



Developmental Disabilities Supports Division

DECEMBER 2013

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DDSD Annual Directors Meeting

The 2013 DDSD Annual Directors Meeting “Sustainability and Quality of the New Mexico DD System” will be held on December 12-13, 2013 at the Embassy Suites Albuquerque, 1000 Woodward Place NE.

The primary focus of this year’s two day DDSD Director’s Meeting will be on the quality and sustainability of the DD Waiver system in New Mexico. Highlights will include DD Waiver redesign and feature promising practices related to systems change, employment outcomes and community inclusion, health and wellness outcomes, the supports intensity scale (SIS) and resource allocation, quality management and strategies on achieving emerging best practices in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The meeting also offers the opportunity to network and exchange ideas with providers and DDSD staff across the state.

If you are interested to register, please contact gayla.delgado@state.nm.us for an application . The first 100 providers who register for the annual meeting will be granted a \$200 stipend/scholarship.

To make a reservation at the Embassy Suites Hotel, please call 1-800-362-2779. There is a special rate of \$83 plus tax per night.

Contributor: Gayla Delgado, DDSD

Agenda on December 12th:

- Welcome with Cathy Stevenson
- Secretary Ward Address
- Keynote speaker John Agosta
- Break Out sessions:
 - Health Matters
 - Employment/Community Inclusion
 - SIS, Resource Allocation and Service Packages
- Quality Management
- Employment Rap and Awards

Agenda on December 13th:

- Michael Kendrick (before and after lunch)
- Closing Remarks with Cathy Stevenson



Social Security Administration Replaces Outdated Term

Good work SSA!

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is replacing the term "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in its listing of impairments. The listing is used to evaluate claims involving mental disorders in adults and children under Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

This change reflects the widespread adoption of the term "intellectual disability" by Congress, government agencies, and various public and private organizations.

The following reason for the change is posted on the Federal Register's website:

The term 'intellectual disability' is gradually replacing the term 'mental retardation' nationwide. Advocates for individuals with intellectual disability have rightfully asserted that the term 'mental retardation' has negative connotations, has become offensive to many people, and often results in misunderstandings about the nature of the disorder and those who have it.

Taken from the State Employment Leadership Network, a joint program of the Institute for Community Inclusion and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. For more information and e-news archives, visit www.seln.org.

“A change in the weather is sufficient to recreate the world and ourselves.”
- Marcel Proust

The Weather Report, a poem by April Gifford

It's cold outside.

Fall.

Cold.

There was a loud storm.

Rain and ice all wet.

It's windy. The wind blows things down.

The wind is loud.

Fall is falling down.

Yes it is!

I've got a jacket. I wear a hat and gloves and socks.

I like cold better than hot. I don't know why.

Ice and snow in the mountains.

Leaves turn yellow, orange and red, then brown.

I miss you!

Contributor: This poem was written by April Gifford with help from Julie Joyce at Phame, Inc. for their Fall Newsletter.



“The superior doctor prevents sickness; The mediocre doctor attends to impending sickness; The inferior doctor treats actual sickness.”

- Ancient Chinese Proverb

New Mexico Infectious Disease Services

NMDOH offers a wide variety of infectious disease services for free in every region of the state. Persons at risk can get HIV tests, STD screening, hepatitis screening and vaccines and syringe exchange services. New Mexico had the first statewide syringe exchange in the nation, and the

Harm Reduction Program now also offers services to prevent overdoses from opiates. Services are available both at Public Health Offices and through community-based organizations. To find a service near you, you can access the online resource guide at www.nmhivguide.org

and enter your city or region. The website is also available in Spanish at espanol.nmhivguide.org and there is a smart phone version at m.nmhivguide.org.

Contributor: Andrew A. Gans, MPH, HIV, STD and Hepatitis Section Manager



Flu Season is here!

The New Mexico Department of Health recommends everyone six months of age and older should get a flu vaccine each flu season, especially people in the following groups because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications:

- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Pregnant women (any trimester)
- People age 50 and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, lung or heart disease, and those who are immunocompromised
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu

- American Indians and Alaskan Natives
- People who are morbidly obese
- Healthcare and early childhood personnel

People in these groups should also consider seeing their health care provider to be evaluated for antiviral medication if they develop flu symptoms.

People can contact their doctor or pharmacy about getting a flu vaccine.

