ACQ Committee Meeting Summary Notes
April 10, 2025
9:00 AM to 11:45 AM

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43 Participants

ACQ Executive Committee Attendees: Scott Doan, *Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD),* Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, Co-Chair, ACQ Executive Committee, *Advocate and Nurse Educator,* Tracy Perry, *Co-Chair, ACQ Executive Committee and CEO, Direct Therapy Services,* Lisa Blue, *Special Education Consultant,* Kelley Harvey, *ACQ Administrator*

Agenda/Discussion

1. Welcome and announcements: Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, ACQ Co-Chair
2. Review and request approval for minutes from February 20, 2025 ACQ Meeting and March 13, 2025 Listening Session, Reminder of ACQ Membership Flyer: Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, ACQ Co-Chair
3. Public Comment: Tracy Perry, ACQ Executive Committee Member
4. DDSD Director's Report: Jennifer Rodriguez, Director, DDSD
5. Representative Kathleen Cates
6. April 11, 2025 Deadline for Governor to Act on Bills
7. ACQ Membership Openings: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair
8. Discussion on ACQ sub-committees: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair
9. Standing Committee Updates: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair
10. Public Comment: Lisa Blue, ACQ Executive Committee Member
11. Closing: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair

Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome and announcements: Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, ACQ Co-Chair**

2. **Review and request approval for minutes from February 20, 2025 ACQ Meeting and March 13, 2025 Listening Session, Reminder of ACQ Membership Flyer: Siri Guru Nam Khalsa, ACQ Co-Chair**
    a. Approval of February 20, 2025 ACQ Meeting Minutes, no edits
    b. Approval of March 13, 2025 Listening Session Minutes, no edits

3. **Public Comment: Tracy Perry, ACQ Executive Committee Member**
    a. Comment 1: As an intermediate care facility for adults with intellectual disabilities, with the recent federal changes and tariffs, we are finding the replacement of vans for transportation for our clients has been an increase in prices over 10-12%. Additionally, within the last two weeks, our contractors for plumbing have been increasing their prices by 10% and may continue to rise. This is and

has always been a concern, particularly to maintain our operations, despite the rates being set for three years – the rates are unstable and so is the market. I am wondering if the ACQ can advocate with the Governor's office to address these issues during the special session because these federal changes are impacting us, which will continue to impact if there are pauses or no pauses. We are getting nervous about our ability to continue to maintain operations.

b. Comment #2: I want to follow up on comment #1, the association related what was said to have some legislation in the recent legislative session was in fact tabled. The ACQ is an advisory council to the Health Care Authority. I would suggest the ACQ Executive Committee take this up to the governor's schedule as soon as possible to talk about the status of the whole DD system. We have four waivers that are having issues and the ACQ is to advise on the DD issues, which if the ACQ Executive Committee was to schedule to talk with the Governor about where we are and what is going on…New Mexico is not in this alone. Every State is having similar issues and nobody knows what is going to happen with Medicaid. However, regardless of what happens with Medicaid, we have funding issues in New Mexico that have to be addressed before we find ourselves in a legal situation or litigation.
c. Comment #3: I am an ACQ Board Member and I represent the providers. I am currently traveling and there may be parts of travel that are sketchy and I may cut out. I want to discuss House Bill 357, which is on Gross Receipts Tax being removed from the Mi Via Waiver Recipient Budgets. From the Provider perspective, specifically from the Consultant Agency perspective, we would like to collaboratively work with the Health Care Authority to find a way to implement this and to understand what this would look like. As provider agencies who pay Gross Receipts Tax, we also have an interest in this and request this collaboration because we have a responsibility in calculating that on the Mi Via Waiver Participants Budgets and with the provider agencies who pay Gross Receipts Tax to ensure a smooth transition and change for all participants who use and receive services.
d. Comment #4: ACQ Executive Member, M. Siri GuruNam Khalsa, offered that if there are any other people who would like to make a comment or bring information on how what's happening at the federal level is impacting their particular agency individual and that, she is willing to take notes of specifics and draft a letter to the Governor and to the Governor's other entities to be proactive.
e. Comment #5, related to comment #4, I appreciate you being proactive about this. There are messes, but the budget for the Federal Fiscal year from October to September is likely to not be worked out until the end of September. I think there are proposals, unspecifically, but will substantially impact Medicaid and we will not know until it happens.
f. Comment #6 is related to comment #4 and #5, the only concern I have about bringing solid information is that it's unreliable because it changes day by day, hour by hour, that is the problem we are up against. The example of this, the tariffs are changing, but as of recently, the tariffs for China went back down for

the next 90-days.

