

# Developmental Disabilities Supports Division



(DDSD)

MARCH 2019

## KATHYLEEN KUNKEL CONFIRMED AS CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the New Mexico State Senate voted unanimously to confirm Kathyleen (Kathy) Kunkel as Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH). Kunkel was appointed as Secretary Designate by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham last month.

"I am pleased to have Kathy Kunkel lead our department of health," said New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. "Her depth of knowledge, previous successes and leadership in successfully operating and managing health care efforts within the department will advance our goal of providing the highest quality care possible to the people of New Mexico."

Prior to her appointment, Kunkel has worked seven years across different areas of NMDOH, the most recent four as deputy director, overseeing the bureau of behavioral supports, regional offices, litigation management and supported employment at NMDOH's [Developmental Disabilities Division](#). There Kunkel developed a fair hearings bureau, and, as an attorney with a law degree from the University of New Mexico, she provided litigation support, developing legal strategy with the department and working on issues related to various settlements. Kunkel also created the community inclusion manager position, developing and supervising the coordinators and worked on promoting employment of young adults.

Under Kunkel's leadership, the Department is committed to strengthening drug overdose prevention and continuing to improve health outcomes for all New Mexicans, improving rates of childhood obesity, diabetes, and teen births. Kunkel will also fight to address the waitlist for the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD Waiver) which provides services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In prior jobs at the department, Kunkel was both assistant general counsel and general counsel; she also worked as an assistant attorney general for the State of New Mexico from 2004-2007, focusing on administrative disciplinary hearings and rulemaking hearings as well as legislative analysis.



*New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (center) with newly-confirmed NMDOH Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel (far left) and her family.*

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## KATHYLEEN KUNKEL CONFIRMED AS CABINET SECRETARY (CONT.)

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Kunkel worked eight years at the UNM Health Science Center, beginning as a pediatric social worker and ultimately becoming assistant director of care management services. There she learned firsthand about the health care needs of the people of New Mexico and the dedicated health care professionals who labor to serve them

Kunkel has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of Mt. St. Joseph, as it was formerly called, and a master's in social work from Michigan State University.

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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Since the last publication of the DDSD Newsletter, there have been some changes in New Mexico. There is a new Governor in office. There is a new Secretary of the Department of Health. Both of these people have a wonderful understanding of the operation of DDSD. There is a great deal of work being conducted in our Division. I sense a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm within our Division. In preparation of some information for the work currently underway, there was a list of 20 major projects listed.

These projects include the renewals of the DD, Mi Via and Medically Fragile Waivers, the comprehensive rate study, the activities to receive final approval for our Statewide Transition Plan to be in compliance with the CMS Final Settings Rule and the development of the electronic visit verification (EVV) process. These projects are all federally required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This is work that allows New Mexico to participate in and operate the waiver programs.

There are on-going projects that directly impact the day to day work that is completed by Division staff. Currently being researched are a standardized needs based assessment, the Client Data Management System, redesigning the ISP process and continuing to address the applications that are submitted on a weekly basis for waiver services as well as addressing the backlog of those applications. The backlog has been reduced from over 1,000 to 155 due to the work of the Intake and Eligibility Unit staff.

There are projects that include the Human Services Department. A major project is the Benefit Management Services project related to the Medicaid Management Information System-Replacement. This is related to the Client Data Management System project.

There are projects related to on-going development and improvement of DDSD operations. Bureau Chiefs and Senior Management will be participating in risk management training through the University of Massachusetts Shriver Center. There is strategic planning in development for DDSD leadership that will include opportunities for input from DDSD staff.

There is also, during the legislative session, the on-going analysis for drafted legislation and appearances at committee hearings. We should all be proud of the work that is done every day. I will close with a couple of sports quotes that I think are representative of our DDSD staff and commitment.

"It is hard to beat a person who never gives up." George Herman "Babe" Ruth

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little "extra". - Jimmy Johnson

## NEW MEXICO IS AWARDED \$5.4 PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH—5

We are excited that New Mexico has been awarded **\$5.4 million** from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families for the Preschool Development Grant Birth To Five (PDG B-5). The PDG B-5 funding is targeted to help states build a quality early learning system for children birth to 5 and their families.

