Developmental Disabilities Suppor

NEW MEXICO





AUGUST 2018

PARTNERS FOR EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Partners for Employment (PFE) is excited to announce the launch of new training initiatives in partnership with the Institute for Community Inclusion's College of Employment Supports and WISE.

The training kicked off in July with cohorts in Albuquerque and Alamogordo. Fall cohorts will be hosted in Roswell, Clovis and Las Cruces. The training is offered in a blended format of online training and live Q&A sessions to meet the needs of busy supported employment professionals. The online training will be available on-demand 24/7 to learners and will cover the Association of Community Rehabilitation Educator's (ACRE) competencies on employment services. The online training consists of short videos that cover a variety of topics including funding employment services, an overview of Social Security work incentives, how to match job seekers to employers and negotiate win-win hiring arrangements, and how to facilitate on-the-job supports to ensure a successful employment experience for both the employee and employer.

"We've heard from providers that their staff are very busy, so we wanted to design a flexible training program that is responsive to their needs. The disability employment field is complex and there is a lot to learn. Meanwhile, we know that learning is not a one-time event so what we want to do is connect people who are passionate about this work so they can learn together", said Rebecca Roybal, PFE Training Manager.

PFE will also be providing workshops on Customized Employment topics, such as Discovery. The workshop model is designed to be very interactive, with hands-on opportunities to learn new skills. Very little time will be spent listening to lectures and more time will be spent actually doing activities and discussing how to implement these new approaches. PFE worked with WISE, a Seattle-based nonprofit, to develop a Discovery Workshop and so far the feedback has been very positive. Learners are enjoying the interactive nature of the workshops where they are applying what they've learned to real world scenarios.

Additionally, Partners for Employment is hiring staff to kick off these new training initiatives throughout the state, and are looking for local experts to share their knowledge and passion for supporting people with disabilities to find meaningful work. Ideal candidates will have supported employment experience and passion for learning and collaboration. PFE will consider candidates from throughout the state to work either in Albuquerque or remotely to help deliver trainings to providers.

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PARTNERS FOR EMPLOYMENT UPDATE (CONT.)

To learn more about the open positions, you can visit the job postings at Education Specialist ID: req2558 - https://unm.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=2558 and Education & Outreach Manager ID: req5403 - https://unm.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=2558 UNM offers a generous benefits package including tuition remission.

For questions, more information on training, or if you are interested in hosting a training at your agency, visit the PFE Website at http://www.cdd.unm.edu/pfe/index.html or contact Rebecca Roybal at raroybal1@salud.unm.edu or 505-925-0898.

Contributor: Casey Stone-Romero, DDSD Statewide Supported Employment Lead

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It has been a busy time since the last newsletter. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) evaluation of the DD and Mi Via waivers was presented to the Legislative Finance Committee on July 20. DOH Deputy Secretary Gabrielle Sanchez-Sandoval and DDSD Deputy Director Kathy Kunkel represented the Division in responding to the LFC presentation. Deputy Secretary Sanchez-Sandoval and I presented an update on DDSD to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee on August 8.

The DDSD Administrative Services Bureau worked to close out FY 18 and get FY 19 opened. All our FY 19 contracts were processed and submitted within the DOH Administrative Services Division timelines. We are 2 months in to FY 19 and things seem to be going well. We still need to be aware that all contractors should submit invoices every month, regardless of whether they have provided services or not.

We survived the transfer from NEOGOV to SHARE. There are still concerns regarding the process of advertising and filling positions. Joe Anaya and Loretta Lopez-Branch, our HR folks, have completed the required training to enable them to assist us in managing our HR processes to the extent that the SHARE system allows.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the DOH Week of Health last week. I hope you enjoyed the activities you participated in.

Just for information purposes, the Attorney General's Office is sponsoring an all-day Disability Summit on October 4 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Please stay tuned for more information on this important event. [See page 8]

There were 80 new allocations to the DD Waiver effective July 1. The DD Waiver Rate Study is kicking off on September 25. [See page 5] This will be an important project for the Division.

Thank you all for the work that you do daily to support our New Mexican citizens. I am amazed everyday at the dedication and passion of our team.

Contributor: Jim Copeland, DDSD Division Director

VALIDATION AND STATEWIDE TRANSITION PLAN

As required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Settings Rule, NM completed provider and participant validation surveys between July and November 2017. The validation surveys were conducted by the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability. The validations collected information taken from a snapshot in time to serve as a baseline for each individual Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) setting.

All settings validations are assigned to one of four Centers for CMS designated categories based on the information provided by the interviewee. The categories provide information for providers to determine the level of compliance at the time the validations were completed and to determine necessary next steps for each setting.

