

Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)



JUNE 2018

DDSD HOSTS ROUND TABLE WITH RUSSIAN DISABILITY ADVOCATES

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On March 23, the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) welcomed the Santa Fe Council on International Relations (CIR) delegation of disability advocates from Russia. This dynamic group of professionals from across Russia is participating in the United States Department of State's diplomacy program on *Disability, Access to Service, and Accommodation*. Brent Soloway, Program Officer for International Visitors with the CIR, stated that "professional meetings like these support the foreign policy goals of the United States, and help build essential bridges between cultures, communities, and business."



DDSD hosted a round-table discussion with DDSD leadership, a representative from the Human Services Department, and nine Russian advocates for developmental and physical disability services. DDSD Deputy Directors, Bureau Chiefs and Program Managers shared information on the state level administration of New Mexico's robust home and community-based waivers, and the Family Infant Toddler Program, along with information on Federal requirements and oversight. The discussion was lively and enlightening. Although we spoke different languages, our message is the same. We have a collective responsibility to support people with disabilities in the community by ensuring proper access and accommodations. It's important we learn from each other and build partnerships regardless of culture and nationality.

DDSD was honored and excited to be asked to participate in this citizen-to-citizen diplomacy and support foreign policy goals of the United States.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

In the interest of time, here is a non-definitive, non-prioritized list of some important things going on at DDSD:

- ◆ Preparation for the Jackson trial early next year
- ◆ Finalization of the CMS Final Settings Rule validation data
- ◆ DD Waiver Rate Study
- ◆ Electronic Visit Verification clarification
- ◆ ANE Annual up-date Training
- ◆ Recognizing Signs and Symptoms of Illness and Disease training
- ◆ FIT Annual meeting preparation
- ◆ Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) DD Waiver Evaluation
- ◆ Processing Provider Agreement renewals for FY19
- ◆ Processing participant registrations for the Waiver
- ◆ Assisting providers with their concerns
- ◆ Finalizing contracts for FY 19
- ◆ Preparing budgets for FY 20
- ◆ Recruiting and filling vacant positions
- ◆ Providing customer service for the people we serve
- ◆ Answering questions from guardians, providers, participants

What do the items on this list have in common? There is not one item on the list that can be completed in isolation by an individual. Everything on this list requires cooperation and coordination of multiple people. In other words, teamwork. It could be the efforts of two people. It could be the efforts of a bureau. It could take the effort of our whole division. Let's focus on the following quote from Henry Ford.

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Let's focus on supporting each other, staying together and working to complete this list as well as all of the things that aren't on this list. Thanks for all you do. I look forward to all that we can accomplish together.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES COLUMN

In this newsletter, we are highlighting access to information and resources regarding Guardianship, and Alternatives to Guardianship such as Power of Attorney, Health Care Decision-maker, or Representative Payee. These links can also be used to access information regarding some changes to the Guardianship/Rep Payee requirements proposed in the last legislative session.

Guardianship removes considerable rights and should only be considered after alternatives have proven ineffective or unavailable. The legal processes are complicated and can lead to overstepping boundaries and family fights. Families and individuals are strongly encouraged to get expert help.

Under New Mexico law, if a person is incapacitated and has not given power in writing to an agent, a court can appoint a guardian over the person and a conservator over financial matters. This can be a family member or corporate guardian. A guardian can then make residential placement and health care decisions and a conservator can make financial decisions. A court can also appoint a temporary guardian or conservator if needed to prevent immediate and irrevocable serious harm. A court can also limit the powers of the guardian and conservator depending on the person's capacity and needs.

