



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
District North Independent Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes Summary & Action Items
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 5:00 pm**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Committee Chairperson, **Robert (Bob) Malloy**, on July 20, 2022, Time: 5:05 pm. The meeting took place by virtual conference. (These meeting will continue to be virtual during the Public Health Emergency)

Welcome and Introductions

Please Note: All attendance for this meeting was by electronic (video or phone) means only.

Attendance:

- **Robert (Bob) Malloy (Chairperson)**
- **Sandra Malloy**
- **Jody BonDurant-Strong**
- **Don Harrington**

Absent:

- **None**

Public in Attendance:

- **None**

Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA):

- **Larry Allen**

Health Plans: **both by phone**

- **Karen Kramer** (United HealthCare) Member advocate
- **Vera Kramarchuk** (Mercy Care) Ombudsman

DDD Staff and Guests:

- **Leah Gibbs** (DDD OIFA Administrator)
- **Jen Myler** (DDD DN Program Manager)
- **Staci Rodarmel** (DDD DN Quality Improvement Manager)
- **Joan McQuade** (DDD IOC Manager)
- **Jeffrey Yamamoto** (DDD IOC Liaison)
- **Michelle Rademacher** (DDD IOC Liaison)

Call to the Public

Bob Malloy: Made a call to the public. No one from the public was present.



Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
District North Independent Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes Summary & Action Items
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 5:00 pm

Update on Statewide Meeting

Bob Malloy asked if anyone wanted to give an update on the Statewide meeting.

Leah Gibbs stated she would and reported that DDD is reliant on the relationship from IOC. She stated that DDD is trying its best to keep the communication lines open and work with the IOC in cooperation for the benefit of the members.

Bob asked about the UHC Healthy foods card. Leah Gibbs stated that the people who are DDD eligible and long term care have a subpopulation which are Medicare and Medicaid eligible/Dually eligible with United Health Care. They qualify for the UHC Healthy Food card which gives those members a prepaid card for food and daily items they can purchase from a list of stores and online. The funds must be used in the month as they do not roll over.

Bob asked when Article 9 would be published. Leah answered that there is no speculated date for final publishing of Article 9. The committee will be informed as soon as DDD knows.

Updates from DDD Staff

Leah Gibbs provided an update on where we are at with the ARPA. Disbursed funds across the state. First Disbursed funds were in June. Second round is going out in August. Those funds received by the vendors, 80% are required to go to the direct care workers. Vendors will be required to do reporting back to DDD. We can track the impact of those funds which will also be reported to CMS. DDD has proposed to AHCCCS per use of ARPA funds three projects. First is to develop a curriculum for teaching positive behavioral support to statewide direct care workers and family members. This would be free to members who want this training. Secondly, we want to be dedicating funds to the training of behavioral health providers to better support our members. Thirdly, exploring a new case management software system for easier input for support coordinators. There have been several pieces of legislation that passed this session. HB 2113 added Down's Syndrome as DDD eligible diagnosis. To be eligible the person would need to have three of seven functional limitations. That bill goes into effect at the close of the executive session. We are preparing for when that goes into effect by changing the eligibility web page and all eligibility publications. HB 2865 requires a designated entity to monitor and inspect DDD group homes of members with complex needs. We will be working on that collaboratively. The main concern is defining "complex needs". This entity also requires annual reports to be sent to the AZ legislation. SB 1542 puts more clarity on the use of electronic monitoring devices in group homes. What it says is the use of video monitoring is permitted in common areas and also allows if the member or responsible person agrees to input monitoring devices in the home regardless if the vendor agrees. All of the resident member(s) or family(s) must all agree to the electronic monitoring device and ultimately are responsible for all fees and costs attributed with the device. The ownership of the recording belongs solely to the member or family who are paying for the equipment and storing of the recording. SB 1230 is included in part of the budget appropriation this year which allows funding for vendors to increase the pay to direct care workers to be more competitive in the labor force and directly for the agency. There will be a few public forums to help determine how best to use these funds. These public forums will start August 10 through August 24 and are designed to receive feedback on where and how the funds will be used. SB 1231 states that the Division will be providing to IOCs prior release of proposed changes to policy 30 days prior to public release. DDD has already begun this notification prior to the 90 day post the legislation ending. Lastly the DDD has had a homegrown system for how the vendor claims are submitted. We are under AHCCCS corrective action which requires us to update our billing system. DDD has begun training vendors on the approved coding for billing for their services. Wellsky has been contracted to help with the training. The Division is aware that this is new



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
District North Independent Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes Summary & Action Items
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 5:00 pm**

and different. We are providing technical assistance resources to help our vendor community transition to this new billing system.