The vision for New Mexico early learning system is that:

*“each and every child, prenatal to age five, and their families in New Mexico will have equitable access to quality early learning opportunities to support their development, health and well-being ensuring they are ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.*

As New Mexico was awarded \$5.4 million rather than \$7.5 million we proposed in the application, the Early Learning NM team (leaders from CYFD, PED and DOH) we required to submit a revised budget.

In the weeks ahead, we will be working with stakeholders to conduct a statewide early learning needs assessment and a 3-year strategic plan. The following graphic shows the early learning programs that we will enhance through this process – but know that we can only do this by collaborating and aligning with other service delivery systems (health, nutrition, mental health, etc.) and developing partnerships with other stakeholders (legislature, philanthropy, business and faith community, etc.).



The PDG B-5 also includes developing a statewide early learning media campaign and comprehensive resource and referral system, as well as professional development and leadership training. The FIT Program will access \$332,000 for professional development that will include using video recording for practice-based coaching to support staff to implement evidence-based early intervention practices through a Family Guided Routines-Based Intervention (FGRBI) approach.

Contributor: Andrew Gomm, DDSD Child and Family Supports Bureau Chief

## NEW MEXICO DEVELOPING A SUPPORTS WAIVER

### What is a Supports Waiver?

Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Supports Waivers are designed to complement unpaid supports that are provided to individuals by family and other natural supports. Funding limits are lower than a comprehensive waiver. There is flexibility in the selection of services and supports.

### How Many States Have Supports Waivers?

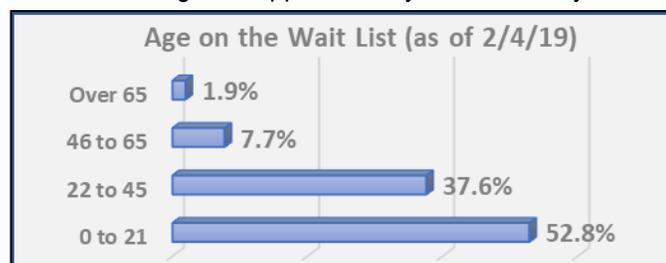
More than 20 states are currently operating one or more supports waivers. Additional states are exploring the development of supports waivers.

### Why Develop a Supports Waiver in NM?

To address the waiting list of approximately 5,000 people and the average time people wait for an allocation, 13.3 years. Additionally, to address the changing demographics of the waiting list.

### What are the Demographics of the Waiting List?

Younger people make up most of the waiting list. Approximately, 53% are 21 years and younger.



### Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure the state meets requirements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, statewide stakeholder engagement is needed, including with our Native American tribal communities. Stay tuned for more information on how to be involved.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

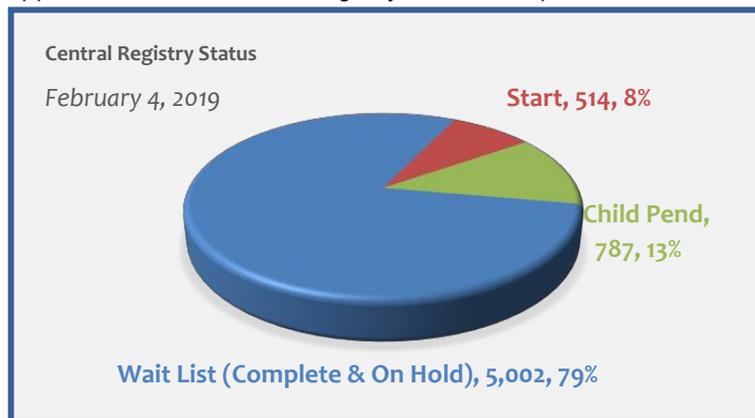
## ADVOCATE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS

