



**Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC) Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023, 12:30-3:30 Meeting Location: Teleconference**

1-Attendance and Introductions, Chair A. McLuckie Meeting called to order

Members:

Althea McLuckie
Judy Sena
Brad Hill
Stevie Bass
Shannon Eckert
Allison Salazar
Denise Balderas
Sandy Skaar
Margaret Keane
Patricia Gull
Donna Brooks
Joyce Munoz
Charles Clayton
Laura Matthews
Chinda Lucoski

State:

Vangie Yanez
Rudy Aguilera
Jen Rodriguez
Melanie Buenviaje
Deanna DeHerrera

Guest:

Secretary Patrick Allen
Deputy Secretary Billy Jimenez

2-Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes-Althea

- ◆ Motion by D, Balderas to approve the agenda. B. Hill seconded the motion. No discussion.
- ◆ January 26, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as amended. Motion by M. Keane to approve. J. Sena seconded the motion. No discussion.

3-Housekeeping, Chair-Althea

- ◆ Public comment signup – Jeanette Sena
- ◆ Updates:
 - [MVAC-Althea McLuckie \(575\) 776-1755, 4advocacyonlynow@gmail.com](mailto:4advocacyonlynow@gmail.com)



- State- Jen Rodriguez (505) 670-2407, jennifer.rodriguez@doh.nm.gov
 - Meetings intended to be conversational and respectful
 - State agenda items will be interactive and reflect what the State is seeking feedback on
 - State updates and announcements, not requiring feedback, will be sent in advance of the meeting

4-Presentation from Secretary of Health, Patrick Allen

- ◆ Almost 7000 wellness visits were completed by state staff from a variety of agencies and already mandatory reporters of abuse, neglect and exploitation (ANE).
- ◆ 100 sites identified with reportable concerns
 - 50% environmental concerns
 - 50% potential ANE
 - Division of Health Improvement (DHI) will investigate all of these.
- ◆ Secretary of Aging and Long-Term Services, Katrina Hotrum-Lopez is temporary DDSD Director and overseeing this crisis situation of ANEs.
- ◆ Outside law firm and Medicaid consulting agency currently doing a top to bottom review of our programs and will be making recommendations for systems improvements. There will be immediate recommendations in about 30 days and then more long-term recommendations at a later point in time.
- ◆ Overwhelmingly people are getting good support and staff are going a good job.
- ◆ Wellness visits will continue long-term but at a lesser frequency to be determined.
- ◆ Althea offered the MVAC as a ready-made resource that is designed to work with the State and address issues and strategize on how to help. This can also increase buy-in.



- ◆ Althea shared her perspective of her family’s wellness visit: “rough”, felt coercion towards her family, exposed her daughter naked without consent, felt they had no choice or they were going to be reported to the police, setting up a situation for vulnerable people that may actually increase their vulnerability in the future if they feel they need to comply with all figures of authority or they will get in trouble. Jen will get details from Althea to do additional follow up. **Completed 5/4/23**
- ◆ The number of Mi Via visits and ANE reports were requested. **2710 visits and 34 ANE reports**
- ◆ Recommendation from various MVAC members to lean in them for support, organization of visits, and protocol development for on-going visits.
- ◆ Charles asked about the Healthcare Authority Department and if there were any plans to move the waivers into manage care. Secretary Allen said that he’s heard about.

5-Membership Committee Update- Stevie

- ◆ Recommendation to incorporate a “buddy system” for new members and veterans still being considered. Please contact Althea if interested.
- ◆ Recommendation that the MVAC develop a video orientation and handbook for new members. Contact Althea if interested.
- ◆ Discussed options for places for outreach to increase membership.

6- Member Response to Updates from HSD/DOH

- ◆ Reviewed State updates (attached)
 - Requested CMS Exploratory questions related to the CMS Final Rule- Jen will provide.
- ◆ MVAC would prefer the Vineland be administered less frequently.
- ◆ Vendor Payment Request form (VPR)-HSD will look at the instructions and disclaimers on page one and accept feedback for revision in 1 week.



