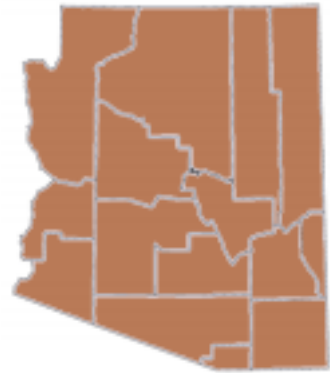


DDD DISTRICT WEST INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Division of Developmental Disabilities

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



Arizona Department of Economic Security

District West
Independent Oversight
Committee
2020/2021 Annual Report
Maricopa County (West Area)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The Independent Oversight Committee (IOC) formerly the Human Rights Committees, supported by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), were established into law under A.R.S. 41-3801 and functions as an independent advisory and oversight committee to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Independent Oversight Committees (IOC) were established to promote and protect the rights of members with developmental disabilities who receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

District West IOC is located on the west side of Maricopa County and extends south including portions of the Gila River Indian Reservation, to North Phoenix, and West to the border of Arizona. In 2020/2021 District West served over 11,000 members.

District West IOC continues to be one of the fastest growing districts in membership for the DES and DDD. The monthly meetings are held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020. The usual meeting place is at the Peoria DES office in Peoria Arizona. The committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of month for approximately two hours.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES:

The Independent Oversight Committees (IOC) are made up of dedicated volunteers, who donate their time to serve the members within their districts. The IOC operates under the Open Meeting Laws of Arizona and follows specific IOC Guidelines created by their district. The District West Committee met nine times this year.

The committee provides independent oversight, review, research and makes recommendations to the Department of Developmental Disabilities. The committee reviews incidents of including Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Other Abuse, Neglect, Accidental Injury, Missing Clients, Emergency Measures, Human Rights Violations, Medication Errors, Death, Suicide, Hospitalization, Incarcerations, Theft and Property Destruction. The committee members also review Behavior Plans (BPs) and make recommendations for changes.

DISTRICT WEST HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The District West Independent Oversight Committee (IOC) is composed of dedicated community members including parents, family members, professionals, and paraprofessionals who volunteer their time and knowledge to advocate for DDD members.

Current members for the 2020/2021 year are: Diedra Freedman (De) (Chairperson), Bernadine Henderson (Vice Chairperson), Pat Thundercloud, Brad Doyle, Cynthia Macluskie, Laurene Zemis, Julie Heineking, Pam Grady. All the current members have appointments by the Arizona Department of Administration or the Division of Developmental Disabilities if appointment was prior to August of 2019.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been some decline of volunteers to the committee. Laurene Zemis and Pam Grady had tendered their resignations in late fiscal 2021.

Recruitment efforts are slow with the mitigation strategies in place due to COVID 19. Recruitment will continue during this crisis.

DISTRICT WEST INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

HOURS: The District West IOC volunteered over 500 hours of their time in 2020/2021

INCIDENT REPORTS

District West IOC received a total of 6786 Incident Reports (IRs) for over 11,000 members from July 1st, 2020, to June 30th, 2021.

In February 2021 the District West IOC began to receive all Incident Reports by accessing a secure Google Drive. This platform allowed the members to access all the Incident Reports at any time. DDD has created a platform where the timeliness of receiving current Incident Reports is no longer a concern. There are 14 types of Incident Report, including Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Other Abuse, Neglect, Accidental Injury, Missing Clients, Emergency Measures, Human Rights Violations, Medication Errors, Death, Suicide, Hospitalization, Incarcerations, Theft and Property Destruction.

Behavior Plans

District West IOC reviewed a total of 579 Behavior Plans in 2020/2021.

Bernadine Henderson and Pat Thundercloud continue to participate in the Program Review Committee (PRC) meetings and have volunteered over 300 hours as IOC members in 2020/2021. They consistently are involved in attending the PRC meetings and are advocates for the process.