g. Comment #7 is response to comment #6, it is all speculative, which is my point and my concern that we at least do not start talking about the “what ifs” then what-ifs become reality and then it is too late to plan. It may become a slash and burn to save money over here or put the money here…that sort of thing. I would feel more comfortable if we were guaranteed that issues being discussed by the Health Care Authority, include stakeholders so everyone is aligned and at least we know what to expect…the “what ifs” have some comfortability.
h. Comment #8, what is happening at the Federal level is a moving target, but what we have noticed in discussions with Legislative Federal Committee (LFC) staff, including administration, the Federal programs that could be affected by reductions in what the Federal government has offered in the past, are going to impact provider agencies and State Government positions, particularly Public Education Department (PED), Department of Health (DOH), Health Care Authority (HCA) because these agencies have federally funded positions. I would recommend when you meet with the LFC staff and director, to ask what are you doing to anticipate the downturn before legislators place those resources in new programs. There should be an effort to make sure the programs that are existing already are going to have adequate funds if there will be a bailout by the Feds. The executives owe it to you as an organization to be upfront in their plans and identifying positions that could be required a Reduction in Force (RIF). There are reports on these positions, but the positions are not identified by which are funded by Federal or compensated by Federal funds or matched by Federal funds, and this may become a big issue. Instead of trying to meet with the Governor, also try to meet with the LFC staff too, including the two chairs from the House and Senate side.

4. DDSD Director’s Report: Jennifer Rodriguez, Director, DDSD

a. Updates happening at DDSD:
    i. New Deputy Director, Melanie Buenviaje. She was recently part of the Medical Assistance Division, Fair Hearing Bureau and prior to that, Exempt Services Bureau. She has been working in the field of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD), specifically with the waiver programs, State General Fund Program, and Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review Program (PASSR), and many other things at DDSD. Her first start date was April 7th, 2025.
    ii. Completed legislative session and as a recap, here are the bills that DDSD specifically had been involved with and we will work to implement any of the impacts that DDSD specifically will be involved with or need to make some adjustments around due to this past legislation.
        1. House Bill 42, which was related to Medicaid reimbursement rates, did not pass.
        2. House Bill 55, which was for personal care services in Medicaid, did pass.
        3. House Bill 149, which was Supportive Decision Making. It was included on Senate Bill 535, which did pass, but not as a standalone House Bill 149

4. And other bills DDSD was co-analysts on were:
    a. House Bill 131, was a bill that was sponsored by Division of Health Improvement, and the Bill was about the caregiver background checks, did pass.
    b. House Bill 269, Health Care Authority, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), did pass.
    c. House Bill 357, Mi Via Waiver Program Gross Receipts Taxes, did pass.

