

AHCCCS North Independent Oversight Committee (IOC)
Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 16, 2024 – 5:15pm

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Dorothy O'Brien. The meeting was virtual, no physical address.

Welcome and Introductions

- Dorothy O'Brien (Chair)
- Bob Longest
- Frank Gagliardi
- Travis Lowry

Absent:

- Alpha Muluh
- Keran O'Brien
- Trish Riner
- Nicole Shelton

Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA): Larry Allen & Timothy Tait

DDD: Michelle Rademacher, Christina Hedges

AHCCCS: Fredreaka Graham

RBHA's: Christopher Gonzalez, Arizona Complete Health

AHCCCS North (2024-09-16 17:17 GMT-7) – Transcript

Attendees

Bob Longest, Christina Hedges, Christopher Gonzalez, Dot O'Brien, Francis Gagliardi, Fredreaka Graham, Lawrence Allen, Michelle Rademacher, Timothy Tait, Travis Lowry

Transcript

Dot O'Brien: Welcome everybody. This is the Northern Arizona Independent Oversight Committee Quarterly meeting. It's five 18 on September 16th. and we'll begin our meeting with some introductions. Our administrative person, Larry informs me that we have a quorum So why don't we begin with introductions? My name is Dorothy O'Brien. I'm the chairperson of the Northern Arizona Committee and then I'll just call out the name and just, why don't you introduce yourself real quick? Frank, You were next? I think Dr. Jean

Francis Gagliardi: Frank Gagliardi, member for a while, even before Covid, I guess and I'm a retired physician so I don't do anything. Except I'm busier than ever, taking care of things. I should have taken care of the last 20 years.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, thank you. Travis. How about you?

Travis Lowry: I'm Travis, I'm a committee member, I currently work for the Division of Developmental Disabilities, as a case manager.

Dot O'Brien: And you're out in the northwestern part of the state. Am I right?

Travis Lowry: Yes, I'm in Lake Havasu.

Dot O'Brien: Great thanks for joining Travis and Bob, how about yourself?

Bob Longest: I'm Bob longest, I'm a peer at the committee here in Northern Arizona.

Bob Longest: I just lost it. Can you help me out here Dot?

Dot O'Brien: What?

Bob Longest: Where am I from?

Dot O'Brien: You're in Flagstaff, yeah, good.

Bob Longest: I'm in Flagstaff. So there's an organization here.

Dot O'Brien: Work, we're glad you're on the committee. Yeah.

Bob Longest: I'm a member of a provider in Flagstaff.

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Dot O'Brien: All right, and then Larry, help me out. I'd like everyone to meet the other people on the call. So you take it from here if you don't mind,...

Lawrence Allen: Absolutely.

Lawrence Allen: Not a problem. How about Christopher can you introduce yourself sir?

Christopher Gonzalez: Absolutely. Hi everybody. This is Christopher Gonzalez and the health equity manager at Arizona Complete Health.

Dot O'Brien: Christopher was a former committee member.

Lawrence Allen: Thank you.

Dot O'Brien: So he is near and dear to our hearts and knows what we do.

Christopher Gonzalez: Thank you Dot and so are all of you to mine.

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Lawrence Allen: Thank you Christopher. Christina

Christina Hedges: Hi, good evening everyone. I am Christina Hedges. I am the DDD Office of Individual and Family Affairs administrator, Thanks for having me.

Dot O'Brien: Welcome.

Lawrence Allen: Thank you. Michelle.

Michelle Rademacher: Hi, good evening. My name is Michelle Rademacher. I am a DDD Independent Oversight Committee liaison.

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Lawrence Allen: Fredreaka.

Fredreaka Graham: Hey everyone, this is Fredreaka Graham with AHCCCS.

Dot O'Brien: Thanks.

Lawrence Allen: Tim

Timothy Tait: Hello, this is Tim Tait. I'm with the Arizona Department of Administration.

Dot O'Brien: Then you have to say more than that Tim. We're not buying that.

Lawrence Allen: That's all the attendees, Dot.

Dot O'Brien: Very good. Welcome all. Thank you so much. We'll go right to our agenda.

Dot O'Brien: First of all, disclose any conflicts of interest today? I don't think so. It's pretty straightforward. Meeting. What do you say? And Larry, I'm not aware of any, are you?

Dot O'Brien: Conflicts for this meeting.

Lawrence Allen: I would have to defer that back to the committee members Dot, but you're right the agenda is pretty straightforward.

