NOTICE: All provider agencies that receive this publication are REQUIRED to distribute this update in a timely manner to ALL therapy practitioners and/or case managers contracted or employed by your agency. Thank you so much for all you do!

- Please note – **we continue to work in a very fluid situation and directives can and do change rapidly.** This *Therapist Updates* is current as of the time of release, but therapists and readers should follow the latest guidance available.

COVID-19 and Therapy Services Information - UPDATED

"Are we there yet?" As many sectors of New Mexico are re-opening, DDSD has met with many constituents to address the many issues that our system will face. Formal outreach to all provider groups has been occurring and input from Therapists and the Therapy Network has been excellent. Although we are not "there yet", stay tuned for more information and continue to share your ideas with us. We appreciate all that you do for the individuals we serve in New Mexico!!

- WiFi Access for Individuals: As of 7/1/2020, all agencies are required to provide WiFi access to individuals as a "basic utility." Please refer to DDSD COVID Response Memo #19 dated 6/4/2020 for specific details. If you continue to experience difficulties with compliance, please contact your therapy consultant, Felicia Vidro, or file a RORA.
- Appendix K (COVID-19) Guidance Document: Assistive Technology through Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW): Updated 7/15/20
    - The timeline to apply for this AT has been underlined extended to **SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**.
    - Request for AT of $500 is a onetime occurrence!
    - The requestor must indicate the rationale for using this device for telehealth sessions related to the COVID-19 crisis.
    - AT devices available for purchase include computers, laptops, tablets and accompanying accessories for the individual to better utilize the AT device. Such accessories may include cables, mounts, speakers, monitors, covers, risers, stands, etc.
    - Due to limited availability of popular electronics, there may be a delay in ordering the specific device requested for an individual. At this time, it is acceptable to substitute a similar product that allows individuals to have access to telehealth more quickly. Please edit the AT Fund request to reflect the substitution. Please also remember to submit your receipt of purchase.

DDSD Clinical Services Bureau Information/Resources

- ***Specialty Seating Clinic –*** Referrals for wheelchair, positioning, and adaptive equipment are being processed and appointments made for remote and in-person evaluations or wheelchair fittings, dependent on the need of the individual as assessed by SSC clinicians. Contact Jason Lavy, Specialty Seating Clinic Manager, via Therap, at (505) 222-4610 or at specialty.seating@state.nm.us for more information.

- **SAFE Clinic** – Any adult with I/DD who is experiencing challenges related to oral eating and/or tube feeding can be referred for specialized assessment and recommendations regarding eating/feeding, nutrition, positioning, and associated medical needs to support health, safety, and independence. SAFE Clinic appointments are currently occurring via remote technology. Call Jacoba (Kotie) Viljoen PhD, MSN- Ed, RN, CCRN, CSB ARM Coordinator, SAFE Clinic Coordinator for further information. Office Phone: (505) 841-6188 / Fax# (505) 841-2987 or Email: Jacoba.Viljoen@state.nm.us

- **CARMP** – As of June 1, 2020, IDT's should be using the CARMP Draft in Therap to complete all CARMPs. All therapists must have a Therap account (per DDSD Numbered Memo 2020-01). For any questions regarding The CARMP Questionnaire in Therap, please contact Jacoba "Kotie" Viljoen at Jacoba.Viljoen@state.nm.us or 505-841-6188.
    - Memo 2020-01, "Using *Questionnaire-CARMP Draft* in Therap: Process and New Required Elements Regarding Therap." https://www.nmhealth.org/search/?keyword=numbered+memo&search=search
    - The recorded webinar and guide can be found on the Therap homepage. On the home page, click on Menu → choose help and support → click on states→ choose NM→ then scroll to the bottom of the second large table. https://help.therapservices.net/app/new-mexico

- **ANE REFRESHER Training** is now on the Train NM web-site. The official title of this course is "ANE Awareness." Every therapist is required to complete this refresher annually after completing an in-person, full ANE Training prior to working with individuals in DDW. You need to allow pop-ups for the courses to run effectively. (https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95472?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en)
    - The training is found at this site: http://cdd.unm.edu/other-disability-programs/disability-health-policy/ddsd-courses/ane-awareness.html

