

# ACQ Policy and Quality Subcommittee Meeting Summary

2/11/2026, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

---

**Co-Chairs:** Elana Gonzales, Winton Wood (not present)

**Attendees:** Tonya Lynn Abernathy (Project Shield), Frank Villegas (GRU Inc.), Valerie Dewbrie (ENMRSH, Inc.), Cristalina Ford (CNRAG), Johanna Armendariz (CNRAG), Jim Copeland (ADDCP), Cassandra DeCamp (UNM CDD), Clara Hardgrave (Able Inspired OT), Kate Nash (BCBSNM), Tracy Perry (Direct Therapy Services), Angelique Tafoya (Alta Mira NM), Christina Hill (DDSD)

---

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. Introduction – Elana Gonzales

- 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.
- Clarified meeting agenda schedule and how to join the meetings
- Updates from last meeting on prior agenda items:
  - **Mi Via Service and Support Plan (SSP) Revisions**

- The goal of revising the SSP form itself is to make the form more accessible and user-friendly. DDS D received feedback from external stakeholders, waiver recipients, and advocates to inform the revisions thus far. While the form is not yet finalized, DDS D hopes to have the SSP finished in the coming weeks.
- **Employment First Policy**
  - No additional feedback was received by DDS D after presenting a draft to the P&Q sub-committee. The policy has been finalized and disseminated throughout DDS D.
- **Contract Management Policy**
  - DDS D revisions are being continued.
- **Training Compliance Policy**
  - The Training Compliance Policy has been worked on heavily by DDS D since the last P&Q sub-committee meeting. The work has brought up quite a few procedural considerations that DDS D is still finalizing. It is a high priority for the team, but a draft is not yet ready for the subcommittee's review.
  - The team at DDS D is aware that interim subcommittee meetings are an option if the timing is needed.

## 2. **Policy Development and Implementation Process- Elana Gonzales**

- Presentation on the following meeting attachments:
  - Policy Development and Implementation Process (PDF)
  - PDIP ACQ PQ Overview (PDF)
- Clarification provided to the subcommittee that DDS D policies are internal directives and are not published on the HCA website. External stakeholder engagement occurs through the Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) meetings and other stakeholder forums.
- Stakeholder feedback on the policy requested by **February 18th, 2026** to:
  - Elana Gonzales  
Research & Policy Analyst  
(505) 549-4102  
elana.gonzales@hca.nm.gov

## 3. **Wrap-Up- Elana Gonzales**

- Suggestion of topics for DDS D/ next meeting

- Future meetings will continue with the usual schedule (bi-monthly, 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm).
- Interim meetings may be called, if needed.
- The next sub-committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 from 1:00-3:00 pm.