and it is tied the Public Health Emergency, AHCCS has made a recommendation as part of the American Rescue Plan Act that part of the funding that is coming in the state of Arizona for parents to continue to be paid care providers until 2023 and the legislator is still pending approval in the state for the change. AHCCCS indicated at a public forum that they do not attend for this to be a permanent change, but they are recognizing that there is still a challenge to have efficient direct care workers to meet the needs of DD members. Also, qualified vendors have been allowed to do supervisor visits over their programs that are supposed to be supporting DDD members through a virtual bases, but it is expected that at the end of the Public Health Emergency that they will go back to conducting the visits in-person. The Home delivered meals program will also end at the end of the Public Health Emergency.

**Leah Gibbs** lastly provided an updated on COVID-19 with the DDD population. The division is currently serving 45, 408 members in the state of Arizona and of those 40,403 live in their own home or their family home, and 5,005 live in residential homes or facilities. There have been 2,892 positive cases, 1,768 live in their home or family home and 1,123 are member who live in licensed residential settings. DDD has not had any Members pass away since March/2021, but 74 members have passed away as a result of the virus. 30 of them lived in their home or family home and 44 of them lived in a licensed residential setting. The Division continues to post updates on the website on COVID-19 numbers amongst the DDD members. The Division continues to work with members who want to get vaccinated by assisting with transportation through the members health plan at no cost to the member. The division receives updates through a database that the health plans use to show the tracking and trend of people who has been vaccinated. It is less than 50% of eligible population who



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as access to the COVID-19 vaccine. There is about 20-25% that have intentions to receive the vaccine but has not done so and there is another 25% that do not intend to receive the vaccine.

**Q:** What if a member or family request an in-person visit instead of a virtual visit.

**A:** If a family feels that they really want an in-person meeting it is encouraged to speak with their support coordinator and work with them to address any concerns. The biggest concern is carrying the virus from place-to-place from the support coordinator.

**Q:** Is there an idea on how many DDD employees have been vaccinated.

**A:** That information has not been provided currently. There has been research that has been done on what questions can and cannot be asked of an employee. The question can be asked if they have or have not received the vaccine, but they are not required to answer it because of the Protected Health Information (PHI), but they have an option to provide an answer.

**Joseph Tracewell** informed the committee that he has accepted a new position within the division, and he will no longer be attending any IOC meetings.

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**ADOA Updates**

**ADOA representation was not present for this meeting**

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**Health Care Liaisons Update**

**Laurie Ganzemiller** (United Healthcare) Introduced Karen Kramer as the new Member Advocacy administrator and has been with the health plans for some time. She will be attending all the IOC meetings and speak on behalf of United Healthcare. Also, they continue to work with DDD to assist members that are unable to travel to a vaccination site and receive a COVID-19 vaccine and are sending providers to administer the vaccine at the home. More and more members are scheduled to receive the vaccine or are vaccinated already along with their families. This is the Health Plan's primary focus right now to work with DDD to assist members receiving their vaccine.

**Laurie Ganzemiller** continued with that the Health Plans are now responsible for disturbing the Aug. Comm. Devices as of January 1,2021 and the transition from DDD has been fantastic. She will be setting up virtual trainings and work with DDD to clear up any confusion from families on what to do next if a member needs a Aug Comm. Device in the South area.

**No representation from Mercy Care**

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**DDD IOC Liaison**

**Octavia Lamb** provided an update on IRs and that the IRs are currently being uploaded to the shared drive weekly. The IRs that are uploaded are two weeks behind, but IRs are being redacting on the current week. The Liaison sends out emails notifying the committee when the new IRs are uploaded. Also, the committee was informed about the quarterly IOC statewide meeting scheduled on July 21, 2021 and all committee members were encouraged to attend the meeting. Lastly, the committee was asked if they could please send in their time sheets starting from, January/2021.

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**Discussion, Review, and Possible Action on Committee Membership**

**Octavia Lamb** stated that recruitment remains a top priority because membership has been declining. Calls and emails have been sent out weekly, but there has not been any response yet and other avenues will be sought out and when in-person meeting starts up again the plan is to go to the cities of Sierra Vista and Tucson and to in person recruiting. The hope is to have new members by the end of year.

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**Discussion and Review of Incident Reports and Behavioral Plans**

For June IRs, the Committee members have been given 679 for June incident reports in the Shared Drive. This included 40 open and 639 for closed reports.

Type	Open	Closed
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Accidental Injury	7	133
Deaths	0	15
Emergency Measures	0	3
Human Rights	1	15
Legal	0	5
Medication Errors	5	93
Missing	3	9
Neglect	7	27
Other Abuse	7	10
Other-Behavior	2	153
Other -Injury unknown	3	154
Physical Abuse	5	18
Property Damage	0	2
Suicide	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>639</b>

The desired IRs will be divided by the chair and equally distributed amongst the members.

Number of Questions for QIM: **0**. members of the committee will send the incident reports questions to the DDD Liaison **Octavia Lamb**.

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**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chere Solórzano. The public meeting ended at 1:43 pm.

The next District South IOC meeting will be held on August 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

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