



DDSD Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) Meeting Notes

October 12, 2023

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Blue (Co-chair), Daniel Ekman (Co-chair), Stevie Bass, Dan De Paula, Tracy Perry, Angelique Tafoya, April Spaulding, Jessica Gutierrez, Laura Matthews, Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, Vashad Frink, Valerie Dewbre, Tim Gardner, Jacqueline Mares, Crystal Garcia, Cynthia Chavez, Judy Sena, Jim Copeland, Shannon Eckert, Chris Leroi, Ann Marie Parmenter, Michelle Harmon and Clara Hardgrove

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christine Bragg, Elisheva Levin, Roel Adamson

STATE AGENCY NON-VOTING PARTNERS PRESENT

Amira Rasheed, Alice Liu McCoy, Gay Finlayson

STATE AGENCIES PRESENT

Scott Doan, Nicole Hernandez, Evangeline Yanez, Elaine Hill, Jennifer Rodriguez, Victoria Herrera, Renee Valerio, Michael Driskell, Teresa Larson, Chris Futey, Deanne DeHerrera, Anysia Fernandez, Margaret Bost, Dominic Jaramillo, Jenni McNab, Frank Gaona, Joseph Tighe

GUESTS

Shannon, Kate Nash, Robert Kegel, Cassandra DeCamp, Pam Stafford, Selma Dodson, Steve Wrigley, Chinda Lucoski, Janelle Groover, Selina Leyba, Patsy Romero, Allison Salazar, Benita McKerry, Gabriella Ramos, Jane, Suzannah Jones, Bruce Wetherbee, Kelly, Winton Wood, S. Conkle, Sunny Gonzales, Kathie Fernandez, Kathleen Holmes Cates, Rachel

ACQ ADMINISTRATOR

Wendy Corry

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A big welcome to our new/renewing BOD members: Shannon Eckert, Michelle Harmon, Allison Lemons, Chris Leroi, and Angelique Tafoya!!!
- The ACQ Exec. Comm. and DDSD leadership will host Listening sessions bi-monthly (the opposite month from the ACQ meetings) to hear people's concerns/questions, etc. These meetings will be held in the ZOOM; the first one is scheduled for Nov. 9 at 9:00.
- Please provide feedback at <https://s.surveyplanet.com/jmes7mjb>
- Written transcripts from the full ACQ meeting will be distributed to all ACQ Interested Parties.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2023

- Tracy Perry moved to approve the minutes with amendments. Crystal Garcia seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public Comments are recorded through ZOOM and are available through the ACQ website at <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/coco/acq/>.

DOH/DDSD DIRECTOR'S REPORT: SCOTT DOAN (reporting for Dr. Acosta, DDS Dir.)

- DDS issued a memo on 10/1/2023 outlining the remaining Appendix K flexibilities.
- Congratulations to Chris Futey, DDS's new Deputy Director.
- Gov. Lujan-Grisham signed legislation on the new Health Care Authority (HCA), currently known as HSD. DHI and DDS will move to HCA.
- There are currently no plans to move the DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, or Supports Waiver to Turquoise care.
- Currently have an amendment going through public comment for a Cost-of-Living Adjustment. Public comment period opened on Oct. 6; a public hearing is set for November 6 on waiver amendment which includes \$10.2 million. In the proposed amendment, requesting that they make approval retroactive back to July 1, 2023. Part of the COLA amendment is asking CMS to approve legally responsible individuals (LRIs) to be able to provide services such as Customized Community Supports, Community Integrated Employment, Customized In Home Supports and Respite. The proposed effective date is March 1, 2024, if approved by CMS. HSD will formally submit the amendment to CMS on November 15, 2023. CMS has 90 days to examine the amendment.
- Concern about the need to expand the workforce. There is a statewide Direct Service Professional workforce employment event on Oct. 24.
- The public comment period for DD waiver service standards ended on October 5. Approximately 200 comments were received. DDS is on target to distribute the revised standards as of November 1 of this year.
- Discussion on the Gross Receipts Tax and how it impacts Mi Via Waiver budget. Concern expressed that including GRT tax within dollar amount of individual impacts services. Would like it outside that cap. DDS stated if you have a participant in the waiver who is indicating that they cannot get services due to budget constraints have them or EOR work with consultant to see if it is appropriate to request additional funding to exceed additional budget allotment. If that is the case, please contact the DDS Mi Via Unit for technical assistance.
- Abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention is the number one priority of DDS. A PowerPoint presentation and a copy of the DDS Safety Checklist used for Wellness Visits is attached to the minutes.

STATUS OF ACQ LETTER ON THE HEALTHCARE AUTHORITY AND TELEHEALTH- LISA BLUE

- The draft letter to DOH and DDS leadership was distributed prior to the ACQ meeting.
- Laura Matthews made a motion to approve and send the letter with acronyms spelled out. Lisa Blue seconded, motion carried.

