



November 1, 2022

The Honorable Karen Fann
President, Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Russell Bowers
Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear President Fann and Speaker Bowers,

On behalf of the AHCCCS North Independent Oversight Committee, please find the 2021-2022 Annual Report that outlines our committee's activities and recommendations.

The report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of A.R.S. § 41-3804 (H).

Thank you for your continued support of the committee volunteers that are protecting those in need.

Sincerely,

Dorothy O'Brien
Chair

cc: Nancy K. Barto, Senate Health and Human Services Committee Chairman
Jami Snyder, Director of Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Mike Faust, Director of Arizona Department of Child Safety
Don Herrington, Interim Director of Arizona Department of Health Services
Michael Wisheart, Director of Arizona Department of Economic Security
Joanne Osborne, House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee



NAIOC ANNUAL REPORT 2021 –2022

This is the Annual Report for the Northern Arizona Independent Oversight Committee (NAIOC) years 2021-2022. As you will hear from other Independent Oversight Committees (IOC), reorganizing after Covid 19 and Pandemic safeguards have been challenging this past year. Many of our members were affected by the virus and suffered illness themselves, with colleagues, and with family members. This led to a series of resignations and replacements of members and therefore, a learning or training curve ensued. At the beginning of the Pandemic, we requested copies of Covid 19 Procedures and Protections from Providers and they made them available quickly for our review. They were thoughtful and comprehensive. The NAIIOC appreciated their prompt responses.

While this past year site visits have been slow to get back to the usual numbers, our review of reports has continued. We have begun and are prepared to continue physical inspections in October 2022. The Incident Accident Death (IAD) Reports and any Restraint accounts continue to outline where issues, violations and concerns may arise. Usually, we can separate the Special Assistance population by an indicator on the IAD. We respectfully request that this be returned to the IAD format as it is an important tool in our research.

Another question arising from our work is the inclusion or exclusion of unlicensed and sometimes licensed facilities. There are several places that fall “under the radar” that serve our vulnerable populations and are operating with no oversight of which we are aware. These facilities need accountability and access for inspection if they are serving the Severely Mentally Ill. A complete listing of unlicensed facilities would assist our efforts for oversight. The NAIIOC is looking forward to a busy, productive coming year.

We have made progress due to the excellent support of our ADOA Liaison, Larry Allen and our AHCCCS Liaison, Fredreka Graham. However, we have found that our volunteer efforts are stretched when reports and recommendations are due and work, family and life requires our attention. It would be tremendously helpful to have a person who could spend a few hours a week to assist with formatting and formalizing these important documents for the volunteers that are trying to create them.



Thank you for your attention to this Annual Report for the NAIOC. It is brief, but as previously mentioned, illness and family emergencies consumed much of this past year. We look forward to a robust year of looking over the care and services our vulnerable populations are receiving and reporting our findings and recommendations to you promptly in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Dorothy O'Brien, Chair
Northern Arizona Independent Oversight Committee