All states have until March 2022 to fully comply with the Final Rule. The four CMS categories are:

Compliant
Compliant with Remediation
Presumptively Institutional/Additional Evidence Needed (Heightened Scrutiny)
Relocation of Beneficiaries

Provider agencies that participated in the validation surveys received their agency findings on July 13, 2018 via U.S. Postal Service and through email.

On August 17, 2018, the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) suspended the requirement to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) addressing the Provider Validation Findings Reports related to the CMS Final HCBS Settings Rule until further notice.

DDSD received overwhelming feedback from providers that the data on the reports, collected by our contractor, was inaccurate. DDSD will be working with the Human Services Department to strategize next steps for completing our validation activities and submitting a revised Statewide Transition Plan to CMS for final approval.

In the meantime, all providers have copies of the survey questions that were asked and can access the CMS Exploratory Questions, which are what the survey questions were based on. CMS Exploratory Questions outline criteria to demonstrate compliance with the CMS Final Setting Rule, which can be found on the DDSD website. This is what each setting (residential or non-residential) must comply with by 2022.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief



FITING THE PIECES TOGETHER

The Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program currently has 33 providers statewide that provide comprehensive early intervention services to our families and children that have a developmental delay or disability or who are at risk for having a delay or disability. The FIT program continues to grow. We served 15,734 children last year which is a 6.9% growth over the year before and our average growth has been over 6% for the last three years. This growth in early intervention for children served by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C services is a national trend.



Budget requests have been submitted to implement the rate increases recommended in the FIT Rate Study that was completed in December 2017, as well as to address the program's growth.

The FIT Program completed a quality initiative in December 2017 with Race To the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant funding called FIT FOCUS, which is a Tiered Quality Rating & Improvement System approach to supporting the implementation of evidence-based practices. One outcome of the RTT-ELC grant is that we are now working on a professional development implementation plan to support our providers to learn evidence-based quality practices through practiced passed coaching and use of video. Specifically, these practices include caregiver coaching, Family Guided Routines Based Intervention (FGRBI) strategies and specific strategies for providing high quality early intervention home visits and IFSPs (Individualized Family Service Plans).

The FIT program is monitored by OSEP, the Office of Special Education Programs, and we were pleased to receive a "Meets Requirements" status for our last Annual Performance Report. This is the highest rating that a State can receive.

The FIT Program is working closely with our partners at the Public Education Department (PED) and Children Youth & Families Department (CYFD) to build a governance structure for Early Learning New Mexico (www.earlylearningnm.org) that builds on the cross-agency work under RTT-ELC, including FOCUS, ECIDS (Early Childhood Integrated Data System), Workforce Development; Communications, etc. We are looking at the upcoming Preschool Development Grant (Birth – 5) as a possible funding opportunity to continue to build a cohesive early learning system for our youngest children and their families in New Mexico.

For questions regarding the FIT Program, please contact <u>jeanne.durivage@state.nm.us</u> or visit <u>www.fitprogram.org.</u>

Contributor: Jeanne DuRivage, DDSD FIT Program Manager





ADVOCATE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CAMPAIGN

The Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) is very excited to announce the new Advocate Rights and Responsibilities campaign! Building on the very successful Know Your Rights campaign, we are now including advocate responsibilities in addition to rights as advocates continue to grow in empowerment and strength.

DDPC is partnering with DDSD, NM Allies for Advocacy, providers and other advocacy organizations in hosting Town Halls around the state beginning on Sept. 20th in Alamogordo. We will once again use a Town Hall format with presentations and panels focusing on the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities as defined in federal regulations including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule, the DD Waiver, etc. The Town Halls will include an interactive presentation about the CMS Final Rule and stories of advocacy and success from DD Waiver participants as well as discussion and conversation with the audience.

Mari Gonzales, an advocate who receives services through the DD Waiver states, "I love having choices because it makes me feel independent". Shana Heath, another strong advocate on the DD Waiver describes the importance of having choices this way, "It means I have my own independence. I can do things on my own. I can take Sun Van. I have the support of others if I need it, but I can mostly do it on my own". Stories like these point to the importance of choice in everyone's lives and leads us to the importance of being aware of the responsibilities that come with those choices.

We are looking for locations and partners across New Mexico to conduct these presentations and would love to collaborate with you. If you would like to join us in this important campaign or would like more information, please contact Wendy Corry at wendy@corryconsulting.com or 505-238-0047.

