



**Division of Developmental Disabilities
District Central Independent Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 22, 2020 – 10:00 AM**

Call to Order

The meeting called to order by Committee Chairperson, **Karen Van Epps** on June 22, 2020 at 10:25 am.
This meeting was held electronically due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Welcome and Introductions

Attendance by Video:

- **Eva Hamant**
- **Carol McNulty**
- **Heidi Reid-Champigny**
- **Sheri Wilhelmi**
- **Linda Mecham**

Attendance by Phone:

- **Karen Van Epps**
- **Eduarda Yates**
- **Lisa Witt**

Members Absent:

- **Mandy Harmon**
- **Andrea Potosky**
- **Debbie Stapley**

Public in Attendance:

- **Laurie Ganzermiller** (United Healthcare)
- **Vera Kramarchuk** (Mercy Care)
- **Summer Kamal** (Mercy Care)
- **Janet Holtz** (Mercy Care)

ADOA:

- **Larry Allen** (video)

Division of Developmental Disabilities:

- **Eric Houghtalin** (IOC Liaison)
 - **Marlene Riggs** (non-voting IOC member)
 - **Michelle Pollard** (NCI Coordinator)
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Call to the Public

Mercy Care and United Health Care representatives offered not public comment at the meeting during this agenda item.

ADOA and DDD Updates

ADOA – Larry Allen: Advised that the committee that Governor Doug Ducey deferred all policies of wearing masks to the mayors of Arizona cities. He advised that each city may have different policies and that fines may be different from city to city. He urged all IOC members to be careful to be aware of cities that require wear masks. He added that Maricopa County has mandated that everyone wear masks.

Committee Member: Asked about the disabled wearing masks.

Larry Allen: Advised that there were exceptions stated in most policies.

Committee Member: Asked if members were required to wear masks.

Larry Allen: Advised that the committee member redirect that question to the providers. He added that they should ask about policies, procedures, and treatment protocol to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

DDD - Eric Houghtalin: Advised that meetings would continue to be held electronically until at least the reversal of **Governor Doug Ducey's** executive orders.

CEPS Discussion

Karen Van Epps: Advised the committee that she discovered that the group home provider CPES is closing. She noted that she believes that there are about 63 group homes.

Linda Mecham: Added that she and Karen Van Epps only found out because of a conversation with another provider. She also noted that CEPS is seeking bankruptcy protections.

Committee Member(s): Asked if the members would be forced to move or how long would they be able to stay.

Eric Houghtalin: Added that he isn't sure about the timeframe but that if Arizona rental laws were taken into account, that the sale of group homes would then mean that the residents would be kept with the home as a part of the real estate contract.

Committee Member: Advised that CEPS will not be closed completely until November of 2020.



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Marlene Riggs: Added that DDD Network (the unit that helps place members in group homes) have started a taskforce to address the possible loss of homes and how to best relocate the affected members. She added that letters were sent out to those that were affected to notify them.

Karen Van Epps: Stated that she hopes that a larger agency would be able to buy out the group homes.

Article 9 Discussion

Karen Van Epps: Asked if any of the attendees were aware of the status of the proposed changes to Article 9.

No members or public members replied.

Eric Houghtalin: Added that it is possible that Covid-19 has take Article 9 off the priority list and placed it on the back burner.

Karen Van Epps: Advised that she hopes that it stays the same. She noted that none of the trainings for Article 9 have been changed and that she feels that this is a good sign.

Adjournment

Linda Mecham motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Eduarda Yates seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

All available members voted yes to close the meeting (no executive meeting held). No members abstained or voted no.

The meeting ended at 11:53 am.

The next District Central IOC meeting will be held on July 27, 2020 at 10:00 am.

(The meeting ended at 11:53 am)