



**Alfredo Vigil, MD**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF

*Building a Healthy New Mexico!*

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Deputy Secretary

**Karen Armitage, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer

Date: December 2, 2008

To: C. Dennis James, Executive Director/CEO  
Provider: High Desert Family Services, Inc.  
Address: 7001 Prospect Pl, NE Suite 100  
State/Zip: Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Region: Metro  
Survey Date: October 27 – 30, 2008  
Program Surveyed: Developmental Disabilities Waiver  
Service Surveyed: Community Living (Family Living)  
Survey Type: Routine  
Team Leader: Stephanie R. Martinez de Berenger, MPA, GCDF, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau  
Team Members: Cynthia Nielsen, MSN, RN, OCN, CCM, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau

Survey #: Q09.02.A1585.METRO.001.RTN.01

Dear Mr. James,

The Division of Health Improvement Quality Management Bureau has completed a survey of the services identified above. The purpose of the survey was to determine compliance with federal and state standards; to assure the health, safety, and welfare of individuals receiving services through the Developmental Disabilities Waiver; and to identify opportunities for improvement.

**Quality Management Approval Rating:**

In conjunction with a survey completed of your Agency's Northwest Regional office, The Division of Health Improvement is granting your agency a "SUB-STANDARD" certification for basic compliance with DDS Standards and regulations; in addition your agency will be referred to the Internal Review Committee for review and possible sanction.

**Plan of Correction:**

The attached Report of Findings identifies deficiencies found during your agency's survey. You are required to complete and implement a Plan of Correction (POC). Please submit your agency's Plan of Correction (POC) in the space on the two right columns of the Report of Findings. See attachment A for additional guidance in completing the POC. The response is due to the parties below within 10 working days of the receipt of this letter:

1. Quality Management Bureau, Attention: Plan of Correction Coordinator  
5301 Central Ave. NE Suite 900 Albuquerque, NM 87108
2. Developmental Disabilities Supports Division Regional Office for region of service surveyed.

Upon notification from QMB that your Plan of Correction has been approved, you must implement all remedies and corrective actions within 45 working days. If your plan of correction is denied, you must resubmit a revised plan ASAP for approval. All remedies must still be completed within 45 working days of the original submission.

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Failure to submit, complete or implement your POC within the required time frames will result in the imposition of a \$200 per day Civil Monetary Penalty until it is received, completed and/or implemented.

**Request for Informal Reconsideration of Findings (IRF):**

If you disagree with a determination of noncompliance (finding) you have 10 working days upon receipt of this notice to request an IRF. Submit your request for an IRF in writing to:

QMB Deputy Bureau Chief  
5301 Central Ave NE Suite #900  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
Attention: IRF request


A request for an IRF will not delay the implementation of your Plan of Correction which must be completed within 45 working days. Providers may not appeal the nature or interpretation of the standard or regulation, the team composition, sampling methodology or the Scope and Severity of the finding.

If the IRF approves the change or removal of a finding, you will be advised of any changes.

This IRF process is separate and apart from the Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) and Fair Hearing Process for Sanctions from DOH.

Please call the Team Leader at 505-222-8641, if you have questions about the survey or the report. Thank you for your cooperation and for the work you perform.

Sincerely,



Stephanie R. Martinez de Berenger, MPA, CDF  
Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor  
Division of Health Improvement  
Quality Management Bureau

## Survey Process Employed:

Entrance Conference Date: October 27, 2008

Present: **High Desert Family Services, Inc**  
Jennifer Joe, Regional Director

**DOH/DHI/QMB**  
Stephanie R. Martinez de Berenger, MPA,  
Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor

Exit Conference Date: October 30, 2008

Present: **High Desert Family Services, Inc**  
C. Dennis James, Executive Director/CEO  
Jennifer Joe, Regional Director  
Katie Lively, Service Coordinator  
Beth Sandusky, LPN  
Sheila Allen, Quality Assurance Coordinator (via conference call)

**DOH/DHI/QMB**  
Stephanie R. Martinez de Berenger, MPA,  
Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor  
Cynthia Nielsen, MSN, RN, OCN, CCM, Healthcare Surveyor