- The **Assistive Technology Inventory** needs to be updated at least once per year (by the semi-annual review date) or when new equipment is placed in use. The inventory template is located on the DDSD website: https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/region/

- The **Regional Office Request for Assistance (RORA) Form** can be found at this site: https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/region/ (scroll to the bottom of the page). DDSD created the RORA system to promote and encourage communication with external and internal partners and to provide a forum for raising concerns to DDSD. The RORA form is intended to be a helpful mechanism for informing DDSD of gaps in services and/or needs for assistance. Any member of the IDT can submit a RORA. A RORA form may be used to inform the state about a wide range of issues, including broad system level issues, issues related to a specific provider agency, and/or issues related to a specific individual served. If you have questions regarding the use of the

RORA form, please contact your therapy consultant or Felicia Vidro.

- As many of the individuals we serve experience age-related health complications such as cancer and dementia, they may access **Hospice services**. If an individual is receiving Hospice services, they may still receive services through the DD Waiver. At the time of admission to Hospice, it is important that therapists work with the IDT and the Hospice team to develop a plan for coordination of responsibilities related to care of the person. Training should focus on the direct service personnel within an agency while input may be requested and given to Hospice providers, as well. Hospice home health aides are often trained nursing assistants with a broad skill set. They may need additional information related to the needs of people with IDD - such as individualized transfer or feeding techniques.

- A new **Occupational Therapy (OT) Consultant** has not yet been contracted to replace Julie Mehrl, OTR/L, who officially retired at the end of June. If OT's have questions, please contact Mary Beth Schubauer, PT Consultant, or Demarre Sanchez, SLP Consultant. We would be happy to assist you!

Clinical Resources

- **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** issued a guidance document on 7/14/20, pertaining to the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule (the "Final Rule"). In light of impacts from COVID-19, states have been granted an additional year to demonstrate compliance and should ensure all settings are in full compliance with the HCBS settings criteria by March 17, 2023. This date to demonstrate compliance replaces the March 17, 2022 timeline. The guidance document, Community-Based Settings Regulation – Implementation Timeline Extension and Revised Frequently Asked Questions is found here: https://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/smd20003.pdf

- **My Wheelchair Guide** https://unitedspinal.org/my-wheelchair-guide/
    - An interactive mobile app to assist people who use wheelchairs and their caregivers.
    - Has many features that guide users about wheelchair design features, skills videos, fitting guidelines, and maintenance checklists.
    "*Whether you're a beginner or advanced wheelchair user, My Wheelchair Guide will help you discover greater health, mobility and independence.*"

- **Bridging Apps** is a fantastic resource from Easter Seals of Greater Houston for finding a variety of apps that can help the individuals you work with be safer, healthier, as well as more functional in their daily lives. Their goal "is to provide caregivers and professionals with the best resources for choosing apps to enhance everyday life for people with disabilities and sharing their successes with others." Check out this resource at https://www.bridgingapps.org/

- **Clear Mask Resources**
  - Safe 'N' Clear™ https://safenclear.com/
  - ClearMask™ https://www.theclearmask.com/product
  - Instructions for DIY mask https://www.instructables.com/id/Face-Mask-Adapted-for-Deaf-DeafBlind-and-Hard-of-H/
- **Research Studies related to COVID19 and individuals with IDD**
  - "Intellectual and developmental disability and COVID-19 case-fatality trends: TriNetX analysis" https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1936657420300674

CSB Training Opportunities

UPCOMING PA/STANDARDS and ARM TRAINING

ALL ON-SITE TRAININGS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

UPCOMING ON-LINE TRAININGS		
Training	**Time**	**Date**
Aspiration Risk Management	9:00 – 12:00 / 12:30 - 4:00	8/28/20
Participatory Approach/Standards	9:00 – 12:00 / 12:30 – 4:00	9/10/20
Aspiration Risk Management	9:00 – 12:00 / 12:30 - 4:00	9/11/20
Instructions: You must pre-register for on-line trainings at the following website - https://ddsdtrain.cdd.unm.edu/Calendar.aspx *Please note that dates may be cancelled due to low registration or dates may be modified.* If this happens you will be notified. New dates will be reflected on the website above.		