March 28	Taos Workforce Solution Office-1036 Salazar Rd., Taos	9:30 am—12:00 pm
April 18	DDPC Self-Advocacy Leadership Summit-Albuquerque	
April 19	Family Leadership Conference-Albuquerque	
May 10	Farmington-TBD	



## WHAT IS THE CENTRAL REGISTRY?

**The Central Registry and the Wait List are different.** The Central Registry is a database that tracks applications for Home & Community-Based (DD or Mi Via) Waivers. There are four categories or statuses of applicants on the Central Registry: Start, Complete, Child Pend and On Hold. The date an individual completes



the registration process is their registration date and their status is "Start." If the individual is confirmed to match the developmental disability definition, their status is changed to "Complete." Children younger than age eight, who have a confirmed specific related condition but do not yet have documentation of substantial functional limitations are placed in the "Child Pend" status until age 9 or further documentation can be obtained. Applicants who have been offered waiver allocation and

have chosen to not accept an allocation can place their allocation "On Hold." Individuals in this status keep their original registration date, but are not identified for an allocation until they request a status change from "On Hold" back to "Complete."

Contributor: Cassandra De Camp, DDSD Central Registry Staff Manager

## DDSD RATE STUDY NEWS

The DDSD Home and Community Based Services waivers comprehensive rate study is in full swing. Six (6) face-to-face focus groups were held with Public Consulting Group (PCG) and interested stakeholders on January 29 and January 30. Time study tools were reviewed and suggestions for changes were discussed. Additionally, five (5) Time Study Tool trainings took place between February 13, 14 and 15.

The revised Time Study Tools and updated instructions were distributed 2/13/19 to all DD Waiver providers, all Medically Fragile Waiver providers, Mi Via Consultants, and In-Home Living Supports providers and vendors.

Timelines for completion of the Time Study are upon us. The following time periods are:

Time period #1- February 18 to March 3, 2019

Time period #2- February 25 to March 10, 2019

\*All materials are due to PCG by March 15, 2019

Continue to visit the DDSD websites for posted materials. DDSD thanks you for your participation in order to achieve the best possible outcomes as a result of the Rate Study.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

## PERSONAL SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY: POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE OUTCOMES

### What Is Personal Support Technology (PST)?

PST is an electronic monitoring or cueing device/system and associated supports that assist individuals with I/DD to be more independent in their home or community.

### What Are Some Examples of PST Solutions?

PST can help provide solutions to those “What If ...” questions that individuals, families and teams might have when considering how an individual might have increased personal freedom through decreased support staff or less intense staffing at various times during the day. PST may be one part of the solution.

Some more frequently used examples include: movement and motion sensors; door and window sensors; Personal Emergency Response System (PERS); fall and seizure detectors; advanced medication management systems; advanced custom video cueing systems; and GPS apps with associated training for location monitoring and/or travel independence.

Other PST examples might include but are not limited to: home sensors for fire, temperature, water leaks, CO2 levels, etc.; remote video monitoring for cueing, “check-ins”, reminders; “Stove Guards” that alert when a stove or burner is left unattended; sensors for objects that can detect frequency of use for items such as showers, water bottles, refrigerators; PST associated environmental control and various telehealth monitoring devices.

### What PST Services Can Be Funded through the DD Waiver

PST funds can pay for devices; installation; rental; maintenance; warranty fees; subscription costs; education in the use of the devices; daily monitoring; and provision of assistance to respond to events identified through monitoring.

What PST Options Are Available? While there are only a few approved PST providers for the DD Waiver, this does not have to limit the PST options available. Any technology or program that meets the definition of PST in DD Waiver Service Standards and that can be approved through the Outside Review process may be accessed. A DD Waiver Provider of PST may be the vendor of the device, technology or program or may act as fiscal intermediary for a separate vendor of the PST option that the team identifies.

Resources for more information include:

- NM Technology Assistance Program which includes free resources to New Mexicans with disabilities <http://www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us>
- Personal Support Technology – Exploring the Possibilities <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/3986/>
- Assistive Technology Industry Association <https://www.atia.org/at-resources/alliance-partners/>
- Sample PST vendors include: Sengistix; Aspects of ARCA Smart-Travel Program;
- Simply Home, Rest Assured, Night Owl Support Systems, Tech- CARA, and a variety of mobile apps.