<b>Homes Visited</b>	<b>Number:</b>	<b>4</b>
Administrative Locations Visited	Number:	1
Total Sample Size	Number:	4 - Family Living
Persons Served Interviewed	Number:	3
Persons Served Observed	Number:	1 (One Individual was not present at the time of the home visit)
Records Reviewed (Persons Served)	Number:	4
Administrative Files Reviewed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Billing Records</li><li>• Medical Records</li><li>• Incident Management Records</li><li>• Personnel Files</li><li>• Training Records</li><li>• Agency Policy and Procedure</li><li>• Caregiver Criminal History Screening Records</li><li>• Employee Abuse Registry</li><li>• Human Rights Notes and/or Meeting Minutes</li><li>• Nursing personnel files</li><li>• Evacuation Drills</li><li>• Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance Plan</li></ul>

CC: Distribution List: DOH - Division of Health Improvement  
DOH - Developmental Disabilities Supports Division  
DOH - Office of Internal Audit  
HSD - Medical Assistance Division

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## Provider Instructions for Completing the QMB Plan of Correction (POC) Process

- After a QMB Quality Review, your Survey Report will be sent to you via certified mail. You may request that it also be sent to you electronically by calling George Perrault, Plan of Correction Coordinator at 505-222-8624.
- Within 10 business days of the date you received your survey report, you must develop and send your Plan of Correction response to the QMB office. (Providers who do not pick up their mail will be referred to the Internal Review Committee [IRC]).
- For each Deficiency in your Survey Report, include specific information about HOW you will correct each Deficiency, WHO will fix each Deficiency (“Responsible Party”), and by WHEN (“Date Due”).
- Your POC must not only address HOW, WHO and WHEN each Deficiency will be corrected, but must also address overall systemic issues to prevent the Deficiency from reoccurring, i.e., Quality Assurance (QA). Your description of your QA must include specifics about your self-auditing processes, such as HOW OFTEN you will self-audit, WHO will do it, and WHAT FORMS will be used.
- Corrective actions should be incorporated into your agency’s Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement policies and procedures.
- You may send your POC response electronically to George.Perrault@state.nm.us, by fax (505-841-5815), or by postal mail.
- Do not send supporting documentation to QMB until after your POC has been approved by QMB.
- QMB will notify you if your POC has been “Approved” or “Denied”.
- Whether your POC is “Approved” or “Denied”, you have a maximum of 45 business days to correct all survey Deficiencies from the date of receipt of your Survey Report. If your POC is “Denied” it must be revised and resubmitted ASAP, as the 45 working day limit is in effect. Providers whose revised POC is denied will be referred to the IRC.
- The POC must be completed on the official QMB Survey Report and Plan of Correction Form, unless approved in advance by the POC Coordinator.
- The following Deficiencies must be corrected within the deadlines below (after receipt of your Survey Report):
  - CCHS and EAR: 10 working days
  - Medication errors: 10 working days
  - IMS system/training: 20 working days
  - ISP related documentation: 30 working days
  - DDSD Training 45 working days
  
- If you have questions about the POC process, call the QMB POC Coordinator, George Perrault at 505-222-8624 for assistance.

- For Technical Assistance (TA) in developing or implementing your POC, contact your local DDSD Regional Office.
- Once your POC has been approved by QMB, the POC may not be altered or the dates changed.
- Requests for an extension or modification of your POC (post approval) must be made in writing and submitted to the POC Coordinator at QMB, and are approved on a case-by case basis.
- When submitting supporting documentation, organize your documents by Tag #s, and annotate or label each document using Individual #s.
- Do not submit original documents, copies are fine. Originals must be maintained in the agency/client file(s) as per DDSD Standards.
- Failure to submit, complete or implement your POC within the required timeframes will result in a referral to the IRC and the possible imposition of a \$200 per day Civil Monetary Penalty until it is received, completed and/or implemented.