The New Mexico Department of Health offers vaccinations for people without insurance or who are otherwise not able to get immunized. Those with Medicaid or other health insurance should take their insurance card when getting immunized, even if it is at local Public Health Office.

Contributor: Kenny Vigil, Office of the Secretary, DOH

Senate Memorial 20 Report Completed

Senate Memorial (SM) 20 was introduced by Senator William Soules (D – Dona Ana District 37) in response to the length of time individuals are waiting for the Developmental Disabilities Waiver Program (currently 10 or more years). Senate Memorial 20 requested the Department of Health (DOH) establish a subcommittee of the Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) to identify strategies to:

1. Decrease the time between placement on the Central Registry and access to services to not more than three years by fiscal year 2018,
2. Re-examine the statewide allocation formula to ensure regional allocations are made equitably and consistent with the ruling under Lewis v. NM DOH (2001),
3. Submit recommendations to the ACQ and DDSD to act upon within authority and funding appropriated by the Legislature for this Purpose, and
4. Submit a report addressing: a) what would be needed to accomplish the goal stated in #1 above, including effective use of current programs and resources, b) critical components for success with detailed action steps, c) potential obstacles and d) projection of additional resources needed.

How did the waiting period grow so long?

DDSD receives approximately 1,000 registrations for the DD Waiver each fiscal year. Of these, approximately 300 are confirmed to match the definition for developmental disabilities and are therefore added to the Central Registry in the completed status category. In any fiscal year in which fewer than 300 individuals are allocated into DD Waiver services, the size of the Central Registry grows larger and therefore the length of time each individual waits increases.

For fiscal years 2009 - 2012 combined, only 386 individuals were allocated into services due to budgetary limitations. Therefore, during that four-year period the waiting period grew by 3 years. In fiscal year 2013, 328 individuals were allocated. The target for fiscal year 2014 is 415 individuals and these are already in process. This FY14 allocation is based on use of the \$4.6 million dollar appropriation specifically to bring individuals off the Central Registry, plus attrition, and use of funds generated through program reform.

Recommendations

1. Expand Developmental Disabilities Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver;
2. Increase attractiveness of Mi Via Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver;
3. Improve Intake, Information referral, and community navigation;
4. Create a State General Fund Flexible Supports Model.

Anticipated Challenges

Time and resources are needed to develop infrastructure and service delivery capacity (including recruitment, training and retention of a direct support workforce) to serve the approximately 3900 additional individuals from the Central Registry that would need to begin service by fiscal year 2018 in order for the waiting period to be down to 3 years.

It may be difficult to obtain sufficient annual and recurring appropriations to allocate 3900 individuals in the next three years, plus at least 300 from the Central registry per year thereafter. In addition, DDSD needs budgetary flexibility to address the “ramp up” effect. From an appropriation stand point the “ramp up” means the time between being offered an opening in the DD Waiver program, completing eligibility determination, assessment and development of an approved service plan. Due to these steps, in the first fiscal year funds are appropriated for a given number of DD Waiver allocations, only about 1/2 of the funds can be used directly for services. Yet those Individuals will need the full amount for all subsequent fiscal years. Consequently, reversions typically occur in any fiscal year in which a significant number of new allocations occur. The Department would like flexibility to spend funds not used on services during the first year to support development of infrastructure and system supports rather than have these funds revert.

To view the full report please go to:

<http://www.nmhealth.org/opa/documents/NMDOH-OPA-Memorial-20-EN.pdf>

Contributor: Jennifer Lehman, DDSD Deputy Director

“Responsibility begins with the willingness to be cause in the matter of one's life. Ultimately, it is a context from which one chooses to live. Responsibility is not burden, fault, praise, blame, credit, shame or guilt. In responsibility, there is no evaluation of good or bad, right or wrong. There is simply what's so, and your stand. Being responsible starts with the willingness to deal with a situation from the view of life that you are the generator of what you do, what you have and what you are. That is not the truth. It is a place to stand. No one can make you responsible, nor can you impose responsibility on another. It is a grace you give yourself - an empowering context that leaves you with a say in the matter of life.”

- Werner Erhard

Clinical Services Prior Authorization

Effective November 1, 2013, the required documentation for ISP/budget Prior Authorization (PA) submissions has changed. Accordingly, the Therapy Services Prior Authorization Request (TSPAR) and Behavioral Consultation Support Prior Authorization Request (BCSPAR) forms have been revised.

