

ACQ Policy and Quality Subcommittee Meeting Summary

6/10/2026, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Co-Chairs: Elana Gonzales, Winton Wood

Attendees: Tonya Lynn Abernathy (Project Shield), Frank Villegas (GRU Inc.), Valerie Dewbre (ENMRSH, Inc.), Cristalina Ford (CNRAG), Johanna Armendariz (CNRAG), Jim Copeland (ADDCP), Cassandra DeCamp (UNM CDD), Tracy Perry (Direct Therapy Services), Angelique Tafoya (Alta Mira NM), Soshana Perry (PMSNM), Elisha Levin (UNM CDD), Alethea Denet-Davis (PMSNM), Unverified Participant, Christina Hill (DDSD), Peter Michaels (DDSD)

Introduction – Elana Gonzales, Winton Wood

- Co-chair and attendee introductions
- Statement of Purpose:
 - The Policy and Quality Subcommittee of the Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) serves as an advisory group focused on improving policies and service quality for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). This subcommittee:
 - Reviews and recommends DDSD policies to the full Advisory Council.
 - Focuses on quality improvement in service delivery systems.
 - Incorporates input from external and internal stakeholders.
 - Meets regularly (bi-monthly) to address ongoing policy and quality initiatives.
 - It contributes to DDSD's broader commitment to service quality, performance measurement, and collaboration with providers through efforts including service standards, clinical initiatives, and quality assurance activities.
 - The attending group should be balanced and include self-advocates, families, provider agencies, advocacy agencies and other interested parties. Attendance is not limited to ACQ members.

Updates From Last Meeting – Elana Gonzales

- **From Claudia Rice regarding the Mi Via Service and Support Plan (SSP) & Instructional Guide:**
 - All of the edits to the instruction guide discussed during the P&Q Meeting were implemented.
 - Some of the SSP edits, such as combining some of the questions, were also implemented.
 - The SSP is still being programmed into FOCOS, but all consultants have received training on the new SSP and clarification on specific questions. PDFs of the documents will be sent out to the field by EOB 6/12/26.
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Requests for Updates/ Future Committee Topic Suggestions- Elana Gonzales, Winton Wood

Topic: Employer of Record (EOR) Guidebook

- Request to view the new EOR guidebook draft/ receive presentation on the new guide. The old one was in the most current Mi Via newsletter asking for feedback for the new one. Would like a chance to work off of the newly proposed draft.
 - Deanna DeHerrera (DDSD Waiver Systems Manager) is seeking feedback by extended deadline of Friday, June 12th, via email at Deanna.DeHerrera@hca.nm.gov
 - There is not a current draft for review, but a request for feedback on the old one.
 - Link: [EMPLOYER OF RECORD GUIDEBOOK](#)

Discussion:

- Desire to view most current draft. Clarification that comment is being taken on old draft for time being.
- Question was raised about the continuation of the EOR role. This determination is TBD.

Topic: Mi Via Self-Directed Standards

- Draft was already opened for public comment and notice was sent out through the MVAC and Consultant groups. The incorrect draft that was initially sent out was corrected. The public comment period has ended.
- Version no longer has appendices.
- Two different versions reflected two different caps on Community Direct Support and Respite services- after comment from external stakeholder groups, those caps have been removed.

- The latest version is in review by DDS leadership, with an anticipated finalization date of late July 2026.
- Any questions should be sent to Elaine Hill (DDS Mi Via Waiver Program Manager) via email at Elaine.Hill@hca.nm.gov.

Topic: Medically Fragile (Med Frag) Waiver Standards & Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Standards

- Both currently in draft stage with DDS leadership.
- Official public comment dates for most recent drafts are TBD.
- Feedback on existing Med Frag Standards (posted on website) can be sent to Shannon Culpepper (DDS Med Frag Waiver Program Manager) via email at Shannon.Culpepper@hca.nm.gov.
- Feedback on existing DD Waiver Standards (posted on website) can be sent to Steven Fernandez (DDS DD Waiver Program Manager) via email at Steven.Fernandez@hca.nm.gov.

Additional Topics of Discussion:

- Comments on the memo regarding timeliness standards for service documentation (24-48 hours).
 - Concern raised about realistic standards for rural communities.
 - Clarification needed on exception process/policy.
 - Question about relation to Division of Health Improvement (DHI) surveys.
 - Comment made on desire for the subcommittee to view DDS policies/operational documents after new draft has been developed, but before broader public comment period, allowing for a committee input first.
 - Comments and questions about upcoming DHI surveys for In-Home Living Supports (IHLS) vendors.
 - Comment on desire to see more information regarding system changes in the Income Support Division (ISD). Clarification provided that this communication will be addressed through separate DDS communication/ appropriate channels, but not through the Policy and Quality Subcommittee.
 - Comment on Turquoise Claims and system challenges. Clarification provided that this communication will be addressed through separate DDS communication/ appropriate channels, but not through the Policy and Quality Subcommittee.
 - Request for presentation on key performance indicators that are provided by DDS to the legislature, including what those indicators are and why are they provided.
 - Request for presentation on internal policies that are related to waivers
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Wrap-Up

- Future meetings will continue with the usual schedule (bi-monthly, 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm). Interim meetings are a possibility.
- The next regularly scheduled sub-committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 from 1:00-3:00 pm.