Contributor: Wendy Corry, DDPC Contractor and NM Allies for Advocacy

MEDICAID WAIVER RATE STUDY

As many of you know, DDSD issued an RFP to conduct a rate study to develop a methodology to determine rate payments for the traditional Developmental Disabilities (DD), Mi Via and Medically Fragile (MF) Waivers. Based on recommendations from the evaluation committee, which included two representatives from the provider community, two from DDSD, and one from HSD, the vendor agency that was awarded the Rate Study contract is Public Consulting Group (PCG).

A kick-off meeting is scheduled for providers and interested parties on September 25th from 1:00-4:00 (location to be determined). The DDSD website (<u>nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/</u>) will provide up-to-date information throughout the rate study process to keep everyone informed of meetings, trainings, webinars, and other important information. DDSD looks forward to working collaboratively with providers to provide the best information to achieve the best results.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Congratulations to New Mexico's Newest CESP™s!

APSE, the Association of People Supporting Employment First created the first national certification program for employment support professionals called the Certified Employment Support Professional™ or CESP™ certification. The CESP™ program is the first in the nation to create national guidelines to validate and support the training currently provided in the field.



Unlike training programs that provide a certificate of completion, the CESP™ certification sets a standard of knowledge and distinguishes employment support professionals who have shown they have the skill and competence to perform the requirements of the job. The CESP™ exam seeks to define the benchmarks for knowledge and competency in the field in the following areas: 1) Application of Core Values and Principles to Practice & Legislation and Funding; 2) Individualized Assessment and Employment/Career Planning; 3) Community Research and Job Development; 4) Workplace and Related Supports; and 5) Ongoing Supports.

Partners for Employment (PFE), a collaboration between the UNM/CDD, DDSD and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) brought the examination to New Mexico for a second time and offered scholarships for the cost of the test. The most recent testing opportunity was held on June 13, 2018. The following eleven professionals passed the exam:

Shantih Bisland-Naggan, UNM/CDD, Family Specialist
Jennifer Gelhardt, Best Buddies, Deputy Director
Marcy Hintz, UNM/CDD, School to Work Training Project Consultant
Christopher Love, Mandy's Farm, Job Developer
Jamie "Alex" Luce, Mandy's Farm, Program Director
Pamela Madden-Krall, SL Start/NM Works, State Director
Daniel McKinney, LifeRoots, Job Developer
Katherine Meeha, Mandy's Farm, Job Developer
Melissa Reid-Ciferri, Parents Reaching Out, Family Liaison
Alec Reinhardt, Life Roots, Employment Team Support
Casey Stone-Romero, DDSD, Statewide Supported Employment Lead

Congratulations to these leaders in Supported Employment! New Mexico now has 35 CESPs™ statewide. For more information about the ASPE CESP™ certification, please visit www.apse.org. PFE plans to schedule another opportunity to take the exam in New Mexico this fiscal year. Details will be forthcoming. If you are interested in taking the exam, please contact Casey Stone-Romero at Casey.Stone-Romero@state.nm.us.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROVIDER FORUM

The Know Your Rights (KYR) Provider Forum is a digital statewide monthly meeting that occurs every 3rd Tuesday via Skype web-conferencing. The forum was created by providers and DDSD, all expressing their desire for collaboration and continued conversation around the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule, Home and Community-Based Services Settings Requirements. The forum creates a space for conversations and discussion with providers around the state that supports the sharing of important communication, follows agency efforts in finding new and innovative ways to provide supports and services and overcome common issues and addresses challenges in providing supports throughout New Mexico. Agencies can discuss and share their efforts in finding new ways to support connections to their local communities, learn how other agencies have been successful, and challenges they are facing, as well as provide ideas and suggestions on how to overcome current challenges. For example, in rural communities, access to transportation for people in supports is a common challenge that must be addressed.

This forum supports the efforts of *all* agencies across the state to provide the best person centered supports possible and to further enhance the delivery of supports and services in the spirt of the CMS Final Rule and DDSD's Know Your Rights Campaign. Currently, there are at least 17 provider agencies who regularly participate in this statewide discussion.

All providers are invited to join this conversation of collaboration and support. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact any of the core founders of the KYR Provider Led Forum: Edward Santiago, DDSD, at (575) 528 -5190 or Edward.Santiago@state.nm.us; Frank Villegas, GRU, at (575) 526-2935 or fvillegas@mygru.org; Tracy Perry, DTS, at (575) 446-9078 or Tracy@directtherapyservices.com; Manda Olivas, DTS, at (575) 523-7243 or Manda@directtherapyservices.com; Megan Myers and Angela Ortega, Life Roots, at (505) 255-5501 or Smeganm@liferootsnm.org or angelao@liferootsnm.org; Cheryl Rogge, Dungarvin – Farmington at crogge@dungarvin.com; or Glen Carlberg, Collins Lake Ranch, at (575) 613-6010 or Glen.Carlberg.cl@gmail.com.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

NM Autism Society – Sensory Station at the NM State Fair September 6th to the 16th, 10am to 6pm

Expo NM, New Mexico Autism Society & Holman's Autism Foundation have joined together to present this area for a breather from hustle and bustle from the fair. There will be sensory bottles, sensory bins, headphones, fidgets, comfortable seating, low light and more.

