



ACQ Executive Committee Meeting Notes
August 21, 2026
2:00PM to 3:10PM

Participants

- Scott Doan, *Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)*
- Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, *ACQ Co-Chair*
- Tracy Perry, *Co-Chair, ACQ Executive Committee and CEO, Direct Therapy Services*
- Daniel Ekman, *Advocate, Developmental Disabilities Council, Program Manager, Center for Self Advocacy*
- Valerie Dewbre, *ACQ Executive Committee, Director of Adult Service Coordination, ENMRSH*
- Kelley Harvey, *ACQ Administrator*

Self-Advocate Panel – October 2026 ACQ Meeting

The Executive Team discussed preparation for the next Self-Advocate Panel planned for the October 2026 ACQ meeting. Two individuals have volunteered to participate, with confirmation still needed from the second prospective panelist.

The Executive Team reflected on the Self-Advocate Panel held at the previous ACQ meeting and agreed that it was very successful. Members recommended continuing the panel format while allowing additional time at future meetings for reflection and discussion regarding what was heard, what was learned, and how ACQ may be able to support or respond to the experiences shared by self-advocates.

The Executive Team agreed that future panels should include no more than three panelists.

The group also agreed to retain the following question:

“If you could share one message with DDSD leadership and the ACQ, what would it be?”

In preparation for the upcoming New Mexico Legislative Session, Tracy Perry recommended adding a question focused on legislative advocacy. The proposed question would ask panelists what they would want to say to a legislator or what they would want legislators to help advocate for. The question will be revised and finalized before being provided to panelists.

The Executive Team agreed to use the September ACQ Listening Session to invite another panelist who may be interested in participating in the October panel. Members also recommended seeking panelists from different areas of New Mexico to increase geographic representation.

Action Items

- **Kelley Harvey:** Follow up with the second prospective panelist to confirm availability.
- **Kelley Harvey:** Draft an announcement seeking an additional self-advocate for the October panel to share during the September Listening Session.

Medically Fragile Waiver Family Advisory Board (FAB)

The Executive Team discussed Shawna McGill's participation in ACQ meetings while the Medically Fragile Waiver Family Advisory Board (FAB) remains on hold with no current timeline for resuming meetings.

Shawna had asked whether she was required to continue attending ACQ meetings when there were no FAB updates to provide.

The Executive Team recommended that Shawna attend ACQ meetings as she determines appropriate and noted that ACQ meetings may still provide helpful and relevant information and that Shawna's expertise may be valuable when questions related to the Medically Fragile Waiver arise during ACQ discussions.

It was also noted that Shawna is not an ACQ Board Member; therefore, her absence would not affect Board Member attendance requirements.

Follow-Up

- **Kelley Harvey:** Follow up with Shawna to advise that she may attend ACQ meetings as she determines necessary or beneficial while FAB remains on hold.

Planning for the Upcoming Legislative Session

The Executive Team discussed preparations for the upcoming New Mexico Legislative Session.

The group agreed that ACQ should develop another legislative information sheet similar to the resource created with Angelique Tafoya's help for the 2026 Legislative Session.

Items to include for the sheet, Tracy Perry shared that the provider rate study has been completed but has not yet been implemented. She also noted that increases were made in seven other related areas; however, those increases were not the result of implementation of the rate study.

Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages were also identified as an issue to consider for inclusion on the legislative sheet.

The 2026 ACQ Legislative Sheet will be used as a reference as the Executive Team begins identifying and developing priorities for the upcoming 2027 legislative session.

Action Items

- **Kelley Harvey:** Retrieve and distribute the 2026 ACQ Legislative Sheet to the Executive Team as a refresher and starting point for discussion.
- **Kelley Harvey:** Contact Angelique Tafoya to determine whether she would be interested in assisting with development of the upcoming legislative sheet.
- **Executive Team:** Continue identifying potential legislative issues and advocacy priorities for inclusion on the legislative sheet.

MVAC Thought Paper / ACQ-MVAC Relationship

The Executive Team discussed questions and recommendations raised regarding the relationship between the ACQ and the Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC), including the role of the MVAC liaison and how information and recommendations should move between the two groups.

The discussion identified a need for greater clarity regarding the relationship between ACQ and MVAC. Members noted that MVAC is identified within the ACQ By-Laws as one of the ACQ standing committees and that the respective governance documents should more clearly reflect how the two groups are connected, the responsibilities of each group, and expectations for communication and participation.

The Executive Team agreed that the upcoming review of the ACQ By-Laws provides an opportunity to address these questions directly rather than attempting to resolve them separately.

The Executive Team recommended inviting Leon Reval, MVAC liaison, to participate in the ACQ By-Laws Committee so that he may provide his questions, recommendations, and perspective during development of the revised language.

It was also shared that MVAC is preparing to review its own By-Laws. Elaine Palma, who is involved with the MVAC By-Laws Committee, had previously expressed interest in coordinating with ACQ during the review process. The Executive Team supported collaboration between the two By-Laws committees to help ensure the governance documents are consistent and that the relationship between ACQ and MVAC is clearly understood.

Members emphasized the importance of establishing a reciprocal relationship in which information and participation move between ACQ and MVAC rather than the groups operating independently except when assistance or resources are needed.