Dot O'Brien: Yeah. We're not specific on anything that I think would preclude us from. Having.

Lawrence Allen: If you did have a conflict, I did attach the disclosure conflict form to the agenda. So the committee members would need to fill that out and send it back to me and then they would have to disclose that at the meeting tonight but it doesn't sound like anybody has a conflict?

00:05:00

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: Not today and then let's go. I see, you have staff updates next. So let's hear from you and Fred and anyone else, if Tim has anything else to say,

Lawrence Allen: Sure, I'll hop right in, the only update I have for the committee is the annual report is due November 1st. And I did send you out the Google form last week that it's essentially just another tool in your tool belt.

Dot O'Brien: Right.

Lawrence Allen: If you wanted to use it, if you want to just use it for one question, you can. If you want to not use it at all. That's fine too. So it's just another option for you and just trying to make things a little easier for the group.

Dot O'Brien: Appreciate that.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, I intend to take a hard look at that and see if it will. make things a little easier. I was appreciated, You're sending that on. We may end up with a letter form depending on the group. says, we do have some new members who haven't done an annual report with us yet, so who knows we could have some secret closet report writers and we'll find out.

Lawrence Allen: You never know.

Dot O'Brien: You never Open the possibility.

Lawrence Allen: Let me know if you need me to send last year's report to you Dot and be happy to do so.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, I have all that archive but who knows?

Lawrence Allen: That's pretty much. The only thing that I'll have for the group tonight. Any questions that I could try to answer for you?

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: Any questions for Larry? we got

Francis Gagliardi: When I saw that conflict of interest form, I was wondering whether that had to be filled out every time or just if there were a conflict of interest

Lawrence Allen: Just if you have a conflict Dr. G. So If you don't have a conflict, I attached it to the email for your convenience. So, it's only if you have a conflict that for me to be filled out sent in,

Francis Gagliardi: Okay, thanks.

Dot O'Brien: Just okay,...

Lawrence Allen: You welcome.

Dot O'Brien: Fred anything.

Fredreaka Graham: by Dot, I don't have any updates but happy to answer any questions if you guys have any

Dot O'Brien: Anybody have questions for Fred?

Dot O'Brien: I have a question. First of all I want to thank you because we asked you for a slew of information this past month regarding one of our providers and you did the legwork and so on but one of the big questions for us in that whole situation is to whom. And again I don't want to speak about anything that we shouldn't be speaking in public meeting but it's real important for us to know to whom and to where those clients... are being referred for living

Dot O'Brien: But now I understand many live at home or they have some home type arrangements, some family arrangements and I don't expect an answer now. But understanding what we need and we don't get reports from that sector. So that is a problem. So one of the things that would really help us is there a way to find the other places where even if it's just two or three?

Dot O'Brien: I'm aware of a particular provider there that the court calls on in court. And yet, there's not a word about that particular provider of residences from access. So that to me is just a little too mysterious. So we can talk more about it at another time, but that information was voluminous and wonderful. Thank you. It was a lot more.

00:10:00

Fredreaka Graham: Yeah.

Dot O'Brien: But that piece of it. Frank, do you have any comment on that and we'll talk more about it obviously?

Francis Gagliardi: I was looking at the names, I didn't recognize them but people that I know that work there. I didn't see their name so I'm just hoping we had the right.

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Francis Gagliardi: The right place.

Dot O'Brien: I think again, as we've been saying Frank, internally, we need to follow up with that and...

Francis Gagliardi: Yeah.

Dot O'Brien: We'll get with Fred after the meeting at another time when maybe we can be together and make a phone call or something, But that was just one piece of Fred that,...

Francis Gagliardi: Sure.

Dot O'Brien: We don't know where to look other than what we hear from others. Families and stuff like in the Anami group, for instance, you're going to hear how their loved one is doing, and the places that they're talking about aren't mentioned anywhere. So they're not in reports, they're not on the list, there seems to be some gaps. So we'll cover that in another time. Hopefully at another day in the future,?

Fredreaka Graham: Yeah, just let me know. I'm happy to help or I can

Dot O'Brien: I know we appreciate it. Okay, so that's that one on anything else from staff?

Dot O'Brien: No, Tim, you're just hanging in there with us.

Timothy Tait: I am just here to listen and learn. Thank you.

Dot O'Brien: Alright. I'm trying to read my agenda from a really small thing and it's not working.

Fredreaka Graham: Have your community partners.