Bob asked how the distribution of ARPA funds breakdown will be for our area? Leah stated that part of the requirement of ARPA funds states that it actually cannot go to the hourly wages of vendor employees. The latest appropriation bill will go to permanent raises to vendor employee wages and agencies for their additional expenses which is about 250million.

Jen Myler informed the committee Support Coordination we are down 16 SCs with another resignation in our Cottonwood office. We did get good news from HR today that we have six possible hires in the pipeline. As long as those positions get accepted we will have six new support coordinators. They have a total of 99 support coordinators including Navajo Nation. DN is 98% completed on the transition of members to the person centered planning document.

Staci Rodarmel reported for the first time ever that she has a change in staffing. Nurse supervisor moving to HCSand her last day is this Friday.

Joan McQuade informed the committee that we are training our last staff that joined the team as a redactor. We are getting caught up with the backlog of incidents.

Updates from ADOA

Larry Allen reported the old website has moved to a new platform. The bugs are still being worked out. It has the same content as the old website. Let me or Jeffrey or Michelle know if you have problems finding anything. New fiscal year started in July. Year end reports will reflect everything from last July to this June. It is not due until November 1st.

Updates from Integrated Health Plans

Karen Kramer -United HealthCare reports no update.

Vera Kramarchuk- Mercy Care passed along as of July 19th, that “988” is the new number for calling the National Suicide hotline.

Bob asked Vera if she knew about any information related to the local funding of the 988 use and addressing concerns to the local area. Vera replied she would have to get back to him on that.

Updates from DDD IOC Liaison

Michelle Rademacher informed the committee that the DDD Liaisons have uploaded batches of IRs for review on June 28, July 6, July 11, and July 19. IRs being redacted currently are May 29 – June 4. Responses to IOC questions from DN Quality were emailed on June 7.

Follow Up for IOC Liaison: Send Bob minutes for his Annual Report.

Discussion, Review on Committee Membership

Bob Malloy asked about the recruitment efforts for new members. He stated that with such a large



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
District North Independent Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes Summary & Action Items
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 5:00 pm**

geographic area he does not have the pull like some individuals in the metro area.

Jeffrey Yamamoto stated there are no new potential members. We are informing any new applicants who don't have a request for a designated area can join a committee that is not in their local area. This would be to help bolster the membership for District North.

Discussion and Review of Incident Reports and Behavior Plans

Bob Malloy stated that of all the incident reports he reviewed there have been very little Human Rights violations. He finds very rarely Article 9 violations.

Don Harrington states he has no questions.

Jody BonDurant-Strong had no questions about reports.

Assignments made at a previous meeting:

Bob and Sandy Malloy – Human Rights- Closed

Don Harrington – Emergency Measures & Other-Abuse- Closed

Jody BonDurant-Strong – Physical Abuse & Neglect- Closed

The committee has been loaded the April 2022 reports The March incident reports include **11** open and **252** closed reports. This is a total of **263** incident reports presented to the committee for review.

The committee submits their comments and questions to **Jeffrey Yamamoto and Michelle Rademacher** via comments in Shared drive and will be sent to District North Quality Improvement for a response.

Incident Type	Open	Closed
Accidental Injuries	0	53
Client Missing	0	2
Deaths	0	2
Emergency Measures	0	8
Human Rights	3	0
Legal	0	14
Medication Errors	2	23
Neglect	6	6
Other Abuse	0	0
Other – Behavior	0	52
Other – Unkn Injury; hospital;	0	85
Physical Abuse	0	5
Property Damage	0	2
Suicide	0	0
Totals	11	252



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
District North Independent Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes Summary & Action Items
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 5:00 pm**

Adjournment

Bob Malloy asked for a motion for adjournment of the meeting at 6:51 pm.

- **Don Harrington motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm**
- **Sandy Malloy seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting**
- **All 3 members present voted “Aye” to Adjourn the meeting, No “Nays”**

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 5:00 pm.