**QMB Scope and Severity Matrix of survey results**

Each deficiency in your Report of Findings is scored on a Scope and Severity Scale. The culmination of each deficiency’s Scope and Severity is used to determine degree of compliance to standards and regulations and level of QMB Certification.

			SCOPE		
			Isolated 01% - 15%	Pattern 16% - 79%	Widespread 80% - 100%
SEVERITY	High Impact	Immediate Jeopardy to individual health and or safety	J.	K.	L.
		Actual harm	G.	H.	I.
	Medium Impact	No Actual Harm Potential for more than minimal harm	D.	E.	F. (3 or more)
			D. (2 or less)		F. (no conditions of participation)
	Low Impact	No Actual Harm Minimal potential for harm.	A.	B.	C.

Scope and Severity Definitions:

Key to Scope scale:

Isolated:

A deficiency that is limited to 1% to 15% of the sample, usually impacting no more than one or two individuals in the sample.

Pattern:

A deficiency that impacts a number or group of individuals from 16% to 79% of the sample is defined as a pattern finding. Pattern findings suggest the need for system wide corrective actions.

Widespread:

A deficiency that impacts most or all (80% to 100%) of the individuals in the sample is defined as widespread or pervasive. Widespread findings suggest the need for system wide corrective actions as well as the need to implement a Continuous Quality Improvement process to improve or build infrastructure. Widespread findings must be referred to the Internal Review Committee for review and possible actions or sanctions.

Key to Severity scale:

Low Impact Severity: (Blue)

Low level findings have no or minimal potential for harm to an individual. Providers that have no findings above a "C" level may receive a "Quality" Certification approval rating from QMB.

Medium Impact Severity: (Tan)

Medium level findings have a potential for harm to an individual. Providers that have no findings above a "F" level and/or no more than two F level findings and no F level Conditions of Participation may receive a "Merit" Certification approval rating from QMB.

High Impact Severity: (Green or Yellow)

High level findings are when harm to an individual has occurred. Providers that have no findings above "I" level may only receive a "Standard" Approval rating from QMB and will be referred to the IRC.

High Impact Severity: (Yellow)

"J, K, and L" Level findings:

This is a finding of Immediate Jeopardy. If a provider is found to have "I" level findings or higher, with an outcome of Immediate Jeopardy, including repeat findings or Conditions of Participation they will be referred to the Internal Review Committee.

## **Guidelines for the Provider Informal Reconsideration of Finding (IRF) Process**

### **Introduction:**

Throughout the process, surveyors are openly communicating with providers. Open communication means that surveyors have clarified issues and/or requested missing information before completing the review. Regardless, there may still be instances where the provider disagrees with a specific finding.

To informally dispute a finding the provider must request in writing an Informal Reconsideration of the Finding (IRF) to the QMB Deputy Bureau Chief **within 10 working days** of receipt of the final report.

The written request for an IRF must be completed on the **QMB Request for Informal Reconsideration of Finding Form** (available on the QMB website) and must specify in detail the request for reconsideration and why the finding is inaccurate. **The IRF request must include all supporting documentation or evidence that was not previously reviewed during the survey process.**

### **The following limitations apply to the IRF process:**

- The request for an IRF and all supporting evidence must be received in 10 days.
- Findings based on evidence requested during the survey and not provided may not be subject to reconsideration.
- The supporting documentation must be new evidence not previously reviewed by the survey team.
- Providers must continue to complete their plan of correction during the IRF process
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the Scope and Severity of a finding.
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the sampling methodology.
- Providers may not request an IRF based on disagreement with the nature of the standard or regulation.
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the team composition
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the QMB Quality Approval Rating and the length of their DDSD provider contract.

**A Provider forfeits the right to an IRF if the request is not made within 10 working days of receiving the report and does not include all supporting documentation or evidence to show compliance with the standards and regulations.**

QMB has 30 working days to complete the review and notify the provider of the decision. The request will be reviewed by the IRF committee. The Provider will be notified in writing of the ruling, no face to face meeting will be conducted.