Dot O'Brien: Right right there. Yeah. But I'm at committee memberships. So what I need the group to understand is that Trish has resigned. I think I mentioned it earlier, her mom passed away, and she now has some other responsibilities obviously, with her family and so on. So she has officially resigned. And I, of course, sent her a note thanking her with our condolences. So again, we're always looking if you come across someone in your travels who would be a good candidate for the committee. let's always try to widen the circle And build a group that can get the job done, And help help grow the boat. so, I just wanted you to know that and of course, let the record show that

Dot O'Brien: Trisha's resignation was accepted and her hard work was appreciated, and we send our condolences to our family. committee membership, I don't believe there's anything else on that. We have a seven person committee at this time. That seems to be working. All right, any other comment on membership?

Francis Gagliardi: We're always looking for more members. You've said that right, we can And with it,...

Dot O'Brien: Yes, that's right. That's right Dr. G

Francis Gagliardi: with each additional member, what happens to the quorum? How does that work?

Dot O'Brien: We have to have one over half. So, if we have eight, we need five for a quorum.

Francis Gagliardi: that's,

Dot O'Brien: I can do that arithmetic Frank and I didn't even use my fingers.

Francis Gagliardi: The better woman than I,...

Dot O'Brien: We have to help each other.

Francis Gagliardi: excuse me.

Dot O'Brien: So with seven, we still have to have four. Which we seem to be okay with, I mean, we had a couple of months here with health and family and stuff that we kind of went dark but We're also human beings so that's going to happen. But here we are. So yeah, we need four for a quorum right now.

Dot O'Brien: Did I do that arithmetic? Larry. So the next thing on the agenda is the site visits and such, and we've individually been speaking about this and trying to coordinate our schedules to Get some of those visits done and Frank and I have been able to get out there a little bit. I have some things, scheduled with Nicole who's not on the call out in the Prescott area and

Dot O'Brien: Are you still there? Did Travis go away? Okay, Travis we're gonna try and...

Travis Lowry: I'm here.

Dot O'Brien: together out in the West area, maybe Kingman, I mean, I don't want to talk about any facilities specifically, but there are two in Kingman. If you can meet me there, or if you have one or two Have a Suit pie area. it will come out and my husband and I'll stay overnight. What do you do?

00:15:00

Travis Lowry: Yeah, Kingman is only 60 miles from Havasu. I enjoy driving. So, Havasu Bullhead, Kingman. I'm happy to go out to any of those.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, then I'm going to make a note. Let's start there.

Travis Lowry: Yeah, I'm willing to travel anywhere, really? I don't mind either way. So

Dot O'Brien: All right, So I'm just noting that and we'll exchange some dates. If it can't be a weekday for you, then a Saturday is fine for us, it's a

Travis Lowry: It can be a weekday. I just need to know so I can request the time off.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, okay. That's perfect. So then we know there's at least two out that way that we can do at the end of October. Sounds reasonable. Okay.

Travis Lowry: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: And then Bob

Dot O'Brien: If you're up to it, we were gonna go back to one or two of the places we had visited in Flag. And just visit with the clients. I know we've discussed this before but just for those who haven't heard, it was really instigated by Chris Gonzalez just before you left the committee, but we went up to one of the facilities in Flagstaff. And spent the afternoon with those clients and it was really revelatory. I'll say it, I'm looking, I want to say revelational, that's what I want to say because here we are in a place where clients are comfortable.

Dot O'Brien: And we were there to listen to them and we learned a lot about the areas. Do you agree Bob I mean the facilities where people lived, what the needs were and we were able to follow up then and Dr. G came with me and we looked at the shelters and some other places that they felt had some concerns about so that was a different way of checking on things, but it worked very well. So Bob and I plan to do that again. And will we have to obviously call that and make an appointment? Because that's a different kind of facility, but If you're up to it Bob, I'd like to get that done in the next couple of weeks.

Bob Longest: Yeah, most of our facilities that are available for that shelter are from the shelter itself. There's a family extension that they have for the shelf flagship shelter but there's the

Bob Longest: The Oxford Homes. and...

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Bob Longest: then, Catholic shelters.

Dot O'Brien: We can talk specifics. on a phone call after this week sometime.

Bob Longest: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: But yeah, we'll get on your calendar and we'll come up.

Bob Longest: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: All so that Travis and then Frank. I know And I have to talk about the report for the visit that we did. We both have notes on that.

Francis Gagliardi: I do and I don't know I have some notes and I'll be happy to.