iii. Advocacy Partner's Meeting was held on April 1st, 2025. This is the second advocacy meeting held in a hybrid setting of in-person and virtual. It is an opportunity to meet and hear from DDSD leadership and an interactive/collaborative forum to review commitments DDSD made about a year ago. These meetings will be held quarterly as a check-in and means to hold ourselves accountable for working with all, the system at large and to address our commitments to make improvements across the IDD system in New Mexico. At each meeting, we take two to three topic areas to discuss further on, share some information, and then hear back from our stakeholders. This is to collaboratively try to address issues in our system and make improvements.
    1. The three main topics from the recent meeting were:
        a. Increasing agency communication across multiple State divisions or other organizations
            i. Other forms of communication were related to our website. We've had a lot of requests for an interactive chat feature like a chat box or a chat bot or a FAQ list.
                1. Example, Yes New Mexico (Yes.NM.GOV) The website is used for our waiver recipients that must annually recertify or apply for Medicaid, all Medicaid benefits. Yes New Mexico does have a chat box feature, where you can get real live time answers to questions. DDSD is currently working with the HCA leadership that manages that Yes New Mexico website to make sure we include information that might be relevant to you or maybe frequently seeking.
                2. We plan to implement an AI chat with generated answers, AI chat bot that is responsive and a live-person to respond.
                3. Request from Jennifer Rodriguez, please submit any helpful topics or responses via email at jennifer.rodriguez@hca.nm.gov:
                4. What common questions would you like to see answered through a Chat box on the website?
                    a. What common questions would you like to see answered through a Chat box on the website?
                    b. What would a FAQ on the DDSD

look like and what do you want to see there?
c. What process-related checklists or other information would you like to see in an “easy” checklist format?
d. What resources do you want information on that DDSD does not manage and what exactly do you want? Resources, links, contact people, etc?

ii. The other part of this was we've had some suggestions on simplifying processes that would be outward facing our website. Creating and showing an X-step process on how to do XYZ to connect people with the resources and “how-to” in a checklist form to help create more ease and efficiency for a user.

b. We had the Director of the New Mexico Income Support Division (ISD) attend and she spoke about the current situation at ISD on a variety of Medicaid benefits, but specifically on eligibility for our waiver programs. This included eligibility issues, the communications issues related to ISD, and a Q&A about different ways or what other options to improve our communications with ISD.
c. DDSD outreach and being part of the solution to improve our direct support professional workforce crisis. We need more direct support professionals because they are the critical role within our system. DDSD does not hire direct support professionals directly and we contract with provider agencies who employ our direct support professional workforce. Our plan is to directly support professional summits or rapid hiring events as a partnership of DDSD with the New Mexico Caregiver Coalition. DDSD is asking various provider agencies to host us across the State for hiring events. We plan to do a brief presentation from the perspective of DDSD i.e. what are our waivers, how our DSP is utilized within our waivers, what our training expectations are and what are the requirements. The first event will be occurring in June located in Alamogordo, NM.

i. New Mexico Caregivers Coalition would also like to present and discuss what it means to be a direct support professional, expectations for benefits of wages, coverage, hours, flexibility, and rewards. Followed by conducting interviews with potential to hire on the spot or giving more specific information toward agencies and needs.

iv. DDSD Quarterly Newsletter was published this week. You’ll find information on the latest and greatest of all the initiatives and things happening at DDSD.

1. I want to highlight on page 2 of the newsletter, DDSD's efforts to improve communication and get you the information you need, we have received five positions from the Health Care Authority Medical Assistance Division and converted those positions into DDSD positions. There are all the Medicaid positions that work with our waiver programs and our intermediate care facilities and our State General Fund programs. Four of these positions have been filled with 1 position vacant. We have access to data and information, we have direct oversight and management of these positions.

v. We will continue our efforts to increase our provider capacity. We need a variety of different provider types in different areas of our State for different service types. We have started our Social Media campaign to showcase a series of video testimonials for different professionals across our system to promote what we do within our waiver system within the IDD system in New Mexico, including the meaningful impact and critical work we do.

vi. Last request from Jennifer, she would like to create a linking system for everyone, including providers, waiver recipients and their families to connect everyone to resources that DDSD does not manage.

vii. Questions for Jennifer:

1. The DDSD Newsletter has some issues with the typeface and it's hard to read, will this be updated?
    a. Answer: Yes, it will be corrected and re-published.
2. How can people receive the DDSD Newsletter?
    a. Answer: The list you want to sign up for is called "DDSD Interested Parties". We send out communication first and middle of the month each month. To be added to the list, please contact Tammy Barth, Provider Enrollment and Relations Unit Manager via email tammy.barth@hca.nm.gov.

