



**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)  
District East Independent Oversight Committee (IOC)  
Public Meeting Minutes Summary  
Wednesday, Oct 12th, 2022 – 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

**This meeting is being held virtually due to the Public Health Emergency.**

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, **Suzanne Hessman**. The date was Oct 12, 2022, at 5:02 pm. The address of the meeting was Virtual, no physical address.

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance in Person: **None This meeting was virtual due to Public Health Emergency.**

Attendance by Google Meets unless otherwise noted:

- **Suzanne Hessman, (Chair)**
- **Kin Counts**
- **Sarah McGovern (Vice-chair)**
- **Susan Kingsbury (by phone)**
- **Elizabeth Bird (by phone)**

Absent:

- **Sophie Stevenson**
- **Yolanda Huynh**
- **Tonia Schultz (non-voting member)**
- **Teresa Brooks**
- **Aimee Griffith-Johnson**

Public in Attendance: **None**

Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA): **Larry Allen**

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS): **Fredreaka Graham (by phone)**

Healthcare Plan Liaison (United HealthCare): **Dawn McReynolds** (UHC, OIFA Administrator)

**Vera Kramarchuk** (Mercy Care ombudsman) (phone)

DDD staff and guests: **Trudy O'Connor** (District East Quality manager), **James Maio** (District Central Quality Manager), **Jeffrey Yamamoto** (IOC Liaison), **Joan McQuade** (OIFA Supervisor) **Michelle Rademacher** (IOC Liaison) **Kirk Cree** (DDD Community Engagement Supervisor)

**The Committee, DDD, ADOA, AHCCCS Employees** introduced themselves.



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**Call to Public**

**Suzanne Hessman:** Called for the public to announce themselves.

**None** was present.

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**DDD Policy and/or Legislative Issues**

**Suzanne Hessman** asked if the committee will look at the early policy notifications and see if they want to discuss at the next meeting. She asked if the committee could receive a brief summary of the policy changes made so they can separate the verbiage changes only compared to new changes to the policy. **Joan McQuade** stated that the reason for so many was that the Operational Review from AHCCCS had created a lot of changes to the policies and they needed to be rewritten to reflect the language that is inline with AHCCCS language. **Kin Counts** responded that the DDAC (Developmental Disability Advisory Council) was trying to form some subcommittees to review the new policies. She had not heard if anything had come of it yet. **Suzanne Hessman** asked if the IOC would like to create a subcommittee to do the reviews. Discussions were made and the decision to review for another month and make recommendations in the next meeting would occur.

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**Presentation from DDD Community Engagement**

**Suzanne Hessman** informed the committee that they asked the DDD Community Engagement Supervisor to come discuss and update the training that is proposed to be given to all First Responders across the state. **Kirk Cree** introduced himself and stated that he was excited to present the new project to train first responders on dealing with the IDD population. He described the responsibilities of the Community Engagement team isn't only to go about the state and inform the members and communities of the benefits, eligibility and resources that DDD offers. The team also attends community events to provide information to the general public. Lastly the team is to train first responders on the Intellectual & Developmental Disabled (IDD) population. This is not the first time that DDD has approached the training about first responders as a few years ago DDD had put together a few short videos on how to work with first responders. **Kirk Cree** mentioned the "B Safe" program around autism, currently the trainer for the Chandler Police Department is working with the Southern AZ Autism society to launch a pilot program to first responder and IDD training to the Tucson Police Department. Kirk has been invited down to see the training in person. He states that the creation of this type of training that he's getting involved in has not been done anywhere else in the nation and is truly cutting edge on this type of program and training for first responders. By definition First Responders can cover a whole variety of people who see the member first in an incident. This includes the typical Police, Fire and EMS, but also include Forest and Park Rangers, Life Flite services, and including the state's 22 tribal nations first responders.



