



DDSD Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) Meeting Notes

April 11, 2024

Approved

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Blue (Co-chair), Dan De Paula, Tracy Perry, Angelique Tafoya, April Spaulding, Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, Valerie Dewbre, Tim Gardner, Crystal Garcia, Judy Sena, Jim Copeland, Ann Marie Parmenter, Clara Hardgrove, Elisheva Levin, Roel Adamson, Laura Matthews, Michelle Harmon, Shana Heath, Winton Wood, Peggy O'Neill, Jessica Gutierrez, Susan Forbes, Cynthia Chavez, Shannon Eckert, Chris Leroi, Loriessa Randle

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vashad Frink, Elizabeth Montoya, Jacqueline Mares, Daniel Ekman (Co-chair), Denise Balderas, Tyler Hutchens, Jessica Donaldson, Allison Lemons

STATE AGENCY NON-VOTING PARTNERS PRESENT

Amira Rasheed

STATE AGENCIES PRESENT

Jennifer Rodriguez (DDSD), Scott Doan (DDSD)

GUESTS

Kate Nash, Robert Kegel, Steve Wrigley, Suzannah Jones, Bruce Wetherbee, Krystal Ortiz, Jacob Patterson, Evonne Romero, Patsy Romero, Sbicca Brodeur, Cassandra DeCamp, S. Conkle, Betty, Janeneg, Rep. Kathleen Holmes Cates, Lindsay Sloan, Cathy Salazar, Dan and Barbara Taggart, Kelly, Margarita Chavez Sanchez, and Arlene Murillo

ACQ ADMINISTRATOR

Wendy Corry

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Acosta resigned from DDSD and is now the Dir. of the Public Health Div. effective April 1, 2024. Congratulations to Jennifer Rodriguez who has been selected as the interim DDSD Dir.
- Welcome to new ACQ BOD members: Tyler Hutchens, Susan Forbes, Winton Wood, Shana Heath, Jessica Donaldson, Loriessa Randle and Michelle Eckles!!!
- The annual orientation for new and current ACQ BOD members was held on April 4, 2024.
- The ACQ Exec. Comm. is hosting ACQ Exec. Comm. Listening sessions bi-monthly (the opposite month from the ACQ meetings) to hear and discuss people's recommendations/ concerns/questions, etc. The next Listening session will be Thursday, May 9 at 9:00 am.

- Lisa Blue, Daniel Ekman, and Tracy Perry sent a letter to HSD Sec. Armijo and the Governor's Office regarding ongoing concerns raised at the ACQ meetings.
- Wendy Corry will be retiring as the DDSD ACQ Admin. effective June 30, 2024. DDSD will need to secure a new administrator.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2024

- Siri Guru Nam Khalsa moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Laura Matthews 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 INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT: JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

- DDSD continues to work on new guardrail proposals for the Legally Responsible Individual (LRI). Stakeholders' feedback they have received is greatly appreciated.
- DDSD conducted an internal review of their mission statement to ensure it aligns with DDSD's operation. One outcome of this review is the creation of a new Bureau, the Bureau of Individual Safety and Advocacy. The new bureau is a repurposing of the former Litigation Management Bureau.
- DDSD continues its commitment to face-to-face visits twice a year with every waiver participant. 6,296 visits have been completed since Oct. 2023.
- All waiver amendments are submitted to and must be approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). During the pandemic, payments were temporarily allowed for certain family members due to the challenges of having direct support staff.
- ACQ expressed that there continues to be frustration at the lack of representation from HSD and other appropriate state agencies since many of the current issues involve HSD. The Interim DDSD Dir. reminded people that as of July 1, 2024, both DDSD and HSD will be unified under the Healthcare Authority (HCA). She requested that all concerns be directed to her (Jennifer.rodriquez@doh.nm.gov) and senior DDSD leadership.
- The Category of Eligibility (COE) issues are improving but are not totally resolved. CMS recently agreed to extend eligibility for one year for people whose paperwork is up to date.
- Please contact Selina Leyba (SelinaT.Leyba@doh.nm.gov) with any concerns about people not receiving services due to COE issues.
- DDSD is currently drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a 2025 Rate Study. The rate study will include ALL services and they will be reviewing any rate discrepancies between waivers.
- Jennifer Rodriguez will offer office hours beginning April 29, 2024 from 1:00-4:30 to hear from stakeholders. More details to follow.
- HSD is removing Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) as part of the Mi Via calculations.
- HSD is moving forward on allowing Mi Via vendors to have access to FoCUS.

DDSQI PRESENTATION: SCOTT DOAN

- The PowerPoint is sent with the ACQ April notes.
- DDSQI is requesting feedback on the DDSQI Policy revisions by April 30. The DDSQI Policy will be sent to all ACQ Interested Parties. Please provide any feedback to Claudia Rice (Claudia.rice@doh.nm.gov).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: REP KATHLEEN HOLMES CATES

- Rep. Cates proposed legislation to remove the GRT on home modifications. The Governor passed this.
- Rep. Cates continues to advocate for an increase in funding in people’s budgets for home modifications.
- She is also working on a stand-alone bill for all state contractors.
- UNM Johnson gym continues to make improvements to be more accessible. Rep. Cates continues to push for self-advocates to be included in the design phase for public spaces to ensure real accessibility.

VOTE ON NEW ACQ CO-CHAIRS: LISA BLUE

- Siri Guru Nam Khalsa and Tracy Perry are candidates for these positions.
- The floor was opened for any additional candidates with no response.
- The slate of candidates was approved unanimously.
- Siri Guru Nam Khalsa and Tracy Perry will be the ACQ Co-chairs effective June 9, 2024.

MI VIA ADVISORY COUNCIL COMM. (MVAC): JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

- The Mi Via waiver renewal activity is starting. Town Halls will be coming up for public comment.

Clarification regarding the letters to Sec. Armijo and the Governor’s Office. Daniel Ekman, Lisa Blue, and Tracy Perry sent the letters, they were not sent on behalf of the ACQ or the Exec. Comm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

POSITIVE STORIES

- Many thanks to Daniel Ekman and Lisa Blue for their wonderful service to the ACQ as co-chairs. Their terms as co-chairs will expire in June 2024.
- A parent shared a positive encounter her son how has autism had with a female police officer.
- April is Autism Awareness month. DDSQI is focusing on this internally on autism awareness.
- Every Ability Plays Project is celebrating their 10-year anniversary.
- A self-advocate shared her successes as a Special Olympian in volleyball, track, and field, etc.

- Many thanks to Wendy Corry for her service to the ACQ as the DDSD ACQ Administrator.

The next ACQ Exec. Comm. Listening Session is May 9, 2024.

The next ACQ meeting is June 13, 2024.

MEETING ENDED AT 12:30 pm