



DDSD Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) Meeting Notes August 12, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Blue (Co-chair), Daniel Ekman Co-chair), Veronica Chavez-Neuman, Lily Martinez, Cathy Salazar, Patrick Anaya, Virginia Lynch, Stevie Bass, Joyce Munoz, Dan De Paula, Tracy Perry, Angelique Tafoya, April Spaulding, Laura Matthews, Jennifer Bartz, Sandy Skaar, Jessica Gutierrez, Christina Barden, Cynthia Chavez, Judy Sena

MEMBERS ABSENT

Allyson Rhatigan, Gabriela Ramos

STATE AGENCY NON-VOTING PARTNERS PRESENT

Alice Liu McCoy

STATE AGENCIES PRESENT

Scott Doan, Marc Kolman, Iris Clevenger, Marie Velasco, Kresta Opperman, Cassandra DeCamp, Victoria Herrera, Margaret Bost, Casey Stone-Romero, Evangeline Yanez, Anysia Fernandez, Chris Futey, Jason Cornwell, Lindsay Sloan, Melanie Buenviaje, Jacob Patterson, Michael Driskell, Kim Carter, Kristy Roybal, Chandelle Chavez

GUESTS

Peggy O'Neill, Lori Steward, Alicia Bernal, Peter Crespin, Brittany Maldonado, Angela Ortega, Adam Zamora, Holly Faulkner, Ampara Mato, Jentry Hinton, Jessica Velarde, Jennifer Rose Stubbs, Roel Adamson, Krystal Ortiz, Robert Kegal, Tim Gardner, Frank Brady, Dan Archuleta, Jackie Gebert, Lisa Mc Niven, Monica Montoya, Norrane Wiggins, Amando Montano, Ike Swetlitz, Ellen Medrano, Jacqueline Mares, Miriam Rivera

ACQ ADMINISTRATOR

Wendy Corry

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder- during ACQ meetings only members, including pending members, are encouraged to speak, guests are welcome to speak during Q and A and Public Comment. The Committees are open to all as a public forum.
- Welcome back to Jason Cornwell as the DDSD Division Dir. and many thanks to Scott Doan for the outstanding job he did as the Interim Dir.
- The ACQ Exec. Comm. met with DDSD senior leadership to discuss some concerns brought to the attention of the Exec. Comm. Follow-up was provided during the Director's report.

- Many thanks to Ginny Lynch for her years of service with the ACQ. She has resigned from Zia Therapy, so she left the ACQ. She has been a strong advocate for people with disabilities and she will be greatly missed.
- Congratulations to our new ACQ Members who have been officially approved by the Governor's Office: Judy Sena Self-Advocate, Cynthia Chavez- Parent, Jessica Gutierrez- Provider, Christina Barden- Provider, Angelique Tafoya- Provider and Stevie Bass- Other Organization
- Still Pending: Elisheva Levin- Self Advocate and April Spaulding- Other Organization
- We now have 6 positions to fill: One person with IDD/family member, 2 providers, 2 self-advocacy organizations and one direct care provider.
- We will be recruiting new members from outside Albuquerque and will vote on new members at our October meeting. Please help us find great candidates and let us know if you are interested! A Notice of Openings will be distributed to all Interested Parties which includes directions on how to apply. Please let Wendy know if you have any questions about this.
- If you have any concerns you want to bring to the attention of the ACQ Exec. Comm. please contact any ACQ Exec. Comm. member (Daniel Ekman, Lisa Blue, Tracy Perry, Marc Kolman or Wendy Corry)

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2021

- Minutes were approved with minor revisions. Lisa moved to approve the minutes. Laura seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- One person made Public Comments at today's meeting.
- Public Comments are recorded through ZOOM and are available through the ACQ website at <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/coco/acq/>

COVID-19 UPDATE/DIRECTOR'S UPDATE- Jason

COVID Update- Scott

- Scott provided the COVID statistics for people receiving waiver services and this is attached with the minutes.
- DDSD urged everyone to stay diligent in COVID-19 safe practices. They strongly encourage people to consider getting the vaccine, but it is a personal choice. Masking guidance has not changed. There is a mask mandate for all staff, and they must wear their mask at all times during their shifts. Only exception is family living providers in their own home.

DDSD: Other Information- Jason

- Jason presented a PowerPoint (see attached) which included information on the American Rescue Plan Act funding recommendations, the PCG rate study process, the new Gross Receipts Tax guidelines, Jackson lawsuit status, etc.
- The Statewide Transition Plan and Final Rule. Purpose of Final Rule is to make sure that people are in integrated settings and getting services in the community. Public Hearing is scheduled for October 12, 2021 and anticipates approval on January 1 of 2022. Gives providers a chance to comply by March of 2022.

