



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)  
District Central Independent Oversight Committee  
(IOC) Public Meeting Minutes Summary**

**Monday, Sept 26, 2022 – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Committee Chairperson, **Linda Mecham**. The date is Sept 26, 2022, at 10:03 AM. **The meeting took place Virtually due to COVID-19.** Physical location when meetings resume in person will be at 4400 N Central Ave, Ste (to be determined) Phoenix, AZ 85012.

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance Virtually:

- **Linda Mecham**
- **Sherry Wilhelmi**
- **Eva Hamant**
- **Mandy Herman**
- **Lisa Ehlenberger**
- **Carol McNulty**
- **Carolyn Willmer**

Attendance by Phone:

- **Debbie Stapley**

Absent:

- **Tina Buettner**
- **Andrea Potosky**
- **Eduarda Yates**
- **Michael Sanderfer**

Public in Attendance:

- **Jose Castro Palomino**

Health Plans:

- **Ken Mershon** (UnitedHealthcare)
- **Vera Kramarchuk** (Mercy Care) on Phone

ADOA:

- **Larry Allen**



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DDD:

- **Jeffrey Yamamoto** (DDD IOC Liaison)
  - **Patricia Sandino** (DDD District Central PRC Chairperson)
  - **James Maio** (DDD District Central Quality Improvement Manager)
  - **Joan McQuade** (DDD Chief Advocate)
  - **Michelle Rademacher** (DDD IOC Liaison)
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**Call to Public**

**Linda Mecham** asked for the call to the public. **Jose Castro Palomino** introduced himself. He stated that he has been with the AZ state government for 30 years including the HRC. He's retired but active in the DDD community. **Linda Mecham** asked how Jose is doing with the GANE group. He's working with this group of hispanic children being served by DDD. His concern is the 18 year old transitions and graduations are changed and accelerated to push kids out of school when they are not ready. **Lisa Elhenberger** had commented that the schools are not trying to kick out the student but each kid is different and goals are different for each child. **Mandy Herman** stated that it is hard to educate the DDD population and keep the best interest of the children. Sometimes the agency/school doesn't know the goals in place. **Sherry Wilhelmi** stated that there is a need to have better training and more classrooms to deal with the DDD member populations and currently there isn't in the public schools.

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**Member resignations and membership (Linda)**

**Linda Mecham** stated that the committee has had a couple of resignations come up in the past month and that Marlene Riggs and Chris Garcia have tendered their resignations to the DC IOC. **Marlene Riggs** has taken a job that doesn't require involvement with the IOC. Her replacement will be forthcoming. Once DDD has hired the new manager over the Intermediate Care Facilities and State Operated Group Homes ICF/SOGH they will be asked to join the IOC as part of the AHCCCS rules. **Chris Garcia** has tendered his resignation as he finds the current project his company is working on may be seen as a conflict of interest with the Division. **Linda Mecham** wishes both of these two individuals well in their futures.

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**Pain Update (Sherry)**

**Sherry Wilhelmi** stated that the Supreme courts overturned the physicians restriction on prescribing pain meds to chronic pain users. New legislation which also protects the doctors and new CDC



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guidelines surrounding the 90 mg statement for pain meds. She stated that Dr. Dekker was going to send out the word to the state doctors about pain management through AHCCCS. **Sherry Wilheli** motion for a vote to ask Dr. Dekker provides a list of hospitals and organizations that he has trained and may be willing to talk to the DDD members on prescribing pain medications.

- **Linda Mecham** asked for a motion to vote on asking Dr. Dekker to provide a list of physicians/hospitals he has talked to who are willing to access and treat DDD members on their Pain Management.
- **Sherry Wilhelmi** motioned to vote on asking Dr. Dekker to provide a list of physicians/hospitals he has talked to who are willing to access and treat DDD members on their Pain Management.
- **Eva Hamant** seconded the motion
- **All the members present** (see Welcome and Introductions for attending members) **voted “aye” and there were no “nay” votes**

The IOC voted on asking Dr. Dekker to provide a list of physicians/hospitals he has talked to who are willing to access and treat DDD members on their Pain Management.