\$7.00 - \$25.00, Located at the Youth Hall on Fairgrounds. http://nmautismsociety.org/events/

Rio Grande Down Syndrome Network-9th Annual Buddy Walk Saturday, September 15th, 10am to 1pm

Anderson Abruzzo Balloon Museum Information/Register: http://www.rgdsn.org/buddy-walk/

MI VIA UPDATE

Welcome to the Mi Via Unit!

The Community Programs Bureau Mi Via Unit would like to introduce Mi Via Program Coordinators Anysia Fernandez and Elaine Hill, and Mi Via Project Coordinator, Rudy Aguilera. The Mi Via Unit Coordinators bring a wealth of experience and knowledge about self-direction and accessing community resources to the Division. Anysia has worked as the DDSD Northeast Regional Office Mi Via Liaison for more than five years. Elaine was one of the original Mi Via Consultants when the self-directed waiver began in 2006, and Rudy was employed by Blue Cross Blue Shield bringing experience and expertise from the MCO perspective. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the Mi Via Waiver, please contact one of the Mi Via Coordinators and they can assist you.

DDSD Regional Office Mi Via Liaisons

The Regional Office Mi Via Liaisons in the Northwest, Southeast and Southwest regions will continue to process Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Mi Via Waiver Change Forms (WCF) and Consultant Agency Change Forms (CAC). Also, they will continue to review requests for Legally Responsible Individuals (LRI) and Environmental Modification Verifications (EMODs) within their respective regions. The Metro Regional Office Mi Via Liaison will process Waiver Change and Consultant Agency Change Forms for DD only. Anysia will continue to process Waiver Change Forms, Consultant Agency Change Forms and review Mi Via requests for LRI and EMODs for the Northeast region. Elaine will process all new allocations for both DD and Medically Fragile (MF) Waivers. In addition, she will process all MF Waiver Change Forms and Consultant Agency Change Forms and review Mi Via requests for LRIs and EMODs for the Metro region.

Mi Via Unit

Anysia Fernandez, Program Coordinator 575-758-5934 Elaine Hill, Program Coordinator 505-841-5510 Rudy Aguilera, Project Coordinator 505-841-5886 Regina Lewis, Program Manager 505-841-5519

Regional Office Mi Via Liaisons

Jason Cornwell, Metro Regional Office 505-841-5500 Dennis O'Keefe, NW Regional Office 505-863-9937 Eugene Vigil, SE Regional Office 575-624-6100 Dave Brunson, SW Regional Office 575-528-5185

Contributor: Regina Lewis, DDSD Mi Via Program Manager

SAVE THE DATE — DISABILITY SUMMIT



Disability Summit
October 4, 2018
9am – 5pm
Albuquerque Convention Center
401 2nd Street NW., Albuquerque

Please join New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas for a day of networking, and sharing information for advocates who support the people of the community with disabilities to succeed & soar, conquer & achieve.

Including: A morning session of interagency governmental information, and afternoon breakout sessions including Self-Advocacy, Guardianship, ADA Accommodations and Sexual Assault on individuals with disabilities.

Contributor: Amira Rasheed, NM Attorney General's Office

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON QUALITY (ACQ)

What is it? The ACQ's mission is to, "advise DOH on the systems guiding the provision of services and supports that assist people with I/DD of all ages and their families to be fully included in NM communities." ACQ members are appointed by the Governor's Office and includes individuals receiving services, providers, advocates, and other partners. The ACQ is advisory and does not have any authority to implement policies, including budgets, but can create and document feedback on the systems of care offered by the State. The ACQ is authorized by the State's DD Act (NM Statute 28-16A-13) which requires the State to convene a statewide adult support and services task force to address, at minimum, quality assurance. The federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) also requires states to obtain input on quality improvement strategies from participants families, advocates, and providers.

Why should you participate in the ACQ? You want to learn in detail about how the State is providing waiver services. You want to know federal requirements and State budget limits? You want to know what is being offered and what are service providers' best practices? You want to know how the State creates service requirements, holds providers accountable, and communicates accurately and timely to consumers? You want to offer insight from your unique perspective to improve services and accessibility while addressing program limitations, such as budget.