DISCUSSION ON PROVIDERS GROSS RECEIPTS: Tracy

- There was a change in GRT paid by for profit providers on July 1. Concerns were raised about the new process: Agencies have always billed on billing location for GRT tax. Now they have to bill where the service is provided. There are 45 different rates in Bernalillo alone. Billing systems cannot bill more than one GRT. Agencies will now have to reach out to billing program and reprogram it which is expensive. Tracy reached out to Tax and Revenue Dept. to use the reasonable estimate clause which was permitted. People's budgets may run out based on having to pay higher GRT. Agencies will have to submit individual invoices for deposits because QuickBooks cannot handle more than one GRT. HSD and DDSD will coordinate with Tracy for possible resolutions.
- For the DD traditional waiver-Following the new GRT changes in law as of July 1 a DDW agency billed a different and higher GRT rate then his original building location GRT rate and HSD did not pay the correct GRT rate it paid the lower GRT rate. This is a systematic issue that needs to be addressed.
- Some Mi via clients will have budget short falls at end of year because of GRT changes.
- The Legislative Health and Human Services Dept will hold a hearing next week, August 17-19. Public comment will be held on Wednesday August 18 public comment at 1:15. Everyone is encouraged to attend (using safe protocols) and let the legislators know what you think about this and other issues of concern such as adequately funding the Waivers and provider pay rates.

MCO PESENTATION DISCUSSION- Melanie

- The MCO's will provide presentations at the October ACQ meeting which will include the following topics: what the MCO doing to outreach members of DD waitlist, how services are accessed through the MCO (medical and community benefits), information on services available for Community Benefits and MCO, high level overview of role and responsibilities of MCOs, information on comprehensive needs assessments for community benefits, what is EPSTD, etc.
- This will be a formal PowerPoint presentation with data slides and concrete information that people can keep and refer back to as needed.

- Please let Wendy know if there is any additional information you would like the MCO's to include in their presentations.

ACQ ORIENTATION UPDATE

- The next ACQ orientation for ACQ BOD members will be conducted sometime after the October ACQ meeting when we vote on new members. This will allow new BOD members to attend.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES:

MI Via Matters-Stevie

- The Mi Via Advisory Committee formed a NM Administrative Code work group to make recommendations to modify the Mi Via section of the NMAC. They had 4 meetings and submitted a 23-page report to HSD. This will be discussed at the August 26 MVAC committee meeting. MVAC will then share the report with the ACQ.

Utilization of CCS small group and CCSI- Casey

- This time is not to be used to attend birthday parties or seasonal gatherings in a day hab facility. Needs to be provided in the community. Behavioral is covered under brief or intermittent time in the facility. Would be up to the team to determine how best to implement the menu of services to give them the support they need

Discussion on possible new Legislative Comm.- Tracy

- It is vital that we all learn how to advocate, what the process is, being up to date on what is going on, etc. Discussed the pros and cons of having this comm. as an ACQ sub-comm. or a free-standing Comm. that Tracy would do independently, including the experience of the Interagency Coordinating Council and the advocacy limitations of a Legislative Comm. connected to a state agency. A committee connected to the ACQ could not advocate as a representative of and speak on behalf of the ACQ. Education and PR would be the primary goal if this is an ACQ comm. Marc will follow up with the Office of General Council on this. Several people are interested in joining.

ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION VISITATION (EVV) UPDATE- Marc, Melanie and Kresta

- HSD is still working with contractors on implementation which was extended to September of 2021. Intensive training is being developed; dates for trainings will be coming out. Listening sessions at the end of July were extremely helpful. The biggest change in phase 2 is that the claim to HSD will now go straight into the Omnicare system. A summary of responses included in the last EVV letter will be distributed very soon. HSD wants to hold listening sessions for self-directed vendor agencies; most likely will be near the end of August. DDS is looking into how to setup monitoring which will hopefully improve the claims process and reduce exceptions.
- A concern was expressed at the way that the mobile app is setup. When clocking in, the person has access to all names and data of who is receiving services. Since this app is only for people within the agency this is not considered a violation. Agencies have the choice of using the mobile app, it is not required.

- In phase 1, there was a 20-hour max on submission for hours with Mi Via and respite; in phase 2 this will change it to 24 hours.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS-

- With the changes in the Delta Variant and surge, does DDSD anticipate any letter of direction on mask wearing, social distancing? There may be a need to reinforce the mask mandate. Do not anticipate eliminating that requirement.
- What is the follow-up status of HSD following up with Comagine regarding use of outdated Vineland Form? HSD talked with Comagine and they will be moving to Vineland Version 3 effective January 2022.

POSITIVE STORIES:

- Numerous positive stories were shared including the above regarding Comagine and the Vineland.
- HSD and DDSD is one of 3 states chosen nationally to do a presentation for the national CMS meeting, highlighting the great work NM did with the Know Your Rights campaign.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Marc will follow up with the Office of General Council regarding the possibility of creating an ACQ Legislative Education and PR committee.
- Casey is collecting employment success stories for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October. They will be featured on DOH Social Media. Please contact me at casey.stone-romero@state.nm.us or 505-467-9272 for more info.
- If there is any additional information you would like the MCO's to include in their presentations in October, please let Wendy know.
- A request was made for DDSD to send something out to reinforce the requirement for professionals to wear a mask. DDSD agreed.
- A request was made for a copy of the level of care report from Comagine. HSD will send to Wendy to distribute.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm

The next ACQ meeting will be Thursday, October 14, 2021