

Business Name/DDSD

# Developmental Disability News New Mexico

## From the Director

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Wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run. The daily work - that goes on, it adds up. ~Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*

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Alice came to a fork in the road. "Which road do I take?" she asked.  
 "Where do you want to go?" responded the Cheshire cat.  
 "I don't know," Alice answered.  
 "Then," said the cat, "it doesn't matter."  
 ~Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

The state still has no budget for next fiscal year, the Obama budget has not passed nor has the jobs bills. What this means is that we still do not know fully the impact there will be to our service array and or funding of those services. The Governor has twenty days to sign the budget passed by the legislature in special session. The dreaded increase of taxes is floating in the air, cuts to programs are also on the horizon.

In January, as everyone knows, DOH/DDSD announced cuts to rates, higher oversight of Outlier requests and tiering some services. This was placed on hold. We currently are working with HSD/MAD on the rates and will be holding public meetings. We will let everyone know when they are as well as the legal notice required by Medicaid. They will be soon. DOH/DDSD looks forward to everyone's comments. See you there.

During the month of April DDSD will be bringing providers and Medicaid together to identify processes and forms for required documentation. In May, we will be bringing together a different group to work on a pre-contract (provider agreement) training. The purpose is to identify different aspects of providing services that someone needs to know before signing on the dotted line.

Cathy Stevenson is establishing a work group for the waiver re-write. This group will initially be limited in attendance and will include family members, consumers, advocates, providers and the state

## **When to seek medical attention**

### **“Special concern for persons with DD”:**

People with Developmental Disabilities can have a wide variety of medical conditions and chronic illnesses. Some individuals may be physically frail or weak and may be more likely to quickly enter into a medical crisis due to an illness or injury.

*The following conditions, if appearing suddenly or severely, may require immediate medical care at an emergency room:*

Any fracture or broken bone  
Pain or pressure in the chest. The pain may radiate to arm, back, neck or jaw  
Pain or pressure in the abdomen. There may or may not be abdominal distention ( swelling)  
Difficulty breathing that is not improving. Breathing may be noisy or fast.  
Lips or skin look gray or blue  
Unexpected numbness, weakness, or confusion  
Unexpected trouble speaking or changes in vision  
Choking or obstruction of the airway  
Sudden severe headache (with no history of migraines)  
Unusual or continuous seizures that are not typical for the person  
Elevated temperature with any change in functional ability or responsiveness  
Severe allergic reaction to an insect bite or sting, to medication, or food  
Severe or constant vomiting or diarrhea  
Uncontrolled bleeding  
Loss of consciousness  
Vomiting, dizziness, change in functioning or alertness for persons with ventricular shunts  
Head injury or any severe bodily injury  
Removal of tubes such as trach or G tube  
Re-insertion of a tube, when trained nurse not available  
Pulse Oxymeter readings that drop below 95%.  
Any condition that you feel is life threatening  
Severe bites from human or animal  
Eye Injury or foreign body in eye  
Fever over 102 degree  
Lethargy/irritability  
Alleged sexual abuse  
Suspected poisoning

**Please remember that FLU Season is still with us. Pay attention to signs and symptoms, accessing medical care as appropriate. If you have not received your flu vaccine– you still have the oppor-**

## **INTERPRETER SERVICES:**

Please remember that DOH/DDSD can arrange for sign language interpreters for individuals at the IDT meetings.

Your contact to obtain interpreters for IDT meetings is Christine Wester. She has been the contact for several years. You do need to give her ample advance notice so she can work for you and obtain an appropriate interpreter. Contact Christine at 505-841-5529 or Christine.Wester@state.nm.us

## **Spanish Translation**

Please contact the regional office for assistance in the translation of documents into Spanish, that DOH/DDSD has sent out. We want to work with everyone to assure that communication is both appropriate and understandable. If a family member or individual requires our documents translated, please let the regional office know.

## **Significant Events Reporting – Change in FAX Number for Submitting Reports**

DDSD will begin piloting Significant Events Reporting on a statewide basis this month. Report forms for Category II Events should be completed and faxed to: [505-222-6690](tel:505-222-6690). Please note this is a different number than was included in the manual and the regional training. For more information contact your regional office. Copies of the report form can be downloaded from the DDSD website

## DDSD initiating RFP process for FY11

DDS is preparing to publish an RFP for services beginning Fiscal Year 2011. With this RFP, DDSD is hoping to find Offerors for projects ranging from the fiscal intermediary for the New Mexico Employment Institute to Parent Training for Native American Families through the FIT Program. Two exciting projects which DDSD is including in this RFP are Adaptive Skill Building and Behavioral Respite for children with Autism. After being funded through outside agencies the last two years, DDSD has decided to directly fund these programs moving forward. Additionally, adult State General Fund Services in San Miguel and Otero Counties will also be offered for proposals. DDSD is trying to maintain an aggressive schedule which would have contracts developed by June 1 in order to assure a July 1 start date for services. If you have questions, please contact Travis Goldman at [travis.goldman@state.nm.us](mailto:travis.goldman@state.nm.us).

## Healthcare Coordination

With the goal of assisting teams to assure consistent communication and follow-up to medical needs, DDSD has published a resource kit for Healthcare Coordination for individuals on the DD Waiver. The documents in the resource kit range from guidelines for communication between caregivers and nurses to tools for tracking medical and appointment information. The tool kit also includes links to healthcare resources throughout New Mexico and the United States. This tool kit is intended as a resource for healthcare coordinators, teams and guardians to assist individuals to maintain quality healthcare. To access the kit, go to: <http://www.health.state.nm.us/DDSD/>

## When to request Autopsies

Autopsies may be requested by families/guardians anytime there is an unexpected death. Typically doctors will be in contact with the Office of the Medical Examiner and decisions are made. The sooner that DOH is notified of a death of unexpected nature, the better able we are to advocate (if appropriate) for an autopsy.

## Aspiration

(Thank you for your efforts related to the Aspiration Clinical Team (ACT) project; we are very happy to have completed that project and encourage individual teams to assure sustainability of implemented recommendations for as long as they remain appropriate to the individuals.

Now that the ACT project is complete, we are implementing an ongoing system to help assure that Jackson class members are maximally supported related to aspiration risk. For most class members the following will occur:

- implementation of the aspiration risk screening tool
- tracking through the long standing Statewide Aspiration Risk List (SARL)
- development and implementation of aspiration risk management related support plan(s) per either the Aspiration Risk Management Protocol or the 2004 Aspiration Prevention Policy & Procedures.

- “Spot check” to verify implementation of aspiration risk management related support plan(s) by DDS staff making site visits for any reason.

For class members who are:

- hospitalized for pneumonia or,
  - who receive a feeding tube for the first time, or
- receive outpatient treatment for aspiration pneumonia as reported through the new Significant Events Tracking System for Category II, Targeted technical assistance and monitoring will occur for a limited time after each of these events.

The Aspiration Coordinator at our Clinical Services Bureau (CSB), in collaboration with the Regional Office nurse will conduct a record review for those who meet the above criteria. Based on information from the record, technical assistance will be planned, including relevant consultants as indicated (e.g. CSB therapy consultants, Continuum of Care experts, OBS staff). DDS staff will then monitor implementation of any recommendations resulting from such technical assistance, to be completed within 90 days of receipt of those recommendations.

It is hoped that these targeted activities will reduce recurring aspiration related illness and provide helpful support to teams serving these class members when they are at especially high risk.