- Daniel Ekman will send the letter by next Thursday, October 26.

BRIDGING AGING AND DISABILITY NETWORK STRATEGIC ALLIANCE TEAM: ALICE LIU MCCOY (DDC)

- Presentation on the My Life, My Decisions campaign which is funded by a grant (\$20,000 per year for 4 years) to bridge aging and DD networks.
- One of biggest benefits is that other DD councils working under grants can share ideas and learn from each other. Resources for technical assistance and experts in both aging and disability fields are provided.
- Established the state alliance team SAT. which includes ALTSD, Arc of NM, NADLC, DDS, and others. Currently meeting monthly.
- They have started a project around alternatives to Guardianship. My Life, My Decisions
- Adult Guardianship in the state of New Mexico is a court order that declares someone legally incapacitated with respect to certain decision-making powers, and thus need a guardian. DDC only provides guardianship.
- One way to avoid guardianship is Power of Attorney or Advanced Directives. One other document is Supported Decision Making agreement. No law yet but can still form SDMAs and use it as mechanism with the court.
- Events are being planned around the state to help people put certain mechanisms into place with attorneys and legal workers. Help people determine what alternative mechanism works well. The first event was held in September in Las Cruces.
- Federal funding was approved for activities but due to the current federal budget situation, the funds are not available now. Therefore, the team is continuing to do the work without big events. There will be a smaller event in Silver City in December.
- Specific challenges and barriers that they are seeing and facing within the DD system as they are aging: lack of knowledge about hospice, sibling responsibility when the parents die, finding providers to provide adult care when medical complexities are involved.
- Alice Liu McCoy offered to bring people from Aging and Long-Term Services to an ACQ meeting if the ACQ is interested.

VOTE ON REVISIONS TO THE ACQ BY-LAWS

- The proposed language is under: IV. MEMBERSHIP:

“Ten (10) Providers of Services – Service professionals NOT covered by the direct care staff category including case managers, consultants, therapists, corporate guardians, and other providers to individuals with I/DD. The following categories are required: At least one case manager, one therapist, one behavior support consultant and one representative of an Intermediate Care Facility/IDD.”
- Lisa Blue made a motion to approve, Laura Matthews seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES- LISA BLUE

Mi Via Advisory Committee Update- Stevie Bass (MVAC Rep) and Elaine Hill (DDSD Rep).

- The report from DDSD is attached to the minutes.
- Thank you to Stevie Bass for her 9 years of service to the ACQ as the Mi Via Advisory Comm. representative. Denis Balderas will take her place.
- DDSD is connecting with the Community Statewide Job Fair to encourage staff hiring for the Mi Via waiver participants.
- All Mi Via monthly contact notes are now uploaded to Therap for easier monitoring and quality assurance activities. Families and participants can request and utilize Spanish speaking forms on November 1, 2023.
- Concerns were raised about MVAC's response to the GRT issue. It was requested that the ACQ Exec. Comm. follow up on the GRT and Mi Via Waiver issue and add it to the agenda for the Dec. ACQ meeting.

Status of the ACQ Rate Study/Provider Capacity Comm.-Evangeline Yanez

- DDSD is working on the following recommendations. 1) Address inflation concerns every 2 years, cost of living every 2 years through rate study and rate recommendation increases as listed in the report. 7/1/24 pending approval from CMS. 2) look at increases in IBA and in-home services 3) looking at the Cost-of-Living Increases
- DDSD is starting to work with HSD on the Mi Via Waiver Renewal.
- Recommend leveraging the ACQ, implementing pass throughs and rate modifiers, telehealth oversight framework, telehealth oversight and monitoring process, explore providers inability to staff for those with complex needs, targeted outreach to Mi Via participants, outreach to encourage use of and feedback on RORA process.
- A comment was made that the capacity assessment that took place excluded the Medically Fragile waiver. DDSD's response was the intent was to determine what the DD system looked like because of the super allocation. Since there is not a waiting list for the Med Frag waiver, they were not affected by the super allocation plan.
- Documents from PCG can be found on the DDSD website at [Developmental Disabilities \(nmhealth.org\)](https://www.nmhealth.org/developmental-disabilities)
- The PCG Provider Assessment Capacity Report link is: [Template File \(nmhealth.org\)](https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/8345/)
- Rate Study Recommendations link is: [nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/8345/](https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/8345/)
- Response to Public Comments link is: [nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/8443/](https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/8443/)

PUBLIC COMMENT-LISA BLUE

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SHARE POSITIVE STORIES

Ann Marie Parmenter: Thanked DDSD for successfully working with her to resolve a concern.

Siri GuruNam Kaur: Told a positive story about her son.

Laura Matthews: Happy birthday to six-year-old nephew. Announced a bowling tournament she is participating in.

CLOSING-LISA BLUE