Alternatives to Guardianship include Power of Attorney while the individual is still capable and understands what they are signing, Representative Payee to manage Social Security/SSI payments, Surrogate Decision-maker for healthcare, and informal arrangements with family members. (*source: DDPC-OOG*)

Changes to Guardianship Laws in New Mexico during the past Legislative Session: A new law (SB 19) that was passed in the 2018 legislative session makes changes relating to guardianships and conservatorships, and will go into effect on July 1, 2018. The New Mexico Supreme Court is now in the process of adopting new rules and forms to implement the new statute and improve oversight of these arrangements. The proposed forms were recommended by the Ad Hoc Guardianship and Conservatorship Rules and Forms Committee that was appointed by the Court to help with implementation. The full proposal, including the forms, is available on the courts website, www.nmcourts.gov. Scroll down to the "What's New" section and click on "Comment Sought on Proposed Forms and Rule for Guardianship and Conservatorship Cases".

For Information on Guardianship, and Alternatives to Guardianship, the resources listed below are excellent sources of information and support. Individuals, families, and current guardians are urged to look into these resources and develop solid plans to ensure proper support and/or succession of guardianship, as applicable.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING COUNSEL- OFFICE OF GUARDIANSHIP

625 Silver Av. SW, Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 841-4519 www.nmddpc.com

THE NEW MEXICO GUARDIANSHIP ALLIANCE

info@GuardianshipAllianceNM.org

THE NEW MEXICO GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

www.nmguardianassoc.org



TRAINING UNIT UPDATE

With the new standards in effect, the training unit has been very busy! Our unit met at the Northeast Regional Office May 21-23. The primary focus of the meeting was to update our current core curriculum to align with the new DD Waiver Standards and also to discuss other revisions that are necessary due to the addition of the Indications of Illness and Injury training. As a unit we receive many inquiries from the field regarding this training. If you or anyone else needs assistance in locating this training it can be found at <http://www.cdd.unm.edu/dhpd/programs/learnportal/courses/index.html>. Aspiration Risk Management Training (ARM) has also been added to the CDD database as a one-year requirement for Case Managers. 1st quarter trainings offered by the DDS training unit will be posted shortly on Train New Mexico for anyone needing DDS Core Curriculum training. To access the website, use the following link <http://trainnewmexico.com/>.

Jenny Bartos and the rest of our Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (ANE) trainers have completed the revisions of the ANE Face-to-Face training. Over the next three weeks, a pilot of the training is scheduled with certified provider trainers. Once the pilot is complete, we will also be conducting a mini train-the-trainer seminar for all ANE certified trainers to recertify their trainer status.

Contributor: Sarah Winter, DDS Training Unit Manager

WORK EXPERIENCE GRANT PROGRAM REFUNDED

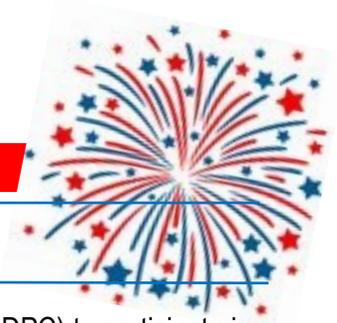
The Work Experience Grant Program has been refunded! The grant gives individuals the opportunity to explore community employment. Individuals can apply for the funding in collaboration with their supported employment agency. The employer of record for the Work Experience Grant will be Accent, a division of Acumen Fiscal Management Services.

Three models are offered through this program; Trial Work Opportunity, Community-Based Situational Assessment, and Microenterprise Start-Up. The Work Experience Grant can be accessed, when funding is not otherwise available through other means, to cover wages and workers' compensation insurance for individuals in the Trial Work Opportunity and the Community-Based Situational Assessment models. The Microenterprise Model is designed to cover business start-up costs that cannot be obtained through other means.

Applicants must specify which type of program model is being requested. The Work Experience Application can be found on our website at <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/4082/>. For more information, please contact Casey Stone-Romero at Casey.Stone-Romero@state.nm.us or 505-827-1626.



Contributor: Casey Stone-Romero, DDS Supported Employment Lead



DDSD PARTICIPATED IN TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS THIS SPRING!