When a Provider requests that a finding be reconsidered, it does not stop or delay the Plan of Correction process. **Providers must continue to complete the Plan of Correction, including the finding in dispute regardless of the IRF status.** If a finding is successfully reconsidered, it will be noted and will be removed or modified from the report. It should be noted that in some cases a Plan of Correction may be completed prior to the IRF process being completed. The provider will be notified in writing on the decisions of the IRF committee.

### **Administrative Review Process:**

If a Provider desires to challenge the decision of the IRF committee they may request an Administrative Review by the DHI and DDSD Director. The Request must be made in writing to the QMB Bureau Chief and received within 5 days of notification from the IRF decision.

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**Regarding IRC Sanctions:**

The Informal Reconsideration of the Finding process is a separate process specific to QMB Survey Findings and should not be confused with any process associated with IRC Sanctions.

If a Provider desires to Dispute or Appeal an IRC Sanction that is a separate and different process. Providers may choose the Informal Dispute Resolution Process or the Formal Medicaid Fair Hearing Process to dispute or appeal IRC sanctions, please refer to the DOH Sanction policy and section 39 of the provider contract agreement.

**Agency:** High Desert Family Services, Inc. - Metro Region  
**Program:** Developmental Disabilities Waiver  
**Service:** Community Living (Family Living)  
**Monitoring Type:** Routine  
**Date of Survey:** October 27 – 30, 2008

Statute	Deficiency	Agency Plan of Correction and Responsible Party	Date Due
<p><b>Tag # 1A09 Medication Delivery (MAR)</b></p> <p>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 1 II. PROVIDER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS:</b> The objective of these standards is to establish Provider Agency policy, procedure and reporting requirements for DD Medicaid Waiver program. These requirements apply to all such Provider Agency staff, whether directly employed or subcontracting with the Provider Agency. Additional Provider Agency requirements and personnel qualifications may be applicable for specific service standards.</p> <p><b>E. Medication Delivery:</b> Provider Agencies that provide Community Living, Community Inclusion or Private Duty Nursing services shall have written policies and procedures regarding medication(s) delivery and tracking and reporting of medication errors in accordance with DDSD Medication Assessment and Delivery Policy and Procedures, the Board of Nursing Rules and Board of Pharmacy standards and regulations.</p> <p>(2) When required by the DDSD Medication Assessment and Delivery Policy, Medication Administration Records (MAR) shall be maintained and include:</p> <p>(a) The name of the individual, a transcription of the physician's written or licensed health care provider's prescription including the brand and generic name of the medication, diagnosis for which the</p>	<p><b>Scope and Severity Rating: D</b></p> <p>Medication Administration Records (MAR) were reviewed for the months of July, August and September 2008.</p> <p>The following MARs contained missing medications entries and/or other errors:</p> <p>Individual #2 September 2008 Medication Administration Record for the following did not match the physician's orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAR read: Dilantin 125mg/5ml 2 tsp daily. Physician's Orders read: Dilantin 125mg/5ml 1 tsp 2 times daily</li> <li>• MAR read: Phenobarb 20mg/5ml 2 tsp daily. Physician's Orders read: Phenobarb 20mg/5ml 1 tsp 2 times daily.</li> </ul>		

