



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

GROUP HOME MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM - HB2865

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 05/01/2023

As communicated in the [December 2022](#) and [January 2023](#) Vendor and Provider newsletters, House Bill 2865 (HB 2865) was passed by the Arizona Legislature and signed into law in June 2022. The legislation requires the Division to contract with the Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL) to implement a three-year pilot program. **ACDL will begin conducting Group Home Monitoring and Quality of Care (QOC) investigations on May 1, 2023.**

What Can Group Homes Do to Prepare?

- Ensure Direct Support Professionals (DSP) are aware of the pilot program.
- Ensure DSPs follow the agency's established protocols to verify the identity of any monitors or investigators prior to admission to any group home.
- Ensure Current Documentation: ACDL will need access to various documents during the Group Home Monitoring Pilot Program. Group Home vendors should ensure homes have current versions of the following documents available for the ACDL monitors:
 - Current Behavior Plans (Current/Approved)
 - Work with the Support Coordinator and Planning Team to ensure all members who need a Behavior Plan have an active and approved plan in place. See the Resource Highlights section below if assistance is needed.
 - Ensure staff members are trained on how to implement the Behavior Plans.
 - Ensure staff members are documenting the behavioral data related to the Behavior Plans.
 - Person-Centered Service Plans (including 90-day updates)
 - Behavioral Data/Tracking
 - Habilitation Goal Daily Documentation
 - Habilitation and Behavioral Monthly Progress Notes

What is the Pilot Program?

The pilot program covers two aspects: group home monitoring, and Quality of Care investigating. Here is the breakdown:

Group Home Monitoring

The Division will identify group homes that support members with complex behavioral needs and refer those homes to ACDL for monitoring. For purposes of the Group Home Monitoring Pilot Program, members with

complex needs are defined as members:

- With dual disorders (I/DD and psychiatric/behavioral health disorders), AND
- Who engage in challenging behaviors that impact the member's daily functioning or quality of life such as physical aggression, self-injurious behavior, elopement, property destruction, danger to self, or danger to others.

ACDL will conduct monitoring of the group homes over the three-year pilot program. One-third of the group homes will be monitored each year. Monitoring will include at least one visit by an ACDL monitor and may include follow-up visits, if needed. ACDL will contact Qualified Vendors to schedule the monitoring visit and explain the process. The legislation requires the monitoring to include:

- If the members received services identified in their person-centered service plans, including medication monitoring and habilitation treatment, as applicable.
- If the provision of services identified in the person-centered service plan has been effective in addressing the member's complex needs.
- If the services have resulted in a reduction in behaviors that interfered with the ability of members to live safely in the community.
- If all physical interventions used by the group home staff complied with the member's Behavior Plan and applicable state laws.

Quality of Care Investigations

The Division will continue to conduct formal Quality of Care (QOC) investigations. In addition, the Division will notify ACDL of all incident reports received by all group homes that have been triaged as QOCs. ACDL will identify and select QOCs for which they will provide a secondary investigation. ACDL will submit their findings and recommendations to the Division. The Division remains responsible for conducting any remediation or corrective action plans.

Where Can I Submit Questions?

Questions about House Bill 2865 and this Pilot Program can be submitted via email to DDDQMPProgramMonitoring@azdes.gov.