



## **DDSD Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) Meeting Notes**

**December 14, 2023**

**Approved**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lisa Blue (Co-chair), Daniel Ekman (Co-chair), Dan De Paula, Tracy Perry, Angelique Tafoya, April Spaulding, Jessica Gutierrez, 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, Clara Hargrove, Jessica Guttierrez, Denise Balderas, Elizabeth Montoya, Elisheva Levin, Roel Adamson, Allison Lemons

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Laura Matthews, Michelle Harmon

### **STATE AGENCY NON-VOTING PARTNERS PRESENT**

Amira Rasheed, Alice Liu McCoy, Gay Finlayson

### **STATE AGENCIES PRESENT**

Dr. Acosta, Nicole Hernandez, Evangeline Yanez, Elaine Hill, Jennifer Rodriguez, Victoria Herrera, Renee Valerio, Michael Driskell, Chris Futey, Deanne DeHerrera, Anysia Fernandez, Dominic Jaramillo, Frank Gaona, Shadee Lauer, Teri Cotter, Esperanza Lucero, Corey Roybal, Valerie Valdez, Christina Hill,

### **GUESTS**

Kate Nash, Robert Kegel, Selma Dodson, Steve Wrigley, Chinda Lucoski, Janelle Groover, Gabriella Ramos, Suzannah Jones, Bruce Wetherbee, Winton Wood, Kathleen Holmes Cates, Donna Hubler, Krystal Ortiz, Stevie Bass, Tyler Hutchens, Susan Forbes, Connie Reeb, Cathy Salazar, Dan Taggart, Tallie Tolen, Loriea Randle, Adrienne Smith, S. Conkle, Lindsay Sloan, Scott Good, Amando Montano, Christine Wester, Janene Gray, Jacob Patterson, Jessica Donaldson, Enrique Aguilar, Kristin Hanson

### **ACQ ADMINISTRATOR**

Wendy Corry

### **WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A big welcome to our new BOD members: Denise Balderas, Clara Hardgrove and Elizabeth Montoya!
- The annual orientation for new and current ACQ BOD members will be scheduled in April 2024.
- The ACQ Exec. Comm. will host ACQ Exec. Comm. Listening sessions bi-monthly (the opposite month from the ACQ meetings) to hear and discuss people's concerns/questions, etc. The next Listening session will be Thursday, January 11 at 9:00 am.

## **REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2023**

- Crystal Garcia moved to approve the minutes as written. Roel Adamson 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: DR. ACOSTA**

- The PowerPoint presentation presented to the ACQ is attached with the notes.
- Questions were raised during and after the presentation. Dr. Accosta offered a Question-and-Answer session instead of a presentation at the next ACQ meeting in February.
- ACQ members expressed frustration that questions were not answered. The format for the ACQ is typically a combination of a presentation with questions and answers.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: REP. KATHLEEN CATES**

- Explained legislation she is introducing regarding home modifications to eliminate gross receipts tax as these can be considered a medical prescription.
- Advocating for the budget for home modifications to increase from \$5,000 to \$15,000.
- Rep. Cates has been invited to provide ongoing legislative updates whenever she is available as a standing agenda item,
- The ACQ expressed great appreciation for Rep. Cates advocacy for people with disabilities.

## **ACQ ELECTS NEW ACQ BOD MEMBERS**

- One person applied for each of the open positions. The following slate of candidates was approved unanimously:
1. Three Self-Advocates/Family Members
    - Susan Forbes-Family Member
    - Shana Heath- Self-Advocate
    - Winton Wood- Family Member
  2. One Case Manager
    - Loriessa Randle
  3. One Therapist
    - Jessica Donaldson- Speech Language Pathologist
  4. One Behavior Support Consultant
    - Enrique Aguilar

## **PERSONAL CARE LEGISLATION UPDATE**

- Adrienne Smith provided an overview of the proposed legislation. There has never been a rate study done on Personal Care Services. The proposed legislation requires the new Healthcare Authority Dept. (HCA) to collect annual data on Personal Care Aides (PCA), contract out for a cost study which then values PCA at 150% of minimum wage. It also requires that the HCA request that level of reimbursement in the budget proposal.
- Chinda Lucoski and Donna Hubler family members providing personal care services) provided their personal testimony of caring for family members, both the challenges/stresses of making ends meet financially as well as the accomplishments that can be made when people have the right level of support.

### **DIVISION OF HEALTH IMPROVEMENT (DHI) REPORT: DR. ACOSTA**

- Dr. Acosta presented a PowerPoint which is attached with the notes from the meeting.
- Questions were raised during and after the presentation. Dr. Accosta requested that people submit their questions in writing to the ACQ Administrator/ACQ Exec. Comm. and they will be answered in writing.
- The Division of Health Improvement (DHI) and Adult Protective Services (APS) hotline/intake lines now have a consolidated intake line to make a report at one phone number. The Incident Management Bureau and DDS programs are available to get intakes done. Have web intake form that allows providers and public to make reports.
- Robert Kegal stated the following link is inactive:  
<https://ane.health.state.nm.us/welcome.aspx>
- Shadee Lauer, the current DHI Deputy Dir. is moving into a new position at DOH.
- Staff from DHI present at the meeting provided their contact information.
- ACQ members again voiced their disappointment/frustration that questions were not answered during the presentation.
- It was requested that high level state personnel from DOH, DHI, HSD, etc. be available at the ACQ meetings so questions can be answered in a timely manner.

### **1:15 Standing Committee Updates: Lisa Blue**

- Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC) Update- Denise Balderas (MVAC Rep) and Elaine Hill (DDSD Rep).
- Denise Balderas: Two new members will join the MVAC in January. The committee is seeking a new chair since the current chair will be finishing her term. Great conversations are happening with families who pertinent and relevant questions. MVAC is looking for ideas on how to cultivate leadership within the MVAC with current and future members.
- Eliane Hill: The Mi Via unit team is growing; DDSD has allocated new positions for the Mi Via Waiver unit: four program coordinators and program managers. DDSD has updated and distributed updated rights and responsibilities forms. This includes clarification that a boyfriend or girlfriend of an individual receiving waiver services cannot be a paid provider. NMAC 7.1.14.1. Sexual contact for someone in this role is sexual abuse.
- Information about the Mi Via waiver renewal will be upcoming in 2024.

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**CLOSING**