Francis Gagliardi: Tell you what was in our notes? Or we will wait, we'll do the report and send it. I don't know. What's preferable?

Dot O'Brien: I think we should put it together in a report and then of course, add it to our annual report. So yeah, I want to avoid specifically mentioning facilities on the public call, if we can.

Francis Gagliardi: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: So there's that and then I have that other project in the Verde Valley that we're working on together. So That's big and important and we're trying to put the pieces together with Fred's help and so on.

Dot O'Brien: and that is partially related to a letter that we received just for the record in. It's been more directed toward access obviously, but from several peer and parent groups regarding some of the care in Prescott and the Yavapai County, press get in Brady Valley and so on wherever that provider provides services. So that is an ongoing investigation and we're continuing to look at those details. Frank has done a lot of work and of course Fred has found all kinds of details so we're working on that. So as far as scientists go ahead. Sorry Frank.

00:20:00

Francis Gagliardi: but I want to ask about, A deadline because I'm in the process of interviewing several people, but then we have to make a site visit and I've had to wait for some people to no longer be associated with the venue that we're looking into before I could talk to them.

Dot O'Brien: but,

Francis Gagliardi: But it's taking a while and it's going to take a while. So I'm wondering whether to consider these letters etc.

Dot O'Brien: That's a good question, Frank and I'm going to just give you my own personal opinion from my experience, which is that this is extremely important and we have more

Dot O'Brien: Personal involvement. I'll say it's absolutely solid. Experience with this particular group, that doesn't bode well for our clients, for our patients, the vulnerable population. So frankly it's going to take as long as it takes and there's lots of reasons why people. can't talk to us just yet or they want to wait for a certain thing but I think the work goes on and when we get to the point for example, when we're going to do an annual report, we report to the point, using Our discretion, of course, and we may not make a full report at that time, but by November 1st, we're not going to have a full report. I don't think Frank, I mean, do you?

Francis Gagliardi: Probably not. but, Yeah, I'm

Dot O'Brien: Yeah, yeah. It's ongoing I would say

Francis Gagliardi: continue to gather information, and I continue to get names of people who do want to talk and It keeps going on but I want to make sure we get the information that we need rather than just you...

Dot O'Brien: Right.

Francis Gagliardi: complaints about things that we're not looking at.

Dot O'Brien: No. and it's true. I mean, Every time another letter comes it's kind of like my God because we're volunteers, I mean it's not like this is not a full-time job for any of us and if it were things would be different, but

Dot O'Brien: Yeah, as far as I'm concerned, it's my own opinion and as the chairperson roughness, the completeness, the facts. The evidence is what's the most important? And I know you agree with me and we should do the job until it's done correctly and then make a full report Larry.

Francis Gagliardi: And I do believe that we need together all information from outside sources that we can before we do the site meeting.

Dot O'Brien: Agreed we're Total agreement on that? Yeah. Yeah.

Francis Gagliardi: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: Larry, do you have any thoughts on that as far as? Deadline timeline,

Lawrence Allen: The community stakeholders want to see the efforts of the committee and so does AHCCCS, so I would try to stick to the November 1st deadline as much as you can. if you need to expand that report,

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Lawrence Allen: and put more detail in it later on. I think that would be the way to do it. and then that report will always get funneled back up to the community stakeholders and the leadership of AHCCCS.

00:25:00

Dot O'Brien: Okay, I think, Preparing a report with the information to date within reason and then, like you said,...

Lawrence Allen: Yeah.

Dot O'Brien: Yeah, I mean, that's probably what's going to have to happen, and of course, we're not going to see any changes by November 1st, but we can, at...

Lawrence Allen: Yeah.

Dot O'Brien: And trying, we'll talk about it, Frank. we'll come up with something that feels right and at least lets them know what work is being done. That's my thought. What do you think?

Dot O'Brien: All right. I'm gonna take that. anybody else on site visits any comments, any committee members anyone

Dot O'Brien: And again, if you're looking at reports and something, you pick up on a pattern or something doesn't seem right, make sure. you reach out, send me a text, send an email or something and we can look into it a little further and see if there's something there or not. So we're always needing to support each other, in that stuff. Okay, so I think we're done on site visits and

Dot O'Brien: reports.

Dot O'Brien: And then yeah and then our community partners. So I know we have quite a few representatives on the call which is really wonderful. We appreciate that. And Chris you were on first, I believe. So why don't you update us on what you may have?