Action Items

- **Scott Doan:** Respond to the existing email discussion and notify Leon Reval and Melanie Buenviaje of the Executive Team's plan to reopen the ACQ By-Laws and invite Leon to participate in the review. Copy the ACQ Executive Team on the communication so members are aware of the response and next steps.
- **Daniel Ekman:** Coordinate with By-Laws Committee members and identify a meeting time that allows the appropriate ACQ and MVAC participants to attend. Coordinate with Elaine Palma and the MVAC By-Laws Committee to explore a collaborative review process between ACQ and MVAC.

Turquoise Claims Follow-Up Discussion

The Executive Team discussed the Turquoise Claims presentation provided during the recent ACQ meeting and shared observations regarding the effectiveness of the presentation and question-and-answer portion.

Members acknowledged that the presenter appeared to make a strong effort; however, the group expressed concern that the individuals presenting did not have sufficient direct knowledge or operational detail to fully answer provider questions. The Executive Team discussed the

importance of having presenters available who can respond to specific questions regarding claims processing, system issues, and unresolved payment concerns.

The group discussed the upcoming September 15 provider meeting as an opportunity to obtain additional information and determine whether concerns remain unresolved.

The Executive Team discussed the possibility of requesting a future Turquoise Claims update at an ACQ meeting. Rather than repeating the previous presentation, members recommended that any future appearance focus on progress updates, including:

- Issues identified;
- Issues resolved;
- Remaining barriers or system problems;
- Current corrective actions; and
- Expected timelines for resolution, when available.

Members agreed that regular and transparent updates may help reduce frustration among providers and other stakeholders who may otherwise feel they are receiving limited information.

The Executive Team also discussed the possibility of a broader listening session or stakeholder forum if significant concerns remain unresolved following the September provider meeting.

Follow-Up

- Review outcomes from the September 15 provider meeting before determining whether an additional Turquoise Claims presentation or update should be requested for ACQ.
- Continue encouraging clear and regular communication regarding identified issues, resolutions, barriers, and expected timelines.

ACQ By-Laws Review and Cleanup

The Executive Team agreed to reopen the ACQ By-Laws for review and cleanup.

Kelley Harvey shared that while reviewing the By-Laws in connection with other ACQ governance documents, she identified several areas that may require clarification or revision. Kelley will compile and distribute the identified items to the Executive Team and By-Laws Committee for review.

The Executive Team agreed that the review should include clearer definitions of the roles and responsibilities of ACQ Board Members, the Executive Committee, standing committees, and the relationship between ACQ and MVAC.

The group also discussed the frequency of future By-Law revisions. Members expressed concern that repeatedly reopening the By-Laws creates an ongoing cycle of revisions and recommended establishing a more structured review schedule.

The current section addressing revisions and modifications was identified as needing stronger language. The Executive Team discussed establishing a regular review period, potentially every two years, during which proposed changes could be considered together. Suggestions received between formal review periods could be retained for consideration during the next scheduled review.

The Executive Team also discussed the importance of ACQ Board Members reviewing governance documents before they are brought forward for approval. Members noted that limited feedback during the review process can result in questions or concerns being raised after documents have already been approved.

To strengthen Board Member understanding and accountability, the Executive Team discussed incorporating additional By-Law information into ACQ Board Member orientation. The group also discussed the possibility of having Board Members acknowledge that they have received, reviewed, and agreed to follow the ACQ By-Laws and other applicable governance expectations.

Members agreed that governance documents may not always be the most engaging material to review, but understanding them is an important responsibility of serving as an ACQ Board Member.

The Executive Team discussed notifying ACQ members when the By-Laws review begins and making clear that the upcoming review is the appropriate opportunity for members to participate and submit recommended changes before the revised By-Laws are brought forward for approval.

Agreements

- Reopen the ACQ By-Laws for review and cleanup.
- Strengthen language describing the relationship between ACQ, its standing committees, and MVAC.
- Consider establishing a regular schedule for comprehensive By-Law review rather than reopening the document frequently.
- Consider adding By-Law expectations and key governance information to ACQ Board Member orientation.
- Provide ACQ members an opportunity to participate in the current By-Laws review before revisions are finalized and brought forward for approval.

Action Items

- **Kelley Harvey:** Compile and distribute the list of By-Law sections and issues identified during her review.
- **Scott Doan:** Contact Leon Reval and related MVAC representatives regarding participation in the By-Laws review.
- **Daniel Ekman:** Coordinate availability and scheduling for the ACQ By-Laws Committee.
- **By-Laws Committee:** Review and strengthen the section governing future revisions and modifications, including consideration of a regular review cycle.
- **By-Laws Committee:** Review language defining the roles and responsibilities of ACQ Board Members, the Executive Committee, standing committees, and MVAC.
- **Executive Team/By-Laws Committee:** Consider incorporating By-Law education and acknowledgement into ACQ Board Member orientation.

October ACQ Meeting – Legislative Session Preview

The Executive Team briefly discussed the possibility of inviting Representative Kathleen Cates to participate in the October ACQ meeting to provide a preview of the upcoming New Mexico Legislative Session.

The group supported exploring her availability.

Action Item

- Tracy Perry will reach out to Representative Kathleen Cates to determine whether she may be available to participate in the October ACQ meeting.