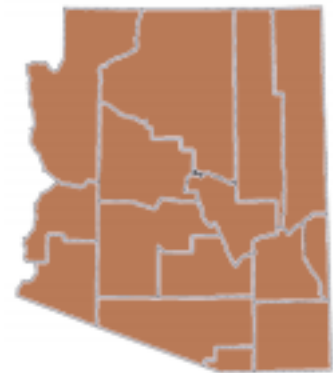


# DDD DISTRICT SOUTH INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Division of Developmental Disabilities

## 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



Arizona Department of Economic Security



## DISTRICT SOUTH (SIERRA VISTA/TUCSON)

### ANNUAL REPORT January 1, 2021 through July 31,2021

#### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.

This report reviews the activities of the Independent Oversight Committee (IOC) based in Sierra Vista serving the southeastern counties of Arizona. The current IOC is the extension of the Human Rights Committee (HRC) established in that area in 2016. The IOC has 4 members currently and had a high number of 11 members at one time.

#### ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The IOC provides protective oversight of the human rights of members receiving services from the Department of Economic Security Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD) due to certain disabling conditions. The IOC reviews reports of service to determine that no human rights violations have occurred. If violations are suspected the IOC requests further investigation and reports to the proper authorities, if substantiated. The IOC completed and approved guidelines for committee procedures in November of 2018, which were reviewed and then approved by the ADOA in January of 2019. The guidelines provide for a chairperson, vice chairperson, terms of office and reelection, and requirements for continued membership. All requirements for government meetings are included in the guidelines.

#### THE COMMITTEE AND COVID-19.

With the pandemic spread of Coronavirus-19 at the beginning of 2020, the committee has had issues with consistency of meetings. With several things happening throughout the state and in our county, everyone's lives have changed including the committee, DDD and the DDD member population. Examples of these changes due to the COVID-19 are:

1. The committee did not meet in June due to not meeting quorum.
2. The IOC meetings are now being conducted virtually rather than meeting in person at the DDD office.
3. The committee has a reduced number of members and now sits at 4 members, including 1 member who does not attend the meetings regularly.
4. The IOC has not gone into executive session since meeting virtually.
5. The availability and reliability of the internet has affected attendance to virtual meetings.

6. Current members of the IOC South as of July 2021 are: Chere Solorzano, chairperson, Keith Jensen and Genevieve Valenzuela. Gloria Brunnell is also a member, although has not attended a meeting recently.

#### CONCERNS AND ACTIONS.

The issues that have been raised from the committee:

1. The information provided in the Incident Reports the committee reviews is very often insufficient to understand what happened during the incident. The description of what was done to resolve or follow up the incident is very lacking. The vendors should be responsible for making sure reporting is sufficient.
2. The committee has been welcomed to the Program Review Committee (PRC) meetings, which meets monthly. This helps a great deal with filling the information gap the committee has experienced in the past.
3. The ability to state our concerns concisely and easily. At the beginning of this year, IRs were put onto Google Share drive, labelled open, closed and archived so it is now possible for the IOC to be able to read and comment on IRs electronically.
4. It would be very helpful to have a format for the ADOA annual report including the specific data that should be maintained and reported.
5. Recruitment for new IOC committee members was put on hold due to the pandemic, however these efforts will start again when it is safe to do so. Our IOC Liaison, Octavia Lamb, has put forth a great effort to attract new members to our committee.
6. District South was combined with Tucson in May 2021, due to a declining number of committee members in Sierra Vista/South. The committee members voted on this issue and it was decided that we would combine Sierra Vista and Tucson since we will be meeting virtually for the foreseeable future.
7. Both the Sierra Vista and Tucson IOC have lost several members due to personal issues such as new jobs and health reasons. Amy Schroeder, Patsy Sartain and Michelle Talley.
8. Thank you to all who participate in our meetings. This includes, but is not limited to Leah Gibbs, Larry Allen, Health Plan Liaisons and persons from DDD.