DDSD was invited by our partners at the NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) to participate in their 2018 Statewide Summit on Advocacy on April 18, 2018. DDSD representatives Christina Hill, DD Waiver Program Manager, and Jennifer Rodriguez, Community Programs Bureau Chief, were members of a panel of advocates and family members talking about the new DD Waiver Service Standards that went into effect March 1, 2018. The interactive presentation was geared towards advocates and families and highlighted the purpose of the Standards and their important focus on protecting rights. The presentation also underscored the connections among the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Settings Requirements, DDSD's Know Your Rights Campaign, and the DD Waiver Service Standards.

The same information was shared at the Parents Reaching Out Annual NM Family Leadership Conference on April 20, 2018. Ms. Hill and Ms. Rodriguez collaborated again with the DDPC, advocates and family members to provide critical information about the DD Waiver Service Standards and rights in a family-friendly format.

The presentation was organized around the question, "Did you Know?" and specifically covered topics in the DD Waiver Service Standards, such as settings requirements, informed choice, consumer rights and freedoms, Human Rights Committees, and other safeguards for people's rights. The presentation included references to DD Waiver Service Standards and a panel of waiver recipients who shared personal stories and experiences as well as advocacy strategies.

Through these valuable partnerships we are able to reach more people and move the NM I/DD system forward!

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

WE ASKED....YOU RESPONDED. RESULTS OF THE DDSD NEWSLETTER SURVEY

DDSD wants to know how what we do affects you and your work. Our recent survey of what you like (and don't like) about our Quarterly Newsletter is one way we've listened to you. Here is a summary of the survey results.

Overall it seems that people who responded to the survey like the newsletter; most people (94%) say they like it and about a third (37%) like it a lot. People read it; 94% read it most of the time or every time. Over half (60%) share the newsletter with others. Fifty-two people responded to the survey, two-thirds were service providers, only three parents/guardians and no recipients of services responded.

Ideas for changes or additions to the newsletter include more information on DDSD's programs, developing tips for providers to improve work skills including things like tip sheets for complying with policies, tools for preventing burnout, and including other resources such as calendars of trainings and events. People also expressed interest in hearing from the field, including the perspectives of providers and families.

Thanks for your input. It is valuable to the Division.

Contributor: Marc Kolman DDSD Deputy Director

FIT UPDATE

The DDSD Child & Family Supports Bureau Family Infant Toddler Program (FIT) is hosting its annual meeting June 12-14, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Albuquerque. The FIT Annual meeting brings together over 100 early intervention personnel from 33 agencies statewide.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Building Capacity: Supporting Providers, Supporting Families". Our Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Andy Hsi, who has worked for many years with families facing substance abuse issues. He will address how many of our families in NM are facing adversity and how to support them in our work in early intervention. We are offering a variety of presentations that will strengthen our provider community.

For information, contact the Family Infant Toddler Program at 505-476-8974.

Contributor: Jeanne Du Rivage, DDSD FIT Program Manager

NEW HIRES AND RETIREMENTS

Metro Office:

Fleur Dahl, Social & Community Service Coordinator—March 10, 2018

Elaine Hill, Social & Community Service Coordinator—March 10, 2018

Debra Medina, Social & Community Service Coordinator—March 10, 2018

Southeast Office:

Lori Spicer, Registered Nurse - March 24, 2018

Santa Fe Office:

Lisa Rohleder, Social & Community Service Coordinator—May 7, 2018

Northeast Office:

Leslie Ogeda, Social & Community Service Coordinator—May 19, 2018

Anysia Fernandez, Social & Community Service Coordinator—June 2, 2018

Retirements:

Carolyn Lavadie, Community Inclusion Coordinator—March 30, 2018

Contributor: Joseph Anaya, DDSD HR & Labor Specialist

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

For Information Call: (505) 476-

8973 or Toll Free: 1-877-696-1472

or email us at

SANTAFEmailbox.dds@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.