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**988 issues (Eva)**

**Eva Hamant** stated that she has concerns with the 988 system working in Arizona. **Sherry Wilhelmi** called the number during the discussion and informed the IOC that it was working and gave some of the options from the beginning of the call. **Linda Mecham** let Eva know that the system is working. **Linda Mecham** asked if having someone from DDD Behavioral Health talk at the next meeting about how the 988 system is working.

The issue of 911 and crisis was brought up when it concerns that the City of Tempe is no longer sending police to crisis situations and will be referring to the Crisis Teams to work the crisis first. Since this was not on the agenda this topic will be discussed in the next meeting.

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**Electronic Monitoring (Eva)**

**Eva Hamant** stated that she has concerns around the DDD writing of Article 14 concerning electronic monitoring with the release of the recordings and recording retention of 14 days. **Linda Mecham** explained the release of recording according to the laws. There were new laws that were passed that allowed for common area electronic monitorings to be done upon agreement of all member parties. **James Maio** explained that the retention for 14 days should be enough time from an incident to request



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the recording for further investigations. Most incident requests for information are sent to the providers within 4-5 days of the incident being reported. The providers would then still have a week to give a copy of the recording to the DDD investigators. DDD Quality does not see it as a concern at this time. **Linda Mecham** stated that she had concerns over the language for the rights to the recordings when the question came to who had paid for the electronic monitoring. The policy should state if the members pay for 100% of the installation, equipment, or storage of the electronic monitoring then they own the rights to it, but if the vendor pays for any part of the monitoring, then both the vendor and member should have rights to the recording. The section E of the proposed Article 14 does not define who is paying for the installation, equipment, nor storage of the electronic monitoring. **Linda Mecham** asked for a motion to have the IOC be named as a comment contributor to the Public Open Comment on Article 14, concerning the above statement concerning the ownership of the recordings if the members paid for 100% of the electronic monitoring in section E.

**Linda Mecham** asked for a motion to vote for the comment on behalf of the District Central IOC to be sent for the Open Comment on Article 14 concerning sections E,F,G. based on concerns if there is 100% payments by the members or representatives in E then the safeguards in G are also given to the members or their representatives.

- **Carolyn Willmer** motioned to vote for the comment on behalf of the District Central IOC to be sent for the Open Comment on Article 14 concerning sections E,F,G. based on concerns if there is 100% payments by the members or representatives in E then the safeguards in G are also given to the members or their representatives.
- **Sherry Wilhelmi** seconded the motion
- **All the members present** (see Welcome and Introductions for attending members) **voted “aye” and there were no “nay” votes**

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**Article 9 Update/ Olmstead Plan and Abuse & Neglect (Linda)**

**Linda Mecham** stated that with Article 9 there were some concerns with District West and Central over the use of the term “Shall Not”. The term “Shall Not” will be used alongside “Prohibited” in the beginning of the section to describe those actions that are prohibited. The Committee was pleased to hear that Prohibited will be used. **Linda Mecham** stated that the Olmstead plan cross-agency meeting discussed the additional collecting of data for the residents is necessary to trend the results. That was sent in by the AHCCCS IOC for the Public Comment period. **Linda Mecham** stated for the Abuse and Neglect trainings she had heard that the sexual activity reference have been removed. She asked DDD for confirmation of this and Joan only stated that there is an on-line training being developed for employees.

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**ASH quarterly report (Linda)**



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**Linda Mecham** commented concerning the three individuals in Arizona State Hospital (ASH), that the IOC has received the report and update on the members and wondered if they should follow up with DDD Behavioral Health on having the members moved to a less restrictive residence where they can receive active treatment. **Eva Hamant** attended the Discharge of SMI conducted by AHCCCS. Her concerns is that why aren't the members are not in a Behavioral Health Hospital and not the ASH. **Linda Mecham** asked **James Maio** on why the members were sent to ASH. **James Maio** replied that the three members have been to many Behavioral Health Hospitals and ultimately keep going back to ASH due to severe danger to self or danger to others concerns and other behaviors. His beliefs are that they are in the only setting currently that can take care of their extreme behaviors. **Linda Mecham** stated that she would like to know of any alternatives, even out of state, that would be a better accommodation for the three? If the monies that are being currently used to house them can be redirected to an alternative placement? Are the three members good candidates for active treatment? These are the preliminary questions that need to be asked before any progress can be made by the IOC. **Linda Mecham** asked the committee if they would come up with some questions to ask DDD concerning this point or if they feel they would like to pursue the issue. There was a request to have DDD Behavioral Health participate in the next meeting.