Christopher Gonzalez: There are, I don't have any updates for today. Yeah, but thank you for the opportunity.

Dot O'Brien: Okay.

Dot O'Brien: we appreciate you taking the time to listen in and catch up and of course As a former committee member, if you have any suggestions or thoughts, we are always open to them. Chris

Christopher Gonzalez: And you got it.

Dot O'Brien: How about what's next, Christina, I think. With DDD.

Christina Hedges: I am off yet. Okay, I was just saying, I'm not sure if anybody has presented to you all in. any of the behavioral health initiatives that the division is working on, but we've got about four that we're working on right now, two of them are for our American rescue plan dollars. We are using some of those dollars to roll out positive, behavior support training to direct support professionals that are employed with our qualified vendor agencies as well as families and caregivers. We also are using some of our ARPA funds to work coming up on the end of this project, but utilizing the funds to add to the relias library for behavioral health providers. courses, that really highlight specifics around developmental disabilities, so that we can see that

Christina Hedges: That provider network, kind of grows and is more willing to work with the members that we have within our population and in doing. So we've also held two conferences in Phoenix and in Tucson for behavioral health providers Really focused on working with members with developmental disabilities. Are behavior supported group home projects that are working to kind of revamp. Our model of our group homes that are Tailored towards members with severe and challenging behaviors to ensure that not only are they safe, but we're keeping the community safe as well. And I cannot think of the last one at the top of my head, but I will drop the link in chat for that kind of list all of those out for you all.

Dot O'Brien: That's great. and for I'm asking from ignorance, but forgive me if it's a dumb question, but it sounds to me like those are the kinds of funds, too. That would make resourceful Behavioral health people specifically available to the school age kids. Am I correct in that?

Christina Hedges: I am not 100% sure on that.

Dot O'Brien: I mean, liatrix How many behavior specialists who we need in our schools,...

Christina Hedges: Right. ...

Dot O'Brien: and I'm wondering that's,...

Christina Hedges: where sure,...

00:30:00

Dot O'Brien: part of it.

Christina Hedges: I don't know if the Department of Education was allotted any American rescue plan funds but if they were, they could have definitely probably used some of those funds for

Dot O'Brien: Okay, I was just curious.

Christina Hedges: That.

Dot O'Brien: There was a crossover there at all.

Christina Hedges: We did not do anything along those lines with our funds, but

Dot O'Brien: Okay, you're doing a lot. Okay. Thank you.

Christina Hedges: the link is in the chat for you.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, thank you very much. I know Are you there? Michelle.

Michelle Rademacher: Yes, I did not bring an update today. I'm so sorry.

Dot O'Brien: No, no, that's fine. We're glad that you joined us. And if you have any comment or anything, you'd like us to know, by all means. We'd like to hear it.

Michelle Rademacher: Thank you.

Dot O'Brien: Welcome, did we miss anybody? Larry, did Fred do we miss anybody?

Lawrence Allen: No, I believe that's all.

Dot O'Brien: We got everybody.

Fredreaka Graham: I think that's it.

Dot O'Brien: All right, so we're not going to go to executive session. I think we've covered the site visit parts that we need to cover. I will tell you that when it comes to the annual report I'm going to need help. So I know Bob, you keep trying to teach me how to use Google.

Dot O'Brien: The Google edit and I'm going to get better at it because that would probably be the way for us to do it. So I promise to work on that.

Dot O'Brien: I will as soon as we get working on that,...

Bob Longest: We'll just reach out.

Dot O'Brien: which will be pretty soon and we'll be talking about when we're going to meet up and get these other visits from anybody else before We sign off.

Dot O'Brien: Okay, not seeing any other comments. Larry, Fred, Any reason why we can't adjourn?

Lawrence Allen: No, just need a motion to adjourn and you're good to go.

Dot O'Brien: okay, when somebody make a motion to adjourn,

Francis Gagliardi: Make a motion to adjourn. .

Dot O'Brien: How about a second?

Travis Lowry: second.

Dot O'Brien: And a second and thank you very much. So, I will adjourn this meeting of the Northern Arizona Independent Oversight. Thank you to all attendees and committee members. You'll be here and from me, we'll set up some dates to get together. And do our jobs, okay? Thank you.

Christina Hedges: Thank you.

Lawrence Allen: And everybody.

Travis Lowry: Good night, everyone.

Lawrence Allen: Thank you.

Fredreaka Graham: Good night.

Dot O'Brien: Bye-bye.

Meeting ended after 00:33:52 🙌

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