

## **ACQ Policy and Quality Subcommittee Meeting Summary**

**6/30/2025, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Attendees: Winton Wood, Claudia Rice, Christina Hill, Elana Gonzales, Elisheva Levin, Jaqueline Babbitt, Kate Nash, Valerie Dewbrie, Angelique Tafoya, Tonya Abernathy, Jim Copeland, Chris Leroi, Tracy Perry.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Introductions**

- Announcement: Elana Gonzales, DDSD Research and Policy Analyst, is joining the subcommittee as the new co-facilitator to Winton Wood.

#### **2. Agenda Adjustment**

- Employment First Policy update will be moved to the next meeting. DDSD is still working on updates for the committee's review.

#### **3. Updates from the last meeting**

- The new Medically Fragile Waiver Individual Service Plan template has been approved and is undergoing final review by DDSD leadership and the Medical Assistance Division (MAD). Final release date TBD.
- The Mortality Review Policy has been completed and is in final review with DDSD leadership.
  - i. DDSD thanked the group for the input provided.

#### **4. Presentation on Access Rule/Grievance System (Access Rule Resource sent prior to Meeting)**

- Claudia Rice (Office of Constituent Support Manager) gave an overview of DDSD's plan to implement a grievance system per CMS guidelines.
  - i. The system will be implemented by July 9<sup>th</sup> of 2026.
  - ii. DDSD is continuing to pursue Access Rule compliance. Federal regulations may change. DDSD is prepared to adjust if and where needed.
  - iii. The group gave recommendations on how to ensure system accessibility, including:

- Use of the annual plan updates as a time to assure access to grievance system is reviewed each year
- Use of plain language
- Insertion of QR code or resource onto user-facing annual documents
- Use of e-blasts to disseminate information
- The need to solidify a streamlined, quality process
- DDSD accountability measures
- Use of national comments (gathered until 7/14/25)
- Possible use of provider input

#### 5. Review of DDSD website

- Elana Gonzales gave a reminder of how to navigate DDSD's site and took recommendations for reformatting/ increasing public accessibility on the subcommittee's page.
  - i. A schedule of future meetings will be included on the website.
  - ii. Links to the meetings will be provided consistently.

#### 6. Discussion

- The procedure for DDSD's Provider Rate Study was broached. Joseph Tighe's contact information was provided, as he is the DDSD point of contact for the project.
- The request was made to send documents and resources prior to the meeting as much as possible
- Ad-hoc meetings are a possibility in urgent matters
- SSP Revisions will be communicated through consultant meetings – the Policy & Quality subcommittee will review proposed edits when revision project proceeds

#### 7. Future meeting schedule:

- Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM