

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVISION NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 Medicaid Supports Waiver Update
- 2 Family Supports Program
- 2 Resources
- 3 Transition Fair and Information Night
- 4 Autistic Artist Jesse
- 4 Cheiss Wood Cutting Business
- 5 ACQ Notice of Opening
- 5 ACQ 2020 Meeting Location & Dates
- 6 ACRE Certificate Recipients
- 6 NM Family Infant Toddler Program Interagency Coordination Council (ICQ)
- 7 DDSD E-Blasts
- 8 DDSD Staff Recognition
- 8 DDSD New Hires and Promotions

Annual Supports Waiver Budget: \$10,000

SUPPORTS WAIVER SERVICE ARRAY:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Homemaker | Environmental Modification |
| Respite | Vehicle Modification |
| Customized Community Supports-Individual | Behavior Support Consultation |
| Customized Community Supports-Group | Assistive Technology |
| Employment Supports | Community Support Coordinator (does not come out of \$10,000 budget) |

MEDICAID SUPPORTS WAIVER UPDATE

*Submitted by:
Jennifer Rodriguez, Community Programs Bureau Chief*

DDSD's new Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Supports Waiver implementation date, pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS,) is rapidly approaching! July 1, 2020 will begin the second phase of the Governor's three-tiered plan for people who are currently on the developmental disabilities waiver waiting list or who are waiting for an allocation to the Developmental Disabilities (DD) or Mi Via Waivers.

Here are a few important points to know about the Supports Waiver:

- Supports Waiver services are intended to complement unpaid supports that are provided to individuals by family and others
- Individuals will be offered the Supports Waiver in groups of up to 2,000 per year, based on registration date, until all individuals on the DDSD Central Registry Wait List have received an offer
- If someone does not accept the Supports Waiver offer, the offer does not close, it is always an option for individuals while on the Wait List for the DD/Mi Via Waivers pending legislative funding

- Individuals will keep their place on the DD Waiver Wait List while they access the Supports Waiver
- Children in pend status are not on the DD Waiver Wait List and therefore will not be offered the Supports Waiver
- The Supports Waiver will offer an agency-based and participant-directed track
- A "Call for Providers" will be issued in March 2020. There will be a "fast track" application process for existing providers who provide services parallel to the services that will be offered on the Supports Waiver, if they meet certain criteria
- If an individual is on the Supports Waiver they will have a Centennial Care Managed Care Organization (MCO). For information on MCO enrollment provisions for Native Americans, please visit: https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForAssistance/Native_Americans.aspx.

Please see the link below on the Human Services Department's website related to the Public Comment Period for the Draft Application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for federal approval of New Mexico's the Supports Waiver program. Public Comment is collected by the NM Medicaid Agency and the State intends to submit the waiver application to CMS by April 1, 2020 for a start date of the program by July 1, 2020. <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/2017-comment-period-open.aspx>.

For more information on the Supports Waiver visit our website at <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/>.

FAMILY SUPPORTS PROGRAM

Department of Health Launches Family Supports Program Program aids those on Developmental Disabilities Waitlist

The New Mexico Department of Health is mailing applications to about 1,500 residents to provide immediate support for individuals on the waitlist for developmental disabilities support that can help pay for items like eyeglasses, hearing aids or adaptive equipment. Additionally, in collaboration with the Human Services Department, the Department of Health is contacting all individuals on the waitlist to discuss additional resources and services. This includes contacting children (their families) and adults to make sure all individuals in need of services are maximizing their Medicaid benefits. Children on the waitlist, under the age of 21, who are Medicaid eligible, can access services through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Adults on the waitlist, who are Medicaid eligible, can access services through the New Mexico Community Benefit program.

The Family Supports and Reimbursement Program was created to assist residents on a waiting list for the Developmental Disabilities Waiver. The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver provides funding for home and community-based services for children and adults with developmental disabilities or related conditions. The Medicaid-funded program currently serves about 5,000 developmentally disabled New Mexicans. Another 5,000 are on a waiting list, some for more than a decade. "The goal over the next six years is to overhaul the DD Waiver program to better provide services and eliminate the waitlist entirely," said Department of Health Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel. "We share Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's commitment to provide the needed services for New Mexicans with developmental disabilities and their families."

*For more information contact:
Juanita Salas, State General Fund Program Manager*

The mailing, which also includes program information, is going to about 1,500 residents on the waitlist who may be eligible under the following requirements:

- **The applicant must be a New Mexico resident.**
- **The applicant must be registered with the New Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division's Central Registry and placed on the Waiting List.**
- **The individual must meet New Mexico's state definition for developmental disability as stated in New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 8.290.400.**
- **The applicant is not eligible for any Medicaid State Plan benefit(s).**
- **The applicant is or has not received any State General Fund services during the current Fiscal year.**

For more information about the Family Supports and Reimbursement Program, visit the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division webpage at <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/>.

RESOURCES

*Submitted by:
Lisa Storti, Constituent Support Program Manager*

It's not too early to be thinking about summer! There are some excellent summer programs for children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities around New Mexico. These include opportunities for day camps and programs, week-long or longer camps, and other programs for fun and growth. Information may be accessed through the Special Education Departments in each school district, but some additional information is listed below.

An excellent source of information regarding all sorts of programs is the University of New Mexico, Center for Development and Disability (UNM-CDD) website at

<http://www.cdd.unm.edu/other-disability-programs/information-network/index.html>. Or telephone them at 1-844-231-5003 toll-free or 1-505-272-0281 in ABQ. They have an extensive resource library and staff to assist.

Another wonderful resource are the Special Olympics Programs around our state, which can be found at <https://www.specialolympics.org/programs/united-states/new-mexico> or by phone at 1-505-856-0342. Activities include Bowling, Poly Hockey, Flag Football, and other sports and are in multiple locations around New Mexico.

TRANSITION FAIR AND INFORMATION NIGHT

Submitted by:
Steve Scarton, Statewide Transition Lead

DDSD Community Inclusion Staff Participate in Albuquerque Public Schools Transition Fair and Project Search Parent Information Night in Farmington

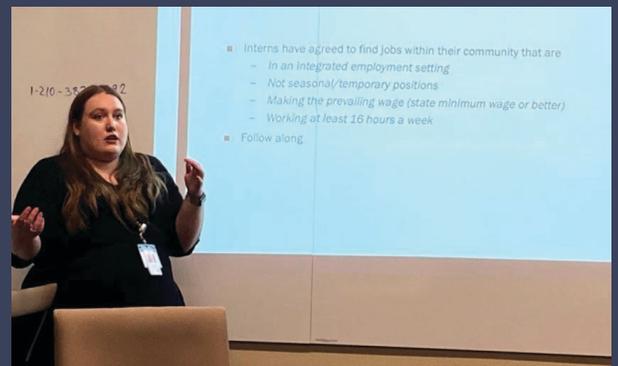
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) staff continue to support activities that increase employment and community outcomes for youth in transition who are eligible for DDSD services throughout the state. Metro Community Inclusion Coordinator, Frank Gaona represented DDSD at the APS Zone 2 Transition Fair hosted at Atrisco Heritage High School on January 30th, 2020. The transition fairs are held to help prepare students and parents for life beyond high school. Attendees at the fair were given the opportunity to learn about community organizations, college admissions, educational and vocational training programs, adult agencies and employers that support people with disabilities.

Farmington Project Search Year 2 Parent's Information Night was held on Feb. 11, 2020 at Farmington Municipal Schools. Six high school interns and their parent/parent representatives were in attendance. Katherine Johnson, NWRO Community Inclusion Coordinator, provided the attendee's information on the DDSD Transition to Employment Grant. The Transition to Employment Grant is designed to provide on-the-job supports and transportation for competitive integrated employment to individuals who have recently exited or are preparing to exit/graduate high school.

Project Search is an internship program for students with disabilities, ages 18-22 that prepares them for competitive integrated employment. During Parents Night, each intern provided a speech about what they have learned so far and how the program has changed their lives. In addition to the host businesses, Project Search steering committee members in attendance included representatives from DDSD, Farmington Public Schools, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and PMS Project Shield.



DDSD Metro Community Inclusion Coordinator, Frank Gaona provides information and resources at APS Zone 2 Transition Fair held at Atrisco Heritage High School.



Chelsea Chairion, Project Search Program Manager at Farmington Municipal Schools provides a presentation at Project Search Parent Information Night.