## PROJECT SEARCH—HELPING TRANSITION-AGE STUDENTS SUCCEED

Project SEARCH is a one-year school-to-work internship program for youth with disabilities who are between the ages of 18 and 22. Recently, one of New Mexico's Project SEARCH sites based at Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque was featured on Albuquerque news station KRQE. Click link for the story: <https://clicktime.symantec.com/3LtSVEXjbWX3w2nsTNQdsdg7Vc?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.krqe.com%2Fnews%2Feducation%2Faps-intern-program-expands-to-hospitality-sector%2F1763168452>

Project SEARCH is a national evidence-based internship model for youth with disabilities. The foundation of the model is a strong, working collaboration among a host business, a local school district, a local Supported Employment provider, the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR), the New Mexico Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DOH/DDSD), and the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability Partners for Employment (UNM/CDD PFE). In the course of the program, students participate in three 10-week work rotations at the host business, while also receiving soft skills training and support services. A participant's goal is to learn the skills needed to be able to obtain competitive, integrated employment by the end of the internship year.

New Mexico has six Project SEARCH sites. These are based in UNM Hospitals and Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque, Hilton Garden Inn in Gallup, Presbyterian Rust Medical Center in Rio Rancho, Good Samaritan/Las Cruces Village in Las Cruces, and the City of Farmington Municipal Services. In fall 2019, New Mexico will launch its seventh Project SEARCH site at the Pueblo of Pojoaque in partnership with Santa Fe Public Schools. Since Project SEARCH's beginning in New Mexico in 2014-2015, 95 students have successfully graduated from the program. More than 75% of these graduates are successfully employed at or above minimum wage, working 16+ hours per week in an integrated setting.

Project SEARCH is only one of many school-to-work transition resources available through Partners for Employment. For more information on Project SEARCH and other School-to-Work Transition initiatives in New Mexico, you can visit the Partners for Employment Website at <http://cdd.unm.edu/PFE/index.html> or contact Marcy Hintz at [mhintz@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mhintz@salud.unm.edu).



## WAIVER RENEWAL UPDATE

It's Time for New Mexico to Renew its Home and Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS) Programs with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) .

DDSD operates three Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs, which are approaching their 5-year renewal cycles.

Waiver	Expiration/ Renewal Dates
Medically Fragile Waiver	7/1/2020
Mi Via Waiver	10/1/2020
Developmental Disabilities Waiver	7/1/2021

It is ideal for states to plan for and submit their applications to CMS well in advance of their waiver expiration or renewal date. Additions or changes to a HCBS waiver program can take time to think through. DDSD is planning now and is working closely with NM Medical Assistance Division – Human Services Department, which oversees the waiver programs. DDSD has started to gather public feedback through focus groups, town hall meetings, surveys and dedicated phone lines and emails.

Typically, stakeholders include:

- ⇒ People and families in services
- ⇒ People and families waiting for services
- ⇒ Provider associations
- ⇒ Advisory Council on Quality Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families (ACQ) and its relevant subcommittees
- ⇒ Disability Rights New Mexico
- ⇒ Development Disabilities Planning Council
- ⇒ Other advocacy groups and interested parties
- ⇒ Steering Committees or Task Forces

Be sure to check the DDSD website at <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/> and look for E-blasts for the most up to date information. If you do not receive regular e-blasts from DDSD and would like to be included on our interested parties list, please contact Tammy Barth at [Tammy.Barth@state.nm.us](mailto:Tammy.Barth@state.nm.us).

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## TRAINING UNIT UPDATE

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With the new standards in effect the training unit has been very busy! Our unit is meeting at the Northeast Regional Office for three days in early March with the primary focus of the meeting to update our current core curriculum to align with the new 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 downloaded 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 1st year requirement for Case Managers. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter trainings offered by the DDSD trainers will be posted shortly on Train New Mexico for anyone needing DDSD Core Curriculum training. To access the website, use the following link <http://trainnewmexico.com/>.