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The training will be broken down into two parts. In the first part will be an overview concerning recognizing the IDD population and their communications needs. Something that has not been incorporated in the identifying needs for the IDD population is the Alternative and Augmentative Communications (AAC) devices for those members who have problems with communications. The training will be designed to teach responders to recognize the various AAC devices and try to identify when someone is asking to use an AAC device or is being non-compliant. The AAC devices applications can be used and found on any mobile electronic platform including tablets, phones and watches.

The second part of the proposed training is to see if the first responders could possibly have downloaded some of the basic apps to their own devices so that they can communicate with those members who may not have their devices readily at hand. The program will teach how to use the AAC applications and utilize the application in their communicative and investigative process with members. He stated that the IDD population is seven times more likely to be a victim than the typical person. Hopefully the training would help with the forward progression of the victims rights being pursued by being able to better communicate with investigators. This first responder training is on the 2023 DES program to be developed, so it's already on its way. The curriculum is currently being developed with many stakeholders already adding their input. **Kirk Cree** asked the District East IOC what were their thoughts on the proposed program?

**Suzanne Hessman** told Kirk that this is a great idea and that it's a long time in coming. She has always had good experiences with her current municipal police department but she has not always been the case in the past.

**Kin Counts** asked about identifying the AAC devices of the members being taught to the First responders. **Kirk Cree** stated that that is the first part of the proposed training in that the responders get trained in recognizing the devices. He is also hoping to team up with the B- Safe programs to add the AAC recognitions to their existing program. **Kirk Cree** also mentioned the commonality of the communication apps being used by all of the agencies because of the flexibility of the programs that can be customized for each type of first responder from Fire and Police to Medical and EMS.

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**DDD Staff Updates**

**Trudy O'Connor** stated that she has a low staff count as two of her staff have/had left recently and she had only gained one for an earlier open position. She promised that she would get to the IOC questions when she has some staff to work on them, probably in a couple of weeks.

**James Maio** was present to support **Trudy O'Connor** and provided no update.

**Joan McQuade** stated that the redaction team had lost a member and that the IOC liaisons and her did interviews earlier that day and have some possible replacements recommended and are waiting



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on their acceptance. She explained that the current backlog will not disappear soon but it will be eliminated after the new redactors are trained and on their own.

**Michelle Rademacher** did not have any updates.

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**ADOA Liaison Update**

**Larry Allen** reported that the IOC's have until the end of the month to finish up with their annual reports and they will need to be mailed directly to the legislature and directors. He will send out to the chairs the email address of those who need to receive the annual report.

**Larry Allen** also reported that there will be an "Open Meeting Law" training being set up for the IOC members and anyone who wants to learn on the matter. No date has yet to be set but Larry will send it out once it has been made.

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**Health Plans Liaisons Updates**

**Dawn McReynolds (UHC)** had no updates

**Vera Kramarchuk (Mercy Care)** had no updates.

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**DDD Liaison Update**

**Jeffrey Yamamoto** informed the committee that the backlog of the IRs is about two weeks old and that hopefully the backlog will be back to less than one week.

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**Discussion, Review and Possible Action on Committee Memberships**

**Suzanne Hessman** informed that Amanda Godek has resigned from the IOC due to a possible conflict of interest with her employer and DDD.

**Suzanne Hessman** asked if there were any new committee members in the queue.

**Jeffrey Yamamoto** stated there is none currently.

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**Discussion and Review of Incident Reports (IR) & Behavior Plans (BP)**

**Sarah McGovern** Will be sending out new assignments to cover Amanda's and give Aimee and Teresa and Yolanda some responsibilities. The new assignment information was sent out on 10/13/2022 by Sarah McGovern It's reflected below.





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Number of Questions for QIM: members of the committee will comment on incident reports directly and the liaison will send them to QIM.

Number of Behavior Plans turned in by IOC Members: 0

The Program Review Committee (PRC) is being attended to by **Susan Kingsbury** and **Kin Counts**.

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**Adjournment**

**Suzanne Hessman** adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm. The next District East IOC meeting will be held on Wednesday November 9th, 2022, at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be a virtual meeting should COVID-19 concerns still be in effect.