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## **ASPIRATION RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

The therapy consultants provide periodic statewide trainings and ongoing technical assistance to individuals, therapists and teams (IDT) regarding aspiration prevention. The consultants also provide clinical expertise to the Supports and Assessment for Feeding and Eating (SAFE) clinic based at University of New Mexico's Center for Development and Disability (CDD).

The SAFE Clinic provides support and guidance to individuals, IDT's, and families regarding safe and healthy eating and tube feeding management. The multidisciplinary SAFE Clinic Teams is comprised of:

- a nutritionist
- a physician
- a physical therapist, a speech-language pathologist, or an occupational therapist from the therapy Services Unit.

The team provides expertise in the areas of:

- Medical support
- Nutritional analysis
- Seating and positioning
- Oral-motor/swallowing function

## **CONTACTS**

Elizabeth Finley, RN  
Clinical Services Bureau Chief  
Ph: (505) 841-2907  
[Elizabeth.Finley@state.nm.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Finley@state.nm.us)

Suzanne Shaffer, RN, MA, CCM  
Clinical Service Coordinator /  
Medically Fragile Manager  
Ph: (505) 841.2913  
[Suzanne.Shaffer@state.nm.us](mailto:Suzanne.Shaffer@state.nm.us)

Paul St. Germaine-RN  
Aspiration Coordinator  
Phone (505)-841-6188  
Fax: 505-841-2987  
[Paul.StGermain@state.nm.us](mailto:Paul.StGermain@state.nm.us)

Fran Dorman, PT, MHS  
Ph: (505) 859-4456  
Fax: (505) 979-1088  
[Fran.Dorman@state.nm.us](mailto:Fran.Dorman@state.nm.us)  
Contact Fran for: Technical assistance,  
wheelchair and seating system evaluations.

Julie Mehrl, MOT, OT/L  
Ph: (505) 975-5024  
Fax: (505) 861-0613  
[Julie.Mehrl@state.nm.us](mailto:Julie.Mehrl@state.nm.us)  
Contact Julie for: Technical assistance,  
AT Loan Bank, Arena AT evaluations.

Lourie Smith Pohl, Ed.S, CCC-SLP  
Ph: (505) 839-6999  
Fax: (505) 839-6999  
[Lourie.Pohl@state.nm.us](mailto:Lourie.Pohl@state.nm.us)  
Contact Lourie for: Technical assistance,  
AAC Loan Bank, AAC Evaluations.

Assistive Technology Assistance and Info.  
[AT.Coord@state.nm.us](mailto:AT.Coord@state.nm.us)

Aspiration Prevention Assistance and Info.  
[Aspiration.Coord@state.nm.us](mailto:Aspiration.Coord@state.nm.us)

## **THERAPY SERVICES UNIT**

### **CLINICAL SERVICES BUREAU (CSB) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVISION**



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Therapy Services Unit (TSU) is part of the Clinical Services Bureau (CSB). The TSU promotes and provides quality therapy services to individuals with developmental disabilities, their interdisciplinary teams, and their families.

This is accomplished through:

- resource development
- technical assistance
- training
- provision of specialized direct services

The TSU employs contract therapists in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Physical Therapy who all have extensive experience working with individuals who have developmental disabilities.

These therapists support and advise the State of New Mexico regarding development and implementation of policy that promotes quality therapy services for its citizens with developmental disabilities.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Therapy consultants provide technical assistance and information to therapists and teams throughout the state regarding:

- Assistive Technology
- Aspiration prevention,
- Provision of therapy services under the DD Waiver

Other related issues

## **TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS**

The therapy consultants periodically provide workshops statewide on a variety of topics.

## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**

The Assistive Technology Initiative is a long term, statewide project that is comprised of the following:

### **1) THE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH**

The Participatory Approach philosophy asserts that all persons with developmental disabilities (DD) should be supported to participate as fully in life as possible, both physically and communicatively, with the support of Assistive Technology (AT) and therapy/team approaches that support immediate participation.

The PA Approach is inclusive of all available supports in the areas of:

- communication
- mobility
- positioning
- environmental access
- cognitive enhancement
- self care/home living

### **2) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUND**

The Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) provides grants to individuals with developmental disabilities of up to \$250.00 for the purchase or fabrication of functional assistive technology devices.

### **3) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN BANKS**

AT equipment is available for short-term loan to therapists working with persons with DD for evaluation of AT needs.

- The Augmentative and Alternative Communication Loan Bank
- Environmental Access Loan Bank (switches, environmental control, eating equipment, personal care, etc.)

### **4) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EVALUATIONS**

The therapy consultants collaborate with the individual and the team to provide evaluations, recommendations, and ongoing technical assistance to the team.

Focused and Arena evaluations are available in the following areas:

- seating and positioning
- environmental access
- communication

### **5) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION SITES**

Residential demonstration site has been established. Interested parties can visit and observe how Assistive Technology may be used to support individuals in natural contexts.

### **6) SPECIALIZED WHEELCHAIR EVALUATION AND CUSTOM SEATING CLINIC**

Appropriate wheelchair and seating systems are essential for optimal functional outcomes for individuals who require wheeled mobility.

The clinic provides:

- wheelchair evaluations
- custom seating systems for individuals who have significant difficulty with proper positioning

Specialized seating systems are often a critical factor in allowing individuals served to address medical needs, function more effectively, comfortably, and safely in their everyday lives.