<p>medication is prescribed;</p> <p>(b) Prescribed dosage, frequency and method/route of administration, times and dates of administration;</p> <p>(c) Initials of the individual administering or assisting with the medication;</p> <p>(d) Explanation of any medication irregularity;</p> <p>(e) Documentation of any allergic reaction or adverse medication effect; and</p> <p>(f) For PRN medication, an explanation for the use of the PRN medication shall include observable signs/symptoms or circumstances in which the medication is to be used, and documentation of effectiveness of PRN medication administered.</p> <p>(3) The Provider Agency shall also maintain a signature page that designates the full name that corresponds to each initial used to document administered or assisted delivery of each dose;</p> <p>(4) MARs are not required for individuals participating in Independent Living who self-administer their own medications;</p> <p>(5) Information from the prescribing pharmacy regarding medications shall be kept in the home and community inclusion service locations and shall include the expected desired outcomes of administering the medication, signs and symptoms of adverse events and interactions with other medications;</p>			
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Tag # 1A15 Healthcare Documentation	Scope and Severity Rating: A		
<p><b>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards Chapter 1. III. E. (1 - 4)</b>  <b>CHAPTER 1. III. PROVIDER AGENCY DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND LOCATION</b></p> <p><b>E. Healthcare Documentation by Nurses For Community Living Services, Community Inclusion Services and Private Duty Nursing Services:</b> Nursing services must be available as needed and documented for Provider Agencies delivering Community Living Services, Community Inclusion Services and Private Duty Nursing Services.</p> <p><b>(1) Documentation of nursing assessment activities</b></p> <p>(a) The following hierarchy shall be used to determine which provider agency is responsible for completion of the HAT and MAAT and related subsequent planning and training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Community living services provider agency;</li> <li>(ii) Private duty nursing provider agency;</li> <li>(iii) Adult habilitation provider agency;</li> <li>(iv) Community access provider agency; and</li> <li>(v) Supported employment provider agency.</li> </ul> <p>(b) The provider agency must arrange for their nurse to complete the Health Assessment Tool (HAT) and the Medication Administration Assessment Tool (MAAT) on at least an annual basis for each individual receiving community living, community inclusion or private duty nursing services, unless the provider agency arranges for the individual's Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) to voluntarily complete these assessments in lieu of the agency nurse. Agency nurses may also complete these assessments in collaboration with the Primary Care Practitioner if they believe such consultation is necessary for an accurate assessment. Family Living Provider Agencies have the option of having the subcontracted caregiver complete the HAT</p>	<p>Based on record review, the Agency failed to maintain the required documentation in the Individuals Agency Record as required per standard for 1 of 4 individuals.</p> <p>The following were not found or not current according to the ISP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Health Care Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Nutritional Assessment (#2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

instead of the nurse or PCP, if the caregiver is comfortable doing so. However, the agency nurse must be available to assist the caregiver upon request.

(c) For newly allocated individuals, the HAT and the MAAT must be completed within seventy-two (72) hours of admission into direct services or two weeks following the initial ISP, whichever comes first.

(d) For individuals already in services, the HAT and the MAAT must be completed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual ISP meeting and submitted to all members of the interdisciplinary team. The HAT must also be completed at the time of any significant change in clinical condition and upon return from any hospitalizations. In addition to annually, the MAAT must be completed at the time of any significant change in clinical condition, when a medication regime or route change requires delivery by licensed or certified staff, or when an individual has completed additional training designed to improve their skills to support self-administration (see DDSD Medication Assessment and Delivery Policy).

(e) Nursing assessments conducted to determine current health status or to evaluate a change in clinical condition must be documented in a signed progress note that includes time and date as well as subjective information including the individual complaints, signs and symptoms noted by staff, family members or other team members; objective information including vital signs, physical examination, weight, and other pertinent data for the given situation (e.g., seizure frequency, method in which temperature taken); assessment of the clinical status, and plan of action addressing relevant aspects of all active health problems and follow up on any recommendations of medical consultants.

**(2) Health related plans**

<p>(a) For individuals with chronic conditions that have the potential to exacerbate into a life-threatening situation, a medical crisis prevention and intervention plan must be written by the nurse or other appropriately designated healthcare professional.</p> <p>(b) Crisis prevention and intervention plans must be written in user-friendly language that is easily understood by those implementing the plan.</p> <p>(c) The nurse shall also document training regarding the crisis prevention and intervention plan delivered to agency staff and other team members, clearly indicating competency determination for each trainee.</p> <p>(d) If the individual receives services from separate agencies for community living and community inclusion services, nurses from each agency shall collaborate in the development of and training delivery for crisis prevention and intervention plans to assure maximum consistency across settings.</p> <p><b>(3)</b> For all individuals with a HAT score of 4, 5 or 6, the nurse shall develop a comprehensive healthcare plan that includes health related supports identified in the ISP (The healthcare plan is the equivalent of a nursing care plan; two separate documents are not required nor recommended):</p> <p>(a) Each healthcare plan must include a statement of the person's healthcare needs and list measurable goals to be achieved through implementation of the healthcare plan. Needs statements may be based upon supports needed for the individual to maintain a current strength, ability or skill related to their health, prevention measures, and/or supports needed to remediate, minimize or manage an existing health condition.</p> <p>(b) Goals must be measurable and shall be revised when an individual has met the goal and has the potential to attain additional goals or no longer requires supports in order to maintain the</p>			
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goal.