- ◆ EOR Waiver Service – Discussion lead by DDS, Vangie and Jen
 - ◆ MVAC provided questions and a written response to the draft waiver service standards for the employer of record service.
 - ◆ Vangie and Jen walked through the state’s responses to questions and recommendations.
 - ◆ MVAC wanted more time to respond to state response. 1 week deadline was given.

7- Member Response to Proposed Changes to Mi Via

- ◆ Money Network Card (MNC)-must be approved on the budget first, then funds will be on card.
 - No I-9 required for big box stores, but smaller vendors must be linked to the participant and require an I-9.
 - The first time the MNC is issued it takes 10 days from when the form is submitted to getting the card.
 - If people support multiple participants, they will only get one MNC and funds are kept separate between people by a unique identifier.
 - You must keep receipts when using the MNC. It is subject to audits.

8-Member Recommendations for Mi Via

- ◆ Grievance process update: current issues hearing.
 - Therapists getting paid late.
 - No response from Palco.
 - Recommended a Request for Proposal (RFP) be issued for a new contractor.
- ◆ Additional Funding (AF) Denials
 - Requested a rubric of AF criteria (in the standards and NMAC already)
 - Question asked if the Third-Party Assessor (TPA) use criteria from the Vineland to determine the need for AF? No, Vineland is not tied to resource allocation or AF reviews in any way.
 - Request for training on what to write to get AF approved. State clarified AF requests are individual and the criteria is available for what needs to be justified.



- Recommendation made to have a training for families on agency review conferences and fair hearings.
- ◆ Discussion on federal tax withholdings not being taken out of checks and now families of Mi Via participants owe money. Everyone thought Palco was doing this.
 - HSD clarified that in 2021 Palco sent out notes to all employees about not receiving W4s because they would be moved to tax exempt status. HSD leadership is looking at this issue, however, everyone must look at their paystubs.
 - MVAC members recommended that HSD share a table to know what the correct amount of withholdings should be so people know. Melanie said she would include a table or link to Schedule E. It was also recommended that the following statement be on paystubs and the Medicaid Web Portal, “Please review your pay stub for accuracy.”
 - Another recommendation is for the paystub to have the begin and end dates of pay period with the gross and net amounts indicated.

9-ACQ Liaison Update-Stevie

- ◆ S. Bass informed MVAC her term on the ACQ will end in October 2023
- Chair, A. Mcluckie, will pick the new ACQ member to represent MVAC
- ◆ Reviewed Secretary Allen’s messaging about visits

10-Public Comment

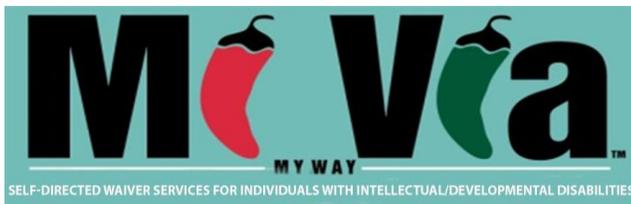
- ◆ Jeanette Sena-Jeanette talked about the need for cost of living increases and money not getting to direct support professionals (DSP). Said there are not enough DSPs and parents are struggling and get no benefits.

11-Proposed New Business

- ◆ Healthcare Authority Department-want quarterly updates
- ◆ Health insurance for employees
- ◆ Training on Mi Via for participants

12-Final Comments and meeting adjourned

- ◆ Motion to adjourn made by Margaret and Judy seconded the motion.



2023 MVAC

Meeting Dates

January 26, 2023	12:30-3:30
April 27, 2023	12:30-3:30
July 27, 2023	12:30-3:30
October 26, 2023	12:30-3:30

<https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/coco/acq/mvac/>

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