



ACQ August 13, 2020 ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Blue, Daniel Ekman, Veronica Chavez-Neuman, Lily Martinez, Catherine Salazar, Patrick Anaya, Virginia Lynch, Christina Barden, Stevie Bass, Joyce Munoz, Allyson Rhatigan, Sandy Skaar, Kathleen Holmes Cates, Dan De Paula, Gabriela Ramos, Tracy Perry, Angelique Tafoya, Sandra Woodward, April Spaulding

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Taylor, Laura Matthews, Jerry Bartley, Walt Benson

STATE AGENCY NON-VOTING PARTNERS PRESENT

Tanya Baker-McCue, Brad Hill, Amira Rasheed, Tracy Agiovlasis, Alice Liu McCoy

STATE AGENCIES PRESENT

Scott Doan, Marc Kolman, Chris Futey, Teresa Larson, Iris Clevenger, Deb Vering, Marie Velasco, Kresta Opperman, Cassandra DeCamp, Christina Hill, Victoria Herrera, Jennifer Roth, Daniel Lucero, Evangeline Yanez, Anyisia Fernandez

GUESTS

Wendy Corry, Lori Steward, Erika, Lecie McNees, Lourdes Vizcarra Wurzel, Peter Cubra, Linnea Forsythe

WELCOME

- Lisa Blue and Daniel Ekman, new Co-Chairs welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- ACQ members and guests introduced themselves through the chat box.
- Marc Kolman thanked Patrick Anaya, Lecie McNees, Kathleen Holmes Coates and Suzanne Pope for their outstanding service to the ACQ and also introduced Wendy Corry as the new DDSD ACQ Administrator.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY, APRIL AND JUNE

- Minutes were approved with minor revisions. Cathy Salazar made the motion to approve and Joyce Munoz seconded.

COVID-19 UPDATE/DIRECTOR'S UPDATE- Scott Doan

COVID Update

- Scott Doan thanked everyone for their continued participation and adherence to DDSD directives.
- DDSD will not be mandating surveillance testing for staff or waiver participants.
- DDSD continues to work with Advocacy Partners to develop ongoing re-opening guidance. 5 meetings have been conducted.
- Mandatory internet services for homes was implemented July 1, 2020. Access to Internet services has been added as a survey question for DHI and DHI is reporting good compliance.
- A request to CMS to continue retainer payments for day service providers was denied. Effective July 1, 2020 retainer payments were discontinued.
- Visitation guidelines for Supported Living and Intensive Home (not Family Living) became effective August 1, 2020.
- Therapists and Behavior Support Consultants now have the option of in-person visits, virtual visits or a hybrid in agreement with the individual, family and/or guardian.
- 36 people in the waiver system have tested positive with COVID 19 (29 people on the traditional DD Waiver and 7 on Mi Via). Eight people on the waivers have died with complications due to COVID 19 (7 people on the traditional DD Waiver and 1 person on Mi Via).

. Non COVID Update

- The new Supports Waiver was recently approved by CMS.
- DD Waiver allocations are continuing in the midst of the Pandemic.
- The Medically Fragile Waiver Amendment was recently approved.
- The Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program was transitioned to the new Early Childhood Education and Care Dept. (ECECD) effective July 1, 2020.
- The Mi Via and DD Waiver Amendment Renewals are in process.
- We are in the 3rd round of Appendix K revisions which includes a temporary rate increase to allow for teleservices.
- Jackson Class Update- DDSD has disengaged 6 out of the 10 required items. The remaining items are 1) the Mortality Review Comm. policy 2) overall health of Jackson class members 3) the provider application and 4) the Individual Quality Review (IQR)
- The Outdoor Visitation Memo is for supported and intensive medical living, not family living or independent living

SUPPORTS WAIVER UPDATE- Jennifer Roth and Victoria Herrera

- The Supports Waiver was approved.
- DDSD and HSD reviewed the documents distributed to all ACQ interested parties.
- DDSD and HSD offered to convene a Supports Waiver Advisory Comm. if requested by the ACQ members.
- HSD and DOH sent a joint letter to everyone who will be offered the Supports Waiver that includes details on how community benefits compare to the Supports Waiver.

DECISION CONSULTATION FORM UPDATE- DANIEL LUCERO

- DHI received 3 written responses to their request for feedback on the draft Decision Consultation Form.

- This document is used when an individual or guardian chooses to not follow medical advice.
- The individual/guardian has every right to make their own healthcare decisions, this form is a method to document this decision.
- Target date to finalize the Decision Consultation Form is Sept. 2020.
- Power of Attorney will be recognized if active, lawful and applies to healthcare decisions

NOMINATING COMM UPDATE- Daniel Ekman

- The Nominating Comm. is not currently active.
- The new ACQ co-chairs request assistance in selecting 2 ACQ members-at-large to participate in the ACQ Exec. team.
- Therefore, the Nominating Comm. will become active and the ACQ co-chairs are looking for people interested in joining this committee. Please let Lisa, Daniel, Marc or Wendy know if you would like to participate in the Nominating Comm.

