

To: Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver Validation Participants

From: Jim Copeland, DDS Director



RE: Provider Validation Re-do

Date: January 9, 2019

To achieve compliance with the CMS Final Rule, states were required to develop a statewide transition plan (STP) outlining necessary steps to achieve compliance by 2022. New Mexico received an initial approval of the STP on January 13, 2017. As required in the STP and to obtain final approval from CMS, providers are required to complete a self-assessment and the state is required to validate those findings from the provider self-assessment. As stated above, all states must comply with the requirements of the CMS Final Rule by 2022 to continue to receive federal matching funds.

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) contracted with a neutral, third party, the University of New Mexico (UNM) Center for Development and Disability (CDD), to conduct the Provider Validation Surveys. The CDD completed Provider Validation Surveys and Participant Validation Surveys between July and November 2017, however there were problems with the quality of the information and findings submitted to DDSD. Based on overwhelming feedback from providers regarding issues with the integrity of the data, DDSD and the Human Services Department determined that the data could not be used to reliably validate the provider self-assessments.

After working with the Human Services Department (HSD) to strategize on next steps for completing validation activities and submitting a revised Statewide Transition Plan to CMS for final approval, it has been determined that the necessary course of action is to re-do the Provider Validation Surveys. DDSD has tirelessly tried to salvage any data we can to prevent having to re-do the entire Provider and Participant validation. Only the Provider Validation Surveys will need to be re-done. The existing Participant Surveys can be used.

DDSD and HSD determined that the importance of this project out-weighs any additional time and cost that may be incurred to complete the CMS required validation activities correctly and accurately and submit for a final approval of NM's Statewide Transition Plan from CMS. DDSD contracted directly with the temp agency, ATA Services, Inc., to complete the Provider Validation Surveys. ATA has surveyors readily available to complete the project within DDSD and HSD's timelines. ATA will conduct 700 provider/vendor validations for three (3) HCBS waiver programs administered by the Department. This includes Medically Fragile, Mi Via, and the

**Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Programs. The scope of work will be completed between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2019.**

**Providers will be contacted during the month of January by ATA to schedule surveys. DDSD apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. We also appreciate your full cooperation and participation in completing the required Provider Validation Surveys. The criteria for each agency to meet is outlined in the CMS Exploratory Questions that were provided in 2016. This is what each setting (residential or non-residential) must comply with by 2022.**

**Please contact Jennifer Rodriguez, [Jennifer.rodriguez@state.nm.us](mailto:Jennifer.rodriguez@state.nm.us) with any questions.**