5. Representative Kathleen Cates

a. Legislative update on bills I carried or I supported:

i. House Bill 42: Related to the State Rate Study that recommended rate increases in 2022, but there was only a certain amount to meet those rate increase changes. The funding request was put in and it was funded. The Appropriations Committee expressed it will watch to ensure it is funded properly and not absorbed in HCA.

ii. House Bill 41: It has made it to the House floor. It's asking for State agencies to install adult changing hydraulic adult changing tables in government buildings or public buildings. This program is being housed in the Department of Tourism because the idea is to start installing and then have a map to help those plan trips to help increase accessibility around the State.

iii. House Bill 120: This bill has not been signed by the governor yet and I'll need your help to email or phone call the governor's office. This bill is about having trouble accessing a State building or State website and to establish a centralized reporting coordinator and system. It would also require the coordinator to provide an annual report to the office to determine what accessibility issues are and notify GSA of how to make it

accessible to notify the visitor on how it is accessible.

iv. House Bill 131: Was signed and the objective was to expand on this because currently only five criminal convictions or pending charges would disqualify an individual as a direct care provider. This is to help with the safety and clarify a clear appeals process. The appeals process is to help those who had a conviction that was years ago and they have made different decisions to improve their lift so this would not automatically disqualify him or her.

v. House Bill 357: Was signed and Tracy Perry was the lead on this. The bill will provide equitable services if you're a Mi Via provider or for profit provider. Currently, they are taking the State tax out of your budget. Example, if somebody was selecting a nonprofit provider they were getting $85,000 worth of services versus someone who was picking for a for-profit was getting around $78,000 because they had to spend the rest on the GRT. This bill put the GRT, the State tax on top of the budget to have a more equitable healthcare between profit and nonprofit.

vi. House Bill 233: Medicaid was not paying for the oxygen treatment for diabetic individuals' with foot ulcers and this bill will help those individuals get that treatment. It was signed into law by the Governor.

vii. Senate Bill 88 was passed and signed. It establishes a trust fund to help support the Medicaid program in future years.

viii. Other bills that have not been signed are House bill 21, 120, and 269.

ix. Link shared on information for bills: https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/BillFinder/Governor_Actions and link to contact Governor: https://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact-the-governor/

b. Questions for Kathleen:

i. Question 1: As a parent of an adult that I still have on my employee insurance, what I'm finding is that the ability for transferability to keep him on insurance from one State entity to the next is challenging. I'm wondering if a bill needs to be developed in order to help parents keep their adults on their employee insurance after the age of 26. The 2006 law states that any parent with a child with a developmental intellectual disability or a mental health condition can continue covering their individual through the age of 26. So if they stay in one setting, even if they have Medicaid. What I'm finding is that to transfer from us like the state of New Mexico to the New Mexico Public School Authority that they will not allow that transferability of a parent to continue covering their child.

1. Answer: I am going to restate your question to make sure I understand, "You want to expand the age of keeping a child over the age of 26 or a child with a disability?" What I do know is that Albuquerque Public Schools, that's funded through a PED and the universities have different funding streams So all parents can put their children, despite disability, on their health insurance up to age 26. Whether I work at Intel or work for the university, whether my child has a disability or not. You want it to be expanded past the age of 26 – let's work on that bill because it could be part of New Mexico. However, if you leave the state, now we have to talk about the Federal government, which requires it to be taken at the Federal level.

ii. Question #2: Did you say House Bill 121 was passed…because I am experiencing issues with someone yelling at me. I've been talking to my case manager and trying to find a solution.
    1. Answer: Let's get your contact information and we can take this off-line to help you with solving this. We want to thank you for letting us know as we always want to make sure that you feel safe.
        a. Scott Doan confirmed we have contact information and we will have someone reach out to commenter directing to discuss concerns around the staff.
iii. Question #3: The Governor signed House Bill 71, which was the expansion of the Early Childhood Ability for the trust fund to tap into that cap. I am curious if there was so much money in the budget and yet the budget has not been signed, have you heard if there are any complications to signing the budget and ensuring those funds are distributed?
    1. Answer: I have not heard any complications and I have only heard positive remarks.

