DMAPAC Public Update (April 2026 – November 2026)

The Disability Mortality and Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee (DMAPAC) was formally appointed in April 2026 and held its first meeting on August 21, 2026. Since that time, the committee has begun meeting regularly to establish a strong foundation for its systemic review work. Following the initial meeting, the committee held meetings on September 11, September 19, September 30, October 15, and October 23 through a mix of in-person and virtual formats. The Committee plans to meet on a monthly basis moving forward.

Committee Orientation & System Trainings

Since convening, DMAPAC members have participated in a series of briefings, trainings, and discussions designed to prepare the committee for reviewing complex, sensitive cases and assessing the effectiveness of systems that serve individuals with disabilities. Trainings were designed to ensure that the committee has a comprehensive understanding of how systems function so that they can accurately assess whether policies, procedures, and interagency coordination are working as intended. Trainings received to date include:

- An overview of the committee's enabling statute, committee scope, mission, and responsibilities.
- Trauma-awareness and resilience training provided by the Office of Resilience in the Department of Children and Families (DCF), focused on understanding the impact of secondary trauma that may arise from reviewing details of traumatic cases, and establishing a learning-oriented, prevention-focused mindset for recommendations
- An overview of services offered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, including risk management protocols
- Information on the Office of Program Integrity and Accountability, including an overview of their investigation protocols
- An overview of the Children's System of Care and Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit within DCF
- Information on the Bureau of Guardianship Services and Adult Protective Services

Activities of the Committee

The DMAPAC has undertaken several key activities and addressed several major priorities since its first convening that will help guide the Committee's work and ensure it can effectively achieve its mission. These activities include:

- Engaging in discussions on case categorization and prioritization criteria to guide which cases will be selected for review.
- Drafting and approving bylaws, which will inform how the Committee operates, and developing norms and values for discussions.
- Establishing a secure file sharing system that can be used to safely share documents crucial to case reviews
- Planning a listening session to hear from the public regarding how they should conduct reviews of cases of abuse, neglect, exploitation and mortality

Next Steps

Over the coming months, DMAPAC will finalize its protocols for case selection, review processes, and documentation standards. The committee aims to begin reviewing cases before the end of the 2026 calendar year