(c) Approaches described in the plan shall be individualized to reflect the individual's unique needs, provide guidance to the caregiver(s) and designed to support successful interactions. Some interventions may be carried out by staff, family members or other team members, and other interventions may be carried out directly by the nurse – persons responsible for each intervention shall be specified in the plan.

(d) Healthcare plans shall be written in language that will be easily understood by the person(s) identified as implementing the interventions.

(e) The nurse shall also document training on the healthcare plan delivered to agency staff and other team members, clearly indicating competency determination for each trainee. If the individual receives services from separate agencies for community living and community inclusion services, nurses from each agency shall collaborate in the development of and training delivery for healthcare plans to assure maximum consistency across settings.

(f) Healthcare plans must be updated to reflect relevant discharge orders whenever an individual returns to services following a hospitalization.

(g) All crisis prevention and intervention plans and healthcare plans shall include the individual's name and date on each page and shall be signed by the author.

(h) Crisis prevention and intervention plans as well as healthcare plans shall be reviewed by the nurse at least quarterly, and updated as needed.

**(4) General Nursing Documentation**

(a) The nurse shall complete legible and signed progress notes with date and time indicated that describe all interventions or interactions conducted with individuals served as well as all interactions with other healthcare providers serving the individual. All interactions shall be

documented whether they occur by phone or in person.

(b) For individuals with a HAT score of 4, 5 or 6, or who have identified health concerns in their ISP, the nurse shall provide the interdisciplinary team with a quarterly report that indicates current health status and progress to date on health related ISP desired outcomes and action plans as well as progress toward goals in the healthcare plan.



Tag # 1A15 Nurse Availability	Scope and Severity Rating: F		
<p><b>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards Chapter 1. III. E. (1 - 4)</b>  <b>CHAPTER 1. III. PROVIDER AGENCY DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND LOCATION</b></p> <p><b>E. Healthcare Documentation by Nurses For Community Living Services, Community Inclusion Services and Private Duty Nursing Services:</b> Nursing services must be available as needed and documented for Provider Agencies delivering Community Living Services, Community Inclusion Services and Private Duty Nursing Services.</p> <p><b>NEW MEXICO NURSING PRACTICE ACT CHAPTER 61, ARTICLE 3</b></p> <p>I. "licensed practical nursing" means the practice of a directed scope of nursing requiring basic knowledge of the biological, physical, social and behavioral sciences and nursing procedures, which practice is at the direction of a registered nurse, physician or dentist licensed to practice in this state. This practice includes but is not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) contributing to the assessment of the health status of individuals, families and communities;</li> <li>(2) participating in the development and modification of the plan of care;</li> <li>(3) implementing appropriate aspects of the plan of care commensurate with education and verified competence;</li> <li>(4) collaborating with other health care professionals in the management of health care; and</li> <li>(5) participating in the evaluation of responses to interventions;</li> </ol>	<p>Based on record review and interview, the Agency failed to ensure nursing services were available as needed and documented for Provider Agencies delivering Community Living Services &amp; Community Inclusion Services as called for in the DD Waiver standards.</p> <p>Record Review and Interview Indicated:</p> <p>Review of records found no evidence of a Registered Nurse in the Metro Region to supervise LPNs, as called for in the Board of Nursing Regulations.</p> <p>When the Executive Director (#47) was asked if the Agency had an employed or contracted licensed registered nurse, #47 stated, "Yes, she is located in Roswell, New Mexico."</p>		