Case Managers will no longer sign off on the TSPAR and BCSPAR. However, the Therapist and Behavioral Support Consultants will continue to submit the completed PA forms to the Case Manager who will retain the complete PA form in the waiver recipient case file. The Case Manager will submit the PA request(s) to Molina Third-Party Assessor (TPA).

The Adult Nursing Services Authorization Request (ANSPAR) form and process has also been streamlined effective December 1, 2013.

All of these revised prior authorization request forms and instructions have been distributed to relevant providers and will be available on the DDSD website.

Contributor: Roberta Duran, Community Programs Bureau

ASPEN

The Automated System Program and Eligibility Network (ASPEN) is the name of the new system that will replace the aging ISD2 system. It is the system used by the Human Services Department's (HSD) Income Support Division (ISD) to accept applications, determine eligibility, and issue benefits for over 800,000 New Mexicans for various Medicaid programs, including the home and community based waivers.



Since the implementation of ASPEN, the state has identified issues resulting in closure of certain waiver cases. The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) and the Human Services Department have met to discuss these issues and will be sending out guidance in the near future.

If the Level of Care Abstract for each individual is not completed and the individual/families do not recertify financial eligibility within the required timelines, the individual's waiver eligibility will be automatically closed.

If you need assistance before HSD issues guidance, please contact a representative at your local Income Support Office.

Contributor: Roberta Duran, Community Programs Bureau

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

- Henry Ford

“The danger from computers is not that they will eventually get as smart as men, but we will meanwhile agree to meet them halfway.”

- Bernard Avishai

Achieving Customized Employment Outcomes

Partners for Employment hosted their very first kick-off meeting on Thursday, November 7th, 2013. Partners for Employment are a statewide project funded by the New Mexico Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) and New Mexico Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) in partnership with the Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico. The project seeks to help improve systems and services that increase inclusive, competitive employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The event was held at The Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico. Attendees that participated at this successful event were agency provider directors, supervisors, vocational rehabilitation counselors, therapists and staff, family members, educators and DDSD Community Inclusion Staff. The goal of this information session was to inform the community-at-large of the Employment Learning Community (ELC). These Employment Learning Communities are a group of people with varied backgrounds and disciplines interested in learning about Best Practices in employment outcomes for persons with developmental disabilities. ELC team members will commit to learning, teaching and supporting one another through peer learning and will focus on improving knowledge and achievement of Customized Employment outcomes through an immersion from national experts in the Marc Gold & Associates approach to Discovery between December 2013 and June 2014.

The ELC experience will emphasize Customized Employment, a flexible process designed to personalize the employment relationship between a job candidate and an employer and in a way that meets the needs of both. Customized Employment is an individualized process that matches strengths, conditions and interests of a job candidate with the business needs of an employer*. One expected outcome of the ELC experience is that persons with disabilities gain employment as a result of their Team Members' participation in the program.

A special thanks to Tanya Baker-McCue Director of Family & Community Partnerships Division, The Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico.

For more information on upcoming employment initiatives at the New Mexico Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Support Division, Please Contact:

Mila Mansaram,
Mila.Mansaram@state.nm.us,
505 841-6620

Contributor: Mila Mansaram, DDSD Supported Employment

*U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, <http://www.dol.gov/odep/categories/workforce/CustomizedEmployment/what/> retrieved June 2012.

“Formerly referred to as the Profile Strategy, Discovery uses practical qualitative research procedures to reveal the answer to an essential question ‘Who is this person?’”

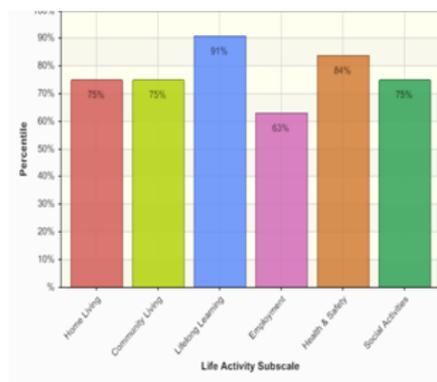
--from Marc Gold & Associates
Series on Discovery



Tips for reading your SIS results

Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) assessments identify the pattern and intensity of support a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities needs in order to do the same things that everyone does in their community every day. The SIS assessment is a normed tool which allows you to get an overall picture of your assessed support needs.