6. April 11, 2025 Deadline for Governor to Act on Bills

a. This topic was covered by Jennifer Rodriguez and Kathleen Cates portion, please reference updates in those sections.

7. ACQ Membership Openings: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair

a. Interest in ACQ Provider Membership, Frank Villegas
    i. Frank Villegas has been with Grace Requires Understanding (GRU) for 10 years and is currently the executive director. The focus of GRU is on family living services. They do not provide supported living services. Additionally, he was a director for a nonprofit out of the state of Michigan that helped as a supportive living agency. Before being in this field, he was in the Corporate Field and ran a personnel company that provided professional services for staffing in Las Cruces. On a personal level, Frank had a cousin in the IDD Community and would volunteer in some of the committees and advocate. In 2014, he made the decision to make this a career path. A partner and him started a small organization called Safe Spaces that helps provide enrichment seminars to various entities within New Mexico (example, Department of Labor)
    ii. Frank Villegas received unanimous approval for the vacancy of ACQ Provider Membership
    iii. Scott Doan requested for Frank to submit information and it will be forwarded to the Governor's office. The Governor's office will contact and start the process for approval.
b. ACQ currently has two open memberships: one for behavioral support and one self-advocacy membership. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please share the ACQ Executive contact information.
c. Questions for Scott Doan on this:
    i. Question #1: If someone is deciding to commit and they are interested, could you give a breakdown of the process of how they could proceed?
        1. Answer: If they're interested in becoming an ACQ board member, the first step is to reach out to one of the ACQ executive

committee members. Send us your information and we will discuss it at the next ACQ executive committee and then at the next full ACQ, which is in June, you will need to attend and provide a background on yourself and let us know why you're interested in ACQ. From there we will go to a vote and if ACQ approves, the next step is sending your information to the Governor's office who will reach out to complete their process to get the official appointment. This is a three-year term and you'll need to be voted for re-appointment.

ii. Question #2: Could the individual hold a second appointed position by the Governor to a different council?
    1. Answer: Yes, we have people who are board members for other councils who are here at this meeting. For example we have ACQ Board Members who are also ICC Board Members. So yes, you can do both.

iii. Question #3: Is there a stipend involved?
    ~~1.~~ Answer: ACQ board members are entitled to a stipend.

iv. Question #4: I haven't been paid yet, could you look into this?
    1. Answer: Yes, I will work with Kelley on this. There is a delay in issuing stipends and we will follow up to collect the information we need.

8. Discussion on ACQ sub-committees: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair

a. The Rate Study committee is still in active procurement and we cannot discuss further. We will continue to keep this topic on future agendas and form that committee when the time is appropriate.

9. Standing Committee Updates: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair

a. ACQ By Laws: Daniel Ekman Daniel.Ekman@ddc.nm.gov
    i. Unable to attend ACQ Meeting on 4/10/2025

b. Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC): April Spaulding aprils@abrazos.org
    i. ICC did a joint panel with the IDEA panel. It went well and was a start to realign as partners. We think it will prove to be a very beneficial relationship.
    ii. ICC wrapped up their request for application for early intervention and what we would call contracts happened at the same time. The field has responded to those RFAs. So we will see who receives contracts moving forward to provide early intervention services for the state.
    iii. The next ICC meeting is tomorrow, 4/11/2025.
    iv. ICC had great success at the legislative session with House Bill 71 being approved, which allows ECECD's cap on the Early Childhood Trust Fund to go from 250 million to 500 million. There were a lot of amendments with that bill. However, what that allows the department to do is increase the rates for early intervention. We did get the approval for 10 million, which will increase our rates to what was promised to us for fiscal year 25. We also received a supplemental, which allows the State to go back and pay us those promised rates dating back to February 1st. While providers are

not made fully whole, we're thankful to receive about half of the year's worth of funds to support the services.

v. Additional funds we received was the $5 million Fed match to provide our services and a $2 million training for early intervention. We don't know what the department's intent is with that yet, but will keep you all posted. And then the department did receive a $5 million supplemental to cover the significant increase of children that we're seeing coming into our State that have needs.

vi. We want to thank you and to anybody who advocated for those funds. I know having the support of this larger group has been very beneficial to us.

c. Mi Via Advisory Committee: Tim Gardner tgardner@drnm.org

i. MVAC has not met since the last ACQ meeting of February 20, 2025.

ii. Question: Is there a renewed delay in the approval process?