Annual Mobility and Assistive Technology Conference

Due to the current PHE and the uncertainty of what the future will bring, we are sad to announce that we have decided to cancel the 2020 Mobility and Assistive Technology Conference. We are hoping to provide you with some virtual educational events in the Fall, so stay tuned!

CSB Contact Information

- CSB Bureau Chief: Elizabeth Finley, Elizabeth.Finley@state.nm.us
- CSB AT/Therapy Coordinator: Felicia Vidro, Felicia.Vidro@state.nm.us
- CSB ARM Coordinator: Jacoba (Kotie) Viljoen, Jacoba.Viloen@state.nm.us
- Contacts for the clinical consultant representing your discipline:
  - Mary Beth Schubauer, Physical Therapy, MaryBeth.Schubauer@state.nm.us 505-238-2247 (cell) Text or call is OK
  - Demarre Sanchez, Speech Therapy, Demarre.Sanchez@state.nm.us 505-417-5264 (cell) Text or call is OK

Kudos and Thank you!

Thanks to so many of you who, despite all the challenges, continue to go above and beyond to creatively support the individuals and teams you work with during this extraordinary healthcare emergency! We appreciate you!

Additional Resource Information

- The DDSD COVID-19 site at https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/ consolidates information especially relevant to DDSD providers including: all DDSD COVID-19 Numbered Response Memos; Guidance Documents; Policies; and a variety of very helpful Resource Documents. Please check this site often for updates!

- The **Healthcare for Adults with IDD** website https://iddtoolkit.vkcsites.org/ has a great section with **COVID 19 and IDD Resources**. Click on the Corona Virus Resources link that is in red at the top of the page to find a variety of social stories, healthcare rights information, adapted safety instructions, how to stay safe resources, how to advocate for individuals with IDD who are hospitalized, etc.

- **Comcast Internet Essentials Program.** Low cost internet $9.95/mo. If the individual is eligible for Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, etc. they are eligible for this program. Comcast also has gently refurbished computers available for approx. $200 for individuals that qualify for Comcast Essentials! For more information and to apply: https://internetessentials.com/ NOTE: If you want to apply for Internet Essentials over the phone please call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376).

- **Verizon Jetpack or other Wi-Fi connection devices** associated with Cell Phone plans may be an option for telehealth access. Unlike the built-in mobile hotspot feature in your smartphones and tablets, a Jetpack is a separate device that lets you wirelessly share your Verizon network connection with other devices.
  You can connect other devices (e.g., tablets, smartphones, notebooks, netbooks, cameras, gaming devices) to your Jetpack through each device's Wi-Fi feature. While the
  devices are connected, you're charged per your monthly data plan for the data that's used. https://www.verizon.com/internet-devices/
  Other cell phone companies also have options that can be researched and considered.

- The **NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council** has several resources on individuals with IDD including information related to COVID-19. https://www.nmddpc.com

- **Green Mountain Self-Advocates Group** created an amazing social story that includes simple language and photographs to assist in explaining the corona virus and how to decrease risk of exposure. It was created by and for individuals with IDD. https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plain-Language-Information-on-Coronavirus.pdf

- The **American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD)** has wonderful resources and webinars about a variety of topics, including COVID-19. They have also developed a document with clear guidelines to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on people with IDD. "Covid-19 Support Guidelines for Individuals with IDD During the Pandemic". https://www.aadmd.org/

- The **American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM)** is another association with some great resources and webinars. https://www.aacpdm.org

"Therapist Updates" will be sent via e-mail to DD Waiver Therapy and CM Providers on a periodic basis from the CSB or DDSD. **Please distribute to all providers in your agency in a timely manner!** Thank you!

- The **Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)** is a non-profit organization concerned with the independent living issues of people with disabilities living in rural America. There are several good articles and resources on their website. https://www.april-rural.org/index.php
- The **Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)** has a number of resources about individuals with IDD in general, and also related to COVID-19. http://aucd.org