SIS results are sent with your Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW) planning package that also includes a NM DDW Group assignment (A-G). Your results contain a graph that shows scores and percentile ranks in the six activity subscales from SIS Section 1:



- A. home living activities
- B. community living activities
- C. lifelong learning activities
- D. employment activities
- E. health and safety activities
- F. social activities

The graph is an easy way to see areas of your highest versus lowest support need. In each subscale activity your score also reflects a percentile rank comparing you to the norm group identified by the SIS authors. For example, a percentile rank of 75% means the individual assessed has as much or more support needs than 75% of the population in the norm group. Since the SIS norm group is designed to represent the population with I/DD in general, the percentile rank lets you and New Mexico know where you stand with regard to the level of support you need. This comparison helps you and New Mexico with planning so you receive the supports you need, no more and no less.

The Supports Needs Index (SNI) is also found in your SIS results. The SNI is simply a score that combines the above six activity subscales from Section 1 of the SIS. The SNI gives a snapshot of your support needs. NM is working to add the percentile rank for the SNI to this report.

SIS Section 2: Supplemental Protection and Advocacy and Section 3: Exceptional Medical and Behavioral Needs are also included in your SIS results. Your scores in these sections are rank ordered so you can easily see the areas of highest need.

DDSD in collaboration with the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) recently provided additional and extensive training to state personnel designated as SIS Leads in each Regional Office. Feel free to contact your Regional Office and ask for your regional SIS Lead to help with review of results.

Contributor: Christina Hill, SIS Program Manager, DDSD



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 with 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 87502-6110. Our website: www.nmhealth.org/ddsd

For Information Call:
(505) 476-8973 or Toll Free: 1-877-696-1472 or you can email us at SANTAFEMAILBOX.ddsd@state.nm.us

Lynn Gallagher and Jack Evans join the Department of Health Senior Management

Lynn Gallagher joined the New Mexico Department of Health as Deputy Secretary in August of 2013. Prior to coming to DOH, Lynn Served as General Counsel at the Aging and Long-Term Services Department.

Lynn was born and raised in Truth or Consequences. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Lynn worked in television, electronic media and in the financial sector while living in Florida and New York. She returned to New Mexico in 2009 where she entered private

practice prior to entering into State government.

Jack Evans is the new division director of the Division of Health Improvement (DHI).

Jack joined DOH in October, coming from the Legislative Finance Committee where he led program evaluations in the healthcare and transportation areas. Jack has degrees from Notre Dame, Wayne State, the University of Michigan and Northern Arizona University. His background includes policy development, regulation and

licensing, protective services and healthcare management in five western states. He also has policy and management experience in the energy industry, transportation and mining. Jack holds a degree in Geology and served as an underground gold mining geologist in Nevada.

Jack holds a private pilot's license and his interests include amateur astronomy, paleontology, and hiking. He enjoys exploring New Mexico with his wife Terry and two basset hounds.

Contributor: Kenny Vigil, Office of the Secretary, DOH

DDSD Personnel Changes

Renate Padilla has accepted the Executive Administrative Assistant position in the Clinical Services Bureau, starting November 23, 2013.

Ronald Scott Doan has been promoted to be the new Regional Office Assistant Bureau Chief, effective November 9, 2013, in the Las Cruces SWRO.

Iris Clevenger has accepted the Registered Nurse position in the Clinical Services Bureau for Waiver Programs. She started on November 9, 2013.

Treva Jim started at the Northwest Regional Office on October 26, 2013 as an Intake Worker for the Central Registry Unit.

Tanya Frazer was promoted to a Social and Community Services Coordinator in the Albuquerque Regional Office effective October 26, 2013.

Angela Medina is the new Office Manager with the Family Infant Toddler Program in Santa Fe. Angela's start date was October 15th .

Danette Webb, is a new CSI Worker with the Office of Systems Improvement in Albuquerque. She started October 15, 2013.

Michael "Micky" Carino, is a new Social and Community Services Coordinator in the Office of Behavioral Supports, Albuquerque. She started August 31, 2013.

Kathy Baker has been promoted and is the Community Services Integration Supervisor in the Office of Systems Improvement in the Metro Regional Office, and started on November 23, 2013.

Contributor: Martha Estrada, DDSD Human Resources