1. Answer from Scott Doan: I have not heard of any process changes. There were some delays related to RFIs and approval of budgets. I received a few emails a couple days ago from some constituents very concerned that the budget renewals hadn't gone through. We're able to work with them individually and get them approved fairly quickly. If there is someone having issues in terms of approval, please reach out to me directly.
2. Additional answer provided by ACQ member: Provide some clarity with budgets and additional funding there are two things that were going on there. The first involves additional funding as a whole, and this is something the Self-Directed Provider Association has talked about. There has been a change and a memo was released last year back in July that said that for additional funding, supporting documentation from a provider, whether it be a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, doctor had to be provided annually versus historically this was done on a different type of cycle. Other challenges that Mi Via recipients and consultant agencies have encountered is that we're seeing things are going out for requests for information and sometimes the documentation that's been requested to support the additional funding is very sufficient. Some of the challenges that we're having is that it's taking quite a while, it's taking quite a bit of information to fulfill that request, and it's a change historically from what we've seen. So there are some other issues it's creating. The other one relates to a memo that was released in late January that talks about an increase in the individual budgetary allotment. That particular memo, the Self-Directed Provider Association had all the consultant agencies submit budget revisions or annual budgets or new budgets for people who are trying to get on the program.

They were paused, some for as long as over a month and we contacted the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division and requested their guidance in the form of a letter of directions so those budgets could get moving again. Those are moving so that is resolved.

iii. Question: MVAC stipends have come up within MVAC as well, could there be clarity provided on this?
    1. Answer from Scott Doan: In terms of MVAC stipends, I don't know the MVAC bylaws specifically, so I don't know. The question has come up here at the ACQ on whether MVAC members who attend the ACQ can receive a stipend from the ACQ. That's not currently in the ACQ bylaws. Several times I have circled back with the MVAC asking them if they wanted to make a formal recommendation to the ACQ and the Executive Committee to receive a stipend for this meeting to please do so. We have not yet received that. We would need the request in writing with an estimate of costs due to the contract.
    2. Additional comment made from ACQ member: Recommend having an Executive Committee universal discussion on the seven standing committees for the ACQ because if you approve one, you may have to approve all.

d. Medically Fragile Waiver Family Advisory Board (FAB): Ann Marie Parmenter AMParmenter@salud.unm.edu
    i. FAB met on March 4th and the primary discussion was in the upcoming MedFarge waiver renewal in 2026 and discussing a review of services the families would like to remain and any of those would like to add.
    ii. Another FAB meeting on April 1st, an attorney came and spoke with the FAB regarding accounts and trusts.
    iii. The next FAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th at 530PM via Zoom.

e. Mi Vía Vendor Stakeholders: Angelique Tafoya atafoya@altamiranm.org
    i. Discussions had about the GRT and the Mi Via budget. With the GRT bill recently passed and sign, there won't be any further discussion on this and will wait and see.
    ii. The CSV file and other reports we still have not been able to access.
    iii. Update pending, but with the Conduit and Focus system, the plan is to use a CSV file for us to upload our billing instead of manually inputting each date of service into the Focus system. We plan to have a meeting with Conduit to get that moving.
f. ACQ Policy and Quality: Claudia Rice claudia.rice@hca.nm.gov
    i. Claudia Rice has been promoted and Winton Wood will be providing an update moving forward. Christina Hill, Deputy Bureau Chief, Community

Programs Bureau will serve as co-chair, appoint a new person for Claudia's role.