Our ANE trainer, Jenny Bartos, has completed the revisions of the ANE (Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation) Face to Face training. Over the next three weeks we have a pilot of the training 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. We also now have permission from the Jackson Compliance Administrator for all providers to take the DOH developed ANE training in lieu of the online refresher training.

Contributor: Teresa Tomashot, DDSD Training Unit Manager

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## PROVIDER VALIDATIONS UNDERWAY

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Provider Validation Surveys were completed between July and November 2017. However, there were problems with the quality of the information and findings submitted to DDSD.

DDSD and HSD determined that the importance of this project out-weighs any additional time and cost that may be incurred to complete the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required validation activities correctly and accurately, and submit for a final approval of NM's Statewide Transition Plan from CMS.

DDSD contracted with ATA Services, Inc., to complete the Provider Validation Surveys. ATA is currently conducting 700 provider/vendor validations across the state for the three HCBS waiver programs administered by the Department. This includes Medically Fragile, Mi Via, and the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver programs. Providers will be contacted during the months of February and March 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 are posted on the DDSD website at <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/kyrc/>.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

## MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH!

In 1987 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”. This is an opportunity to promote respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and to educate others on the spectrum of abilities that people with I/DD possess. There are events happening around New Mexico during this month to support individuals with disabilities, as well as to educate the public. A couple of exciting events include:

World Down Syndrome Day Celebration at the Albuquerque Balloon Museum, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00am to 11:00am. This event includes Balloon inflations, tethered rides, Food, Music, Activities, Resource Booths and Shining Star Art Exhibit by DOH.

The University of New Mexico, Center for Development and Disability, the NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and Disability Rights NM are providing a free “Side by Side” community event to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! There will be food, activities, information booths, music and fun! The event will be Monday, March 27, 2017 from 2pm – 4:30pm at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center located at 7521 Carmel NE, Albuquerque, in the Social Hall. It is located on the west side of Wyoming, just north of Paseo del Norte. More Info: <http://www.cdd.unm.edu/pdfs/2017-dd-awareness-month-flyer.pdf>

Contributor: Lisa Storti, DDS D Constituent Supports Manager

## NEW HIRES/PROMOTIONS

Karen Coulter, Registered Nurse, Albuquerque, 12/15/18  
 Carol Tookey, Registered Nurse, Gallup/Farmington, 12/29/18  
 Lynn Caddy, Management Analyst, Albuquerque, 1/12/19  
 James Valdez, ASB Bureau Chief, Santa Fe, 1/12/19  
 Casey Stone-Romero, Community Inclusion Manager, Santa Fe, 1/12/19  
 Leah Manning, Statewide Case Management Coordinator, Santa Fe, 1/26/19  
 Daniel Lucero, Litigation Management Bureau Chief, Albuquerque, 1/26/19  
 Brandi Rede, Social & Community Service Coordinator, Las Cruces, 2/23/19  
 Hyacenth Sedillo, Social & Community Service Coordinator, FIT Program, Santa Fe, 2/23/19  
 Jenni McNab, Metro Regional Staff Manager, Albuquerque, 2/23/19  
 Christina Hill, Community Programs Deputy Bureau Chief, Santa Fe, 2/23/19  
 Jacob Archuleta, Training & Development Specialist, Taos, 2/23/19  
 Gabriel Romero, Purchasing Agent, Santa Fe, 3/9/19  
 Maura Emerine-Danbury, Social & Community Service Coordinator, Albuquerque, 3/3/19

Contributor: Joseph Anaya, DDS D 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](http://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](mailto:SANTAFEmailbox.dds@state.nm.us)

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*If you would like to write an article for the next issue of the DDS D Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, please contact Lisa Storti, DDS D Newsletter Assistant Editor at 505-476-8972 or [Lisa.Storti@state.nm.us](mailto:Lisa.Storti@state.nm.us).*