Katherine Johnson, NWRO Community Inclusion Coordinator provides information on the transition to employment grant.

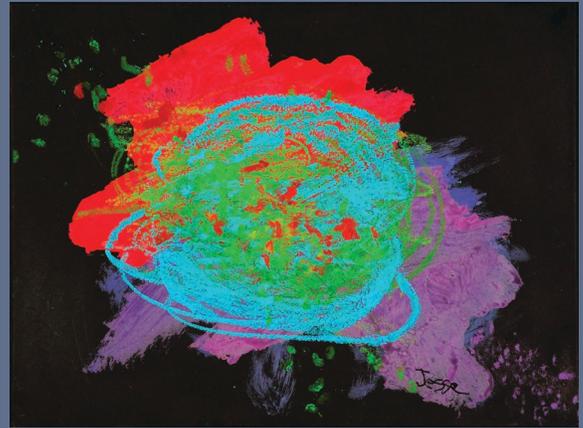
AUTISTIC ARTIST JESSE

Submitted by:
Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

Jesse is beside herself with excitement! Her solo art exhibition: Autistic Artist Jesse—Taos Celebrates Diversity-- has been running for almost six weeks and she has received many positive comments about the show. She had been working on this body of work for the past two years, and it has been on display as part of the Taos Arts Council 'Art in Public Spaces' program, in the Taos Town Hall, 400 Camino de la Placita, to run 10 weeks, until March 27th, 2020.

It takes a village to put on something like this event, and the greatest credit goes to the Taos Arts Council and the town of Taos to feature such an unusual artist in a region that we know is chock full of many very talented artists. Kudos to them for recognizing diversity within this community.

There has been much research and scientific study about the autistic brain, but there is still so much we don't know. We don't know how Jesse comes up with her creations. We can't tell her what to paint, and she usually can't tell us Jesse's work will remain on exhibit at the Taos Town Hall until March 27th, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm.



what she has painted. We just know that she adores color, and uses striking color combinations to express her inner thoughts. It just flows out. Her sense of hues has been described as "a color extravaganza" (Taos News), "striking", "fascinating", and "stunning".

CHEIIS WOOD CUTTING BUSINESS

Submitted by:
Orlinda Charleston, NWRO-Gallup Community Inclusion Coordinator

This is Samuel. He is originally from Fruitland, NM. He now has been living in Gallup for the past several years. Just like all of us, Samuel gets up every morning to get ready for work and after breakfast, he is off to work. Samuel has a small wood business. His wood business is called Cheiis. Cheiis is a Navajo word which means "Grandpa". Samuel's business is collecting firewood and selling it directly to the local public. Demetrious Bewanika, has been working with Samuel for 17 years and he knows firsthand what a wonderful job Samuel does with his wood cutting business. The types of firewood that Samuel sells is pinon and cedar. The firewood is cut and stacked and ready to be sold. Samuel has gained regular customers by advertising his business through flyers, the Journey magazine, and Face Book. Samuel is also a vendor for the LIHEA program (Low Income Home Energy Assistance).

Samuel is a proud business owner. He greatly enjoys the outdoors. Samuel likes to stay active. With the help of Demetrious, Samuel will ensure he has a stack full of wood to sell.

Samuel is supported by ZEE, Inc., a nonprofit organization. The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation assisted Samuel in building up the Cheiis Wood Cutting Business. DVR helped with the Business Plan and equipment to start the wood cutting.

Samuel's Facebook page is Cheiis Wood.



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON QUALITY (ACQ)

NOTICE OF OPENING

Submitted by:
Suzanne Pope, Contracted Administrator for the ACQ

For people with I/DD and members of their families and members of self-advocacy organizations

The Advisory Council on Quality Supports for People with intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ACQ) advises the New Mexico Department of Health on the systems guiding the provision of services and supports that assist people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of all ages and their families to be fully included in New Mexico communities.