ii. The subcommittee met yesterday, 4/9/2025 and we went over the DDSD Mortality Review Policy final draft. There are things that still need to be worked out on that draft.

iii. We also reviewed the Medically Fragile Waiver ISP, the new ISP that they are developing and we also covered the ISP instructions, but we didn't have enough time to get everything done.

iv. We plan to send our input to DDSD next week and our next meeting is in about two months, but no set date.

g. Youth Supported Living Development Committee: Gay Finlayson gfinlayson@salud.unm.edu

i. We met in February 2025, and we requested the ACQ leadership to go to DDSD leadership to see if we could get a working group of stakeholders who had decision making power and power to develop something related to the rejection of the first proposal DDSD had recommended that we talk to CYFD. I feel confident that we got confirmation from CYFD that they do not have the funding for people in these situations who are not in State custody. Lisa Blue is working on approaching leadership.

h. Question for the subcommittees: Could we get the date or next date of your upcoming meetings, along with a contact person and Zoom link so we can share this information with others?

i. Action item: ACQ Administrator can look into this and formulate a process.

10. Public Comment: Lisa Blue, ACQ Executive Committee Member

a. Comment #1: As of 10:23 AM MST, the House of Representatives passed the Budget Concurrent Resolution. The budget process is a five-step process. The passing of the Budget Concurrent Resolution is step one. They now have the language in the budget development process and it's onto Congress.

b. Comment #2: I want to say how pleased I am that the Governor signed the no behavioral health co-pays. It's a stressful situation for those who have ABA for little kids. It is often 40 hours a week and it's five days of therapy or more with a responsibility for a copay every day.

c. Comment #3: I am glad the insurance issue was brought up about transferability and the age limit of 26. It's so hard to figure out. Navigating insurance and helping families is challenging.

d. Comment #4: I want to express gratitude for the rate increase that we all received retroactively to July 1 for DD waiver or waiver services. I also would like to say it is wonderful, but it has created an inequity for our State General Fund children and adults. Organizations like Abrazos who provide the same services are now being dramatically differentiated based on those funding sources. So DD Waiver now pays about $10 more an hour for the same service, which is concerning that we are devaluing the service for individuals who are not yet allocated onto the DD waiver. I hope that is something we can talk about moving down the road.

i. Question to commenter: There's a significant new funding put into State

General Funds this year, pending the signature of without line item veto on the budget. Could that help fix some of this disparity that you're referencing? And if that's correct, do you know how that money will be distributed?

1. Response from commenter: I'm sorry, I can't speak for the department or what their intent is on that money. I don't know. State General Funds have decreased dramatically post-COVID. It hasn't rebounded like many programs.The demand is not what it once was and the contracts are significantly smaller. I can't speak to the future plans or where that money is allocated or how that could be possible moving forward but I think it would be great for us to inquire additionally, particularly as a council.

e. Comment #5: From chat, some concerns with the impact on families and that some of the families are already seeing that medications that they were already able to fill automatically now have to have pre-authorization. I am wondering if we can have some families talk about the impact on them at our next ACQ Listening Session on May 8th, 2025.
f. Comment #6: I am glad the public comment equity was brought up. It has been a long time in terms of therapies with equity because the waiver amendment suggested that incentivized rates for therapies, not only leveling the playing field so we'd have the same rates as traditional DD waiver does, but also having those incentivized rates key to attracting providers to come work on Mi Via and we learned that in the January memo.I think having a larger discussion on equity for pay in the waivers is absolutely a good thing.

11. Closing: Tracy Perry, ACQ Co-Chair

Zoom Meeting Location:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86170551005

Upcoming ACQ Meetings and Listening Sessions:

- ACQ Executive Committee Meeting
  - April 17th, 2025, 2:00PM to 3:30PM
- ACQ Listening Session
  - May 8th, 2025, 9AM to 10AM
- ACQ Executive Committee Meeting
  - April 29th, 2025, 2:00PM to 3:30PM
- ACQ Meeting
  - June 12th, 2025, 9AM to 1PM