Statewide Advisory Committees and Boards

Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ): Meets the 2nd Thursday of every other month (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec) from 9:30 – 4:00 at the Centers for Development and Disability at UNM (2300 Menaul NE, room 103, ABQ). Meetings are open to the public.

Family Infant Toddler Program Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC): Meets quarterly

Medically Fragile Family Advisory Board (FAB): Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at the CDD - Chair is Lori Stewart (UNM MFCMP)

Medically Fragile Professional Advisory Committee (PAC): Meets at least annually at the CDD - Chair is Christina Barden

For additional information about all of the councils and committees that partner with DDSD, see https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/coco/.

<u>ACQ Sub-Committees</u> (Non-ACQ members are welcome to attend sub-committee meetings other than meetings of the Executive Committee.)

Executive Committee: Meets approximately two weeks prior to general meetings of the ACQ. Members include Patrick Anaya (ACQ Co-Chair), Lecie McNees (ACQ Co-Chair), Kathleen Holmes Cates (ACQ Executive Committee Member-At-Large), Marc Kolman (DDSD), and Chris Futey (DDSD)

Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC): Meets 4th Thursday of Jan, April, July, Oct – Co-Chairs are Stevie Bass and Regina Lewis

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ADVISORY COUNCIL ON QUALITY (CONT.)

Employment Sub-Committee: Meets the Wed before the full ACQ at 3:00 pm - Carrie Roberts (DDSD), Kathleen Holmes Cates (ACQ), Jerry Bartley, Phyllis Shingle

In Home Supports Sub-Committee: Meets the Wed before the full ACQ from 9:00 am – 10 am – Co-Chairs are Lecie McNees (ACQ), Virginia Lynch (ACQ), and Gabriella Ramos (ACQ)

Policy and Quality Sub-Committee: Meets the Wed before the full ACQ from 10 am – Noon – Co-Chairs are Chris Futey (DDSD) and Kathleen Holmes Cates (ACQ)

Wait List Sub-Committee: Meets the Wed before the full ACQ from 1:00 - 3:00pm, Chair is Cassandra De Camp (DDSD)

Please contact Kathy Baker at <u>Kathy.Baker@state.nm.us</u> or 505-841-5524 for additional information.

Contributor: Kathleen Holmes Cates, ACQ Executive Committee and Marc Kolman, DDSD Deputy Director

NEW HIRES, RETIREES AND IN MEMORIAM

New Hires:

Dave Brunson, Generalist, SWRO, May 29, 2018
Guy Irish, Case Management Coordinator, SWRO, June 16, 2018
Rudy Aguilera, Mi Via Unit Project Coordinator, Metro, June 16, 2018
Anthony (Tony) Fragua, Social & Community Service Coordinator, Metro, July 14, 2018
Nicole Hernandez, Intake & Eligibility Soc/Com Service Coordinator, SWRO, June 30, 2018
Steven Schan, Supervisor, Bureau of Systems Improvement, Metro, August 11, 2018
Heidi Roybal, Soc/Com Service Coordinator (FIT), Metro, September 8, 2018
Kenneth Gallegos, Soc/Com Service Coordinator, Taos, August 25, 2018

Retirements:

Dr. Ron Voorhees, DDSD Medical Director, Santa Fe, June 30, 2018 Christine Fredenburgh, Provider Enrollment Information Clerk, Santa Fe, July 20, 2018

In Memoriam:

Patty Anello passed peacefully at her home on July 31, 2018

Contributor: Joseph Anaya, DDSD HR & Labor Specialist

We encourage you to share this newsletter with the individuals and families you serve, providers, as well as your community!

Mission Statements:

The Mission of the New Mexico Department of Health is to promote health and wellness, improve health outcomes, and assure safety net services for all people in New Mexico.

The Mission of the **Developmental** Disabilities Supports Division is to effectively administer a system of person-centered community supports and services that promotes positive outcomes for all stakeholders with a primary focus on assisting individuals developmental disabilities and their families to exercise their right to make choices, grow and contribute to their community.

ABOUT US:

The New Mexico
Developmental Disabilities
Supports Division is located
at 810 San Mateo
PO Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 875026110. Our website:
www.nmhealth.org
For Information Call: (505)
476-8973 or Toll Free:1-877696-1472 or email us at
SANTAFEmailbox.ddsd@state.nm.us

DDSD Newsletter Staff:

Editor-in-Chief:

Marc Kolman
Assistant Editor:

Lisa Storti
Layout: Shannon Titla

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.