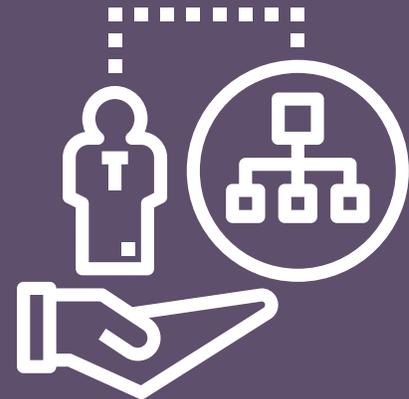
There are openings for on the ACQ for people with I/DD and members of their families and for representatives of Advocacy Organizations. The ACQ will consider applications at their next meeting on April 9, 2020 at the Center for Development & Disability (CDD), 2300 Menaul NE, East Building, Room 103, in Albuquerque. Selected individuals' names and qualifications will be recommended to the Office of the Governor for appointment.

The ACQ holds 6 public meetings each year. The ACQ supports the participation of members of the ACQ with I/DD and family members in accordance with the NM State Mileage and Per-Diem Act at \$95 stipend for a meeting day and round trip mileage at \$.44 per mile.

Individuals interested in being considered for election and subsequent appointment to the ACQ should email a résumé and a letter of interest to Suzanne Pope, ACQ Coordinator, by 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at supope@msn.com or call at 505-900-3118.

For additional information about the ACQ, see <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/coco/acq/>.

Thanks in advance for your interest!



2020 Meeting Location & Dates

Meeting Location: Center for Development & Disability (CDD); 2300 Menaul NE, East Building, Room 103; Albuquerque, 87107

Meeting Dates:
February 13
April 9
June 11
August 13
October 8
December 10

Meeting Time: 9:30am to 4pm

All meetings of the ACQ are open to the public and include a public-comment period.

Please contact supope@msn.com for additional information.

Submitted by:
Suzanne Pope, Contracted Administrator for the ACQ

ACRE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO NM'S NEWEST ACRE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS!

Submitted by:
Casey Stone-Romero, Community Inclusion via Partners for Employment Newsletter

Partners for Employment, a collaborative project between NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DDSD and University of New Mexico, Center for Development and Disability, is pleased to announce that an additional 20 professionals are now ACRE Certified. The ACRE (Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators) Certificate is a nationally recognized certificate that never expires. New Mexico now has 126 individuals who are ACRE certified. Partners for Employment offers scholarships to those who have completed the College of Employment Supports training to obtain their ACRE certificate. Having this certificate shows that the recipient has completed the required competency-based training and assignments which cover many of the skills and knowledge essential to providing quality person-centered services to individuals with disabilities. If you are interested in the ACRE Certificate, College of Employment Services or any of the other many training and networking opportunities available through Partners for Employment, please visit their website at <http://cdd.unm.edu/PFE/index.html>.

Congratulations!

Sonia Acosta-Zubia

Alexis Argumendo

Donna Crockett

Itzel Duran

Kelly Frazier

Silvia Gurrola

Corina Huerta-Coronada

Katie Langston

Leonard Lucero

John Mann

Natalie Martinez

Rosmarie Messinger

Brittany Nash

Staci O'Connor

Crystal Pena

Leslie Razo

Irene Sena

Melissa Vazquez

Verna Vigil

Austin Werner

NEW MEXICO FAMILY INFANT TODDLER PROGRAM INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Submitted by:
Kathey Phoenix-Doyle, FIT Program Manager

2020 Meeting Dates & Locations

January 22

NM School for the Deaf
1060 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, 87505

April 23

MECA Therapies
2919 Hillside Drive, Las Cruces, 88011

June 30

Preschool for the Blind & Visually Impaired
801 Stephen Moody St. SE, Albuquerque, 87123

November 17

Center for Development & Disability (CDD)
2300 Menaul NE, East Building, Room 103,
Albuquerque, 87107



DDSD E-BLASTS FOR THIS QUARTER

Submitted by:
Tammy Barth, Manager, Program Enrollment Unit

January 3, 2020

Friends & Relationship Class Spring 2020

January 6, 2020

Survey Extended! Don't Wait!
The DDSD Training Unit would still like to hear from you. We have extended this survey to January 15, 2020. We are very interested in finding out your perspective on how DDSD Core trainings have been instrumental in supporting you to do your job. If you are receiving this email, please forward to people in your organization who provide the roles listed below: Direct Support Professionals and Direct Support Staff Supervisors; Case Managers, Service Coordinators, Consultants, Consultants and DDSD Category 1 Trainers.