DD WAIVER UPDATE- Marie Velasco

- Kresta Opperman was introduced as the new HSD DD Waiver program manager
- Regional Virtual Town Halls on the DD Waiver Renewal will be hosted in Sept. 2020. The main topic for town halls is programmatic changes. Pre-registration is encouraged to ensure people have access to the documents.
- Oct. 2020 will begin the Tribal Notification process
- The public comment period will begin in Nov. 2020 followed by Public Hearings
- The target date to submit the DD Waiver Renewal Application is Feb. 2021

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Quality- Chris Futey

- The Policy and Quality Comm. is reviewing training for the long-term goal of Direct Service Professional (DSP) certification.
- Existing DDS training are being reviewed to potentially incorporate into these core competencies.
- Competency documents and library are available
- Cost to provider and tiered rates come up as issues
- Recommendation of group is to use what we have for trainings rather than contract out for it.
- DDS is researching fees for the trainings
- The Committee is revising the Quality Assurance chapter of the DD Waiver Standards to use therapy tool as a foundation for provider QA process.
- The committee is exploring avenues to provide consistency in reporting.
- Revising the therapy tool to meet needs of provider agencies
- Everyone is welcome to participate in this committee and provide input.

Employment & Community Inclusion

- A written report was provided from this committee, there are no further updates.

Wait List- Cassandra DeCamp

- The data sheet provided to all ACQ interested parties was reviewed including allocation numbers.
- The DDS Intake and Eligibility Bureau is working on getting a handful of people from FY 20 into service.
- Funding cuts were made to the \$7.5 million they received due to the special session.
- A Support Waiver Allocation letter offering the Supports Waiver to 1000 people currently on the Wait list will be sent on Aug. 14. Anyone with a registration date prior to Aug. 20, 2010 should receive a Supports Waiver Allocation letter.
- The revised DD definition, which will move toward the national standard, is still in process. DDS had a meeting with DRNM about the new definition. Approximately 190 people are in this special status. The DD definition is being revised regarding related conditions; moving more towards a functional definition
- Intake and Eligibility workers are available by phone, email etc to assist as needed throughout the Pandemic. They are also available to do trainings on the DD Waiver.
- Parents Reaching Out (PRO) is also offering trainings on the various waivers.
- There was a concern raised from the group regarding the effectiveness of HSD/ISD to handle the complexities involved with the Medically Fragile Waiver and transferring to different waivers. HSD will follow up on this concern. Please contact Kresta Opperman or Lori Steward with any specific concerns.
- An ongoing concern regarding the status of people on the Wait List receiving Community Benefits was stated. A request for data on the number of people on the Wait List who are receiving Community Benefits was made to review any changes in this issue in the last 18 months. HSD offered to provide a presentation to address this concern at the next ACQ meeting. Due to the length of time this has been an issue, it was requested that data be made available before the next ACQ meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medically Fragile Family Advisory Board (FAB)- Lorie Steward

- The Medically Fragile Waiver Amendment was approved and became effective July 1, 2020.
- The Family Advisory Board has chosen Jennifer Bartz as their ACQ representative. Her application to the ACQ is currently with the Governor's Office.
- This committee meets monthly with an average of 25-30 participants
- A training on the Supports Waiver was provided during their July meeting.
- They have also received a presentation from National Security and Mobility.

Mi Via Advisory Council (MVAC)- Stevie Bass

- MVAC has identified a current need to temporarily allow staff to work more than 40 hours a week due to the extreme pressures of COVID 19. They will present written recommendations to the state soon.
- Questions and concerns continue about Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) due to the inconsistent availability to workers of good cell-phone connection and internet capability. This is scheduled to be implemented on Jan. 1, 2021.

- DDSD provided an update on EVV, which is required under the 21st Century Cures Act. EVV uses 5 types of data: Date, time, location, individual receiving service and individual providing service. Services can accommodate change of schedule and change of location. It is designed to be used with a change in technology.
- HSD will soon be announcing the procurement of the vendor who will be working to implement EVV in NM. EVV will be required for specific services depending on the waiver. DDSD will continue to provide updates to the ACQ on EVV.

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)- April Spaulding

- The ICC held their first virtual meeting in June.
- The Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program was transitioned to the new Early Childhood Education and Care Dept. (ECECD) effective July 1, 2020.
- All FIT services have now moved to Tele-health.
- Parents feedback to Tele-Health is mixed. Broadband access is an issue. Coaching and guiding parent is part of the model
- The FIT providers have received a rate increase.
- FIT has aligned standards with HSD
- The ICC is working with the FIT program regarding the transition to in person services.

CONCERNS

- A concern was raised regarding the effectiveness of the Mi Via Waiver to adequately “meet the needs of people with severe disabilities, particularly people with high medical complexity needs and people with high behavioral/mental health needs”.
- DDSD responded that they are well aware of this concern and have been working closely with the DOH Dep. Sec to address these concerns, including possible revisions to the Mi Via Waiver for increased monitoring. Additional DDSD oversight and face-to face visits are also options being explored.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- All public comments were recorded through ZOOM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

The next ACQ meeting will be Thursday, October 8, 2020.