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**Death Notifications (Linda)**

**Linda Mecham** asked if there had been any death notifications being sent out. **James Maio** stated that there hasn't been but he is now going to be sending out the death notifications to the IOC per day that Quality receives them. They will be sent to the DDD liaison and the liaison will redact the information to be sent out to both the IOC chairs and the PRC chair. The information being sent is the IR Number, first name, last initial, year of birth, setting of death, and whether or not it was expected or unexpected.

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**Annual report and Karen Tributes (IOC)**

**Linda Mecham** stated that she is working on the annual report and has received three tributes so far for Karen. Asked the committee to forward any that haven't been sent to her.

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**DDD Staff updates, Health Plans and ADOA**

**Ken Mershon (United Healthcare)** stated he had no updates from Karen Kramer.

**Vera Kramarchuk (Mercy Care)** stated that she had no updates

**Larry Allen (ADOA)** stated that the had no updates

**Joan McQuade** informed the IOC that the backlog of IR is dwindling and that the redactors are catching the IOCs up on the IRs . Looking to hire a new contractor.



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**Patricia Sandino** stated the PRC volunteer calendar for available PRC meetings is available to volunteer. **Linda Mecham** and the committee filled the appointments for the month of October. Patricia said that all required have been attending.

**James Maio** stated that he had nothing for the public session.

**Michelle Rademacher** stated she didn't have anything to bring up in public session

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**Roundtable Reports from Members for next meeting**

**Sherry Wilhelmi** had pain and educational issues

**Carolyn Willmer** had Medication issues of refills and DTA and GH

**Carol McNulty** had none

**Lisa Elhenberger** had none

**Linda Mecham** did not have a comment.

**Eva Hamant** stated she had none

**Mandy Herman** stated she had none

**Debbie Stapley** no issues

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**Motion to go to Executive Session**

**Linda Mecham** asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Eva Hamant IR questions.

- **Sherry Wilhelmi** motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss Eva Hamant IR questions.
- **Carol McNulty** seconded the motion
- **All the members present** (see Welcome and Introductions for attending members) **voted “aye” and there were no “nay” votes**

The IOC voted to go into executive session at **12:05 PM**.

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

For July IRs, the Committee members have been given **534** for July incident reports in the Shared Drive. This included **14** for open and **520** closed reports.

Type	Open	Closed
Accidental Injury	0	88
Consumer missing	1	8
Deaths	0	8
Emergency Measures	0	18
Human Rights	2	10
Legal	0	2
Medication Errors	1	42
Neglect	3	27
Other Abuse	4	33
Other-Behavior	0	200
Other -Injury unknown	1	66
Physical Abuse	2	9
Property Damage	0	4
Suicide	0	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>520</b>

For Aug IRs, the Committee members have been given **705** for Aug incident reports in the Shared Drive. This included **41** for open and **664** closed reports.

Type	Open	Closed
Accidental Injury	0	136
Consumer missing	4	8
Deaths	0	5
Emergency Measures	0	17
Human Rights	6	13
Legal	0	15
Medication Errors	5	44
Neglect	5	34
Other Abuse	11	33
Other-Behavior	1	237
Other -Injury unknown	2	98



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Physical Abuse	7	13
Property Damage	0	4
Suicide	0	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>664</b>

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

Questions for QIM: Members of the committee will send the incident reports questions to the DDD Liaisons **Jeffrey Yamamoto and Michelle Rademacher** to be forwarded to Quality for responses.

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**Motioned to Adjourned the Executive Session & Public Meeting**

**Sherry Wilhemi** motion to adjourn the executive session and public meeting

**Carolyn Willmer** seconded.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM**

The next District Central IOC meeting will be held on October 24th, 2022, at  
10:00AM