January 9, 2020

Therap Representative in New Mexico

January 10, 2020

Metro Provider Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2020

January 15, 2020

Partners for Employment Newsletter - January 2020

January 22, 2020

Allocation Reporting Forms

February 7, 2020

Navigating Therap: Training for Therapists, RDs, BSCs, and Case Managers
The 2020 Census is coming — and we need your help!

February 17, 2020

Public Comment Period for Supports Waiver Consultants Role Related to Supporting EOR's/Participants
2020 Shining Star Flyer and Nomination Form
Supports Waiver Notice to Providers
Supports Waiver Fact Sheet

February 20, 2020

Partners for Employment Newsletter
Invite to attend SELL-CIE
Invite to attend SELL-DDW Case Managers and Mi Via Consultants



DOH/DDSD EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Suzanne Welch

Submitted by:
Marc Kolman, DDSD Deputy Director



Suzanne Welch is a Regional Developmental Disability Specialist with the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division at the New Mexico Department of Health. She's been with the Department of Health for nearly 18 years and with the state of New Mexico for almost 23 years. Suzanne was awarded the Department of Health's award for Employee of the Quarter in the 2019 Winter Quarter.

Suzanne is a caring person who follows up on matters that need

specialized attention with support and encouragement. In addition to helping patients, she also assists her co-workers by making herself available to them, and providing detailed explanations for policy and procedures. She is a wonderful asset to NMDOH through her continual show of support to patients and staff.

Suzanne has three sons and enjoys making gifts for other people. If she had a superpower, it would be time travel—she's always felt like she should be living in a different Era. Her favorite healthy habit is working with and learning about Essential Oils.

ABOUT US

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is located at 810 San Mateo
PO Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110.
Our website: www.nmhealth.org

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

(505) 476-8973 or Toll Free:1-877-696-1472 or email us at SANTAFEmailbox.ddsd@state.nm.us

DDSD NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Marc Kolman
Assistant Editor: Lisa Storti
Layout: André Walker

If you would like to write an article for the next issue of the DDSD Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, please contact Lisa Storti, DDSD Newsletter Assistant Editor at 505-476-8972 or Lisa.Storti@state.nm.us.

NEW HIRES & RETIREMENTS

New Hires:

Krystal Barela-Gutierrez, Office & Admin Sup-A,
December 12, 2019, Taos NERO Office

Ivy Woolfolk, Registered Nurse-A,
December 12, 2019, Albuquerque office

Jaime Lopez, - SOC/COM SV COORD-O,
December 12, 2019, Las Cruces SWRO office

Angela Pohl, Sec, EX LGL, MED EXE-A,
January 11, 2020, Albuquerque office

Jason Lavy, Seating Clinic Line Manager,
January 25, 2020, Albuquerque office

Raquel Guzman, Staff Manager (Mi Via Waiver
Program), January 11, 2020, Albuquerque office

Jennifer Roth, Staff Manager,
January 11, 2020, Santa Fe office

Marie Velasco, Staff Manager (DD Waiver Program),
January 11, 2020, Santa Fe office

Mary Ann Montoya, Registered Nurse-A,
December 30, 2019, Albuquerque office

Leah Titla, Sec, EX LGL, MED EXE-O,
January 11, 2020, Santa Fe office

Andrea Gebin, Dental Assistant-A,
January 25, 2020, Albuquerque Dental Clinic

Melisa Hernandez, Behavioral Health Therapist,
March 7, 2020, Roswell SERO office

Marcia Battle, Social & Community Service
Coordinator-O, February 8, 2020, Albuquerque office

Stephanie Session, Executive Secretary & Administrative
Assistant-A, February 8, 2020, Albuquerque office

Chris Maxwell, Healthcare Surveyor-Operational,
March 7, 2020, Albuquerque office

Retirements:

Cheryl Dunfee, SOC/COM SV COORD-O,
October 1, 2019, Las Cruces SWRO office

Crystal Wright, Staff Manager,
January 1, 2020, Gallup NWRO office

Diane Martinez, Staff Manager,
January 1, 2020, Santa Fe office

Ellen Hardman, SOC/COM SV COORD-O, January 1,
2020, Albuquerque office

Dr. Ray Lyons, Dentist,
May 1, 2020, Albuquerque Dental Clinic