



Developmental Disabilities Group Home Monitoring Pilot Program

COMIT:
Compliance,
Oversight,
Monitoring, &
Investigations Team

BACKGROUND

- **2019 Governor created a task force** charged with finding ways to improve services and protections for some of Arizona's most vulnerable residents.
- **House Bill 2865: Passed** by AZ House & Senate 6/23/22, Signed by Governor 6/28/22.
- **ARS Title 36-595.03:** Developmental Disabilities Group Home Monitoring Pilot Program
- **Statute requires DDD to contract with AZ Protection & Advocacy agency (ACDL)** for new Group Home Monitoring Program.



ACDL/COMIT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Monitor in person the group homes** that provide services to clients with complex needs*.
 - *A client with dual disorders, including psychiatric disorders and developmental disabilities, who engages in behaviors that are disruptive, socially inappropriate or harmful or dangerous to self or others, that interfere with functioning and quality of life or that may cause destruction of property.
2. **Investigate quality of care complaints** received by the designated entity pursuant to subsection C of this section concerning any group home funded by the department.
3. **Compile a comprehensive report** of all observations and outcomes during the preceding year.

2023 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



- **Jan:** ACDL/COMIT Contract Signed

- **Feb:** Program Manager Hired

- **Mar:** Staff Training Development initiated

- **Mar-June:** Staff training/hiring

- **May:** Group Home Monitoring Initiated

- **July:** Monitoring Tool Revisions

- **Aug:** Investigations Initiated

- **Nov-Dec:** Monitoring
- Tool Final Review

2023 COMPLETED MONITORING REVIEWS

MONITORING ASSIGNMENTS	NUMBER
DDD Roster Total	175
Completed Visits (May-Dec 2023)	122
Members temporarily out of home	2
Members moved; no longer reside in DDD Group Home	11
2023 Projected monitoring visits to be completed Years 2 and 3 (2024/2025)	42
Projected 2024 Monitoring Visits Estimated 16 new visits per month	196

MONITORING TRENDS

Compliance Concerns*

- **Behavior Treatment Plans:** Group Home Vendor – no approved plan or expired plan on file.
- **Incident Reporting:** Group Home Vendor- No reports on file, and/or possible incidents not being reported.
- **Support Services:** Not received or assessed.
- **Employment, Day Program, Therapies,** etc.
- **Member Files/Documentation:** Group Home Vendor – Missing/inconsistent tracking documentation.
- **Medication Administration:** Group Home Vendor: Inconsistent documentation, unreported medication errors.
- **DDD Person Centered Service Plan:** Inconsistent information.

*annual report will provide additional data.



2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

- PCSP Team reviews of individual member need for Applied Behavioral Analysis/Functional Behavioral Assessment and for Counseling.
- DDD tracking of Behavioral Treatment Plan approval/annual review dates.
- DDD monitoring of Group Home Vendor files: Person Centered Service Plans, Behavior Treatment Plans, Goal tracking forms (behaviors and habilitation goals), Incident Reports
- DDD Group Home Vendor retraining on development/implementation of behavioral and habilitation goal tracking forms.
- DDD Group Home Vendors re-training on Incident Reporting including reporting targeted behaviors
- DDD monitoring and staff training on Person Centered Service Plans.



INVESTIGATIONS

- Investigators cross trained on Monitoring April 2023
- Investigators participated in monitoring visits – May-August 2023
- Investigators continue to support Monitoring as needed
- Investigation assignments: Initiated August 2023.
- Total current investigation assignments: 12
- August 2023– ongoing – revisions/development Investigation procedures
- September 2023 – COMIT receiving DDD Incident Reports



INVESTIGATIONS CONT.

QOC Opening Allegations – Aug-Nov 2023 (averages)

43%	Safety/Risk Management
36%	Abuse
11.5%	Member Rights
6.7	Effectiveness of Care

Remaining opening allegations:

- Availability/Access/Adequate services,
- Unexpected Death(average 1%)
- Unsafe Environment
- Disrespectful
- Medication Error

- Prepare first year (2023) annual report
- Hire/train 2 COMIT Monitors
- Pilot/finalize revised monitoring tool with increased focus on quantitative data
- Select/re-visit select group homes for follow-up monitoring
- Design/implement new COMIT database
- Revise Investigation Protocol/Procedures
- Identify/contract with trainers/experts and nurses

2024 GOALS