Tag # 1A20 DSP Training Documents	Scope and Severity Rating: E		
<p>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 1 IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDER AGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL:</b> The objective of this section is to establish personnel standards for DD Medicaid Waiver Provider Agencies for the following services: Community Living Supports, Community Inclusion Services, Respite, Substitute Care and Personal Support Companion Services. These standards apply to all personnel who provide services, whether directly employed or subcontracting with the Provider Agency. Additional personnel requirements and qualifications may be applicable for specific service standards.</p> <p><b>C. Orientation and Training Requirements:</b> Orientation and training for direct support staff and his or her supervisors shall comply with the DDSD/DOH Policy Governing the Training Requirements for Direct Support Staff and Internal Service Coordinators Serving Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to include the following:</p> <p>(1) Each new employee shall receive appropriate orientation, including but not limited to, all policies relating to fire prevention, accident prevention, incident management and reporting, and emergency procedures; and</p> <p>(2) Individual-specific training for each individual under his or her direct care, as described in the individual service plan, prior to working alone with the individual.</p>	<p>Based on record review, the Agency failed to ensure that Orientation and Training requirements were met for 3 of 4 Direct Service Personnel.</p> <p>Review of Direct Service Personnel training records found no evidence of the following required DOH/DDSD trainings and certification being completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid (DSP #42 &amp; 43)</li> <li>• CPR (DSP #43)</li> <li>• Rights &amp; Advocacy (DSP #41)</li> <li>• Teaching &amp; Support Strategies (DSP #41)</li> <li>• Positive Behavior Supports Strategies (DSP #41)</li> <li>• Participatory Communication &amp; Choice Making (DSP #41)</li> </ul>		

Tag # 1A22 Staff Competence	Scope and Severity Rating: E		
<p>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 1 IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDER AGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL:</b> The objective of this section is to establish personnel standards for DD Medicaid Waiver Provider Agencies for the following services: Community Living Supports, Community Inclusion Services, Respite, Substitute Care and Personal Support Companion Services. These standards apply to all personnel who provide services, whether directly employed or subcontracting with the Provider Agency. Additional personnel requirements and qualifications may be applicable for specific service standards.</p> <p><b>F. Qualifications for Direct Service Personnel:</b> The following employment qualifications and competency requirements are applicable to all Direct Service Personnel employed by a Provider Agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Direct service personnel shall be eighteen (18) years or older. Exception: Adult Habilitation can employ direct care personnel under the age of eighteen 18 years, but the employee shall work directly under a supervisor, who is physically present at all times;</li> <li>(2) Direct service personnel shall have the ability to read and carry out the requirements in an ISP;</li> <li>(3) Direct service personnel shall be available to communicate in the language that is functionally required by the individual or in the use of any specific augmentative communication system utilized by the individual;</li> <li>(4) Direct service personnel shall meet the qualifications specified by DDSD in the Policy Governing the Training Requirements for Direct Support Staff and</li> </ol>	<p>Based on interview, the Agency failed to ensure that training competencies were met for 2 of 4 Direct Service Personnel interviewed.</p> <p>When DSP were asked to describe the signs of an allergic reaction to food, the following was reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSP #41 stated, "I wouldn't have any idea."</li> </ul> <p>When DSP were asked if there is a individual-specific seizure plan/crisis plan the following was reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSP #40 stated, "No." (Per ISP, individual #2 requires a seizure crisis plan).</li> </ul> <p>When DSP were asked to describe the agency's policy for medication errors, the following was reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSP #40 stated, "Order new medication." (Per Agency's policy, when there is a medication error personnel are required to, "Document the medication error in: 1) Progress notes; 2) Incident report form; 3) Medication Administration Record.")</li> </ul>		

<p>Internal Service Coordinators, Serving Individuals with Developmental Disabilities; and</p> <p>(5) Direct service Provider Agencies of Respite Services, Substitute Care, Personal Support Services, Nutritional Counseling, Therapists and Nursing shall demonstrate basic knowledge of developmental disabilities and have training or demonstrable qualifications related to the role he or she is performing and complete individual specific training as required in the ISP for each individual he or she support.</p> <p>(6) Report required personnel training status to the DDS Statewide Training Database as specified in DDS policies as related to training requirements as follows:</p> <p>(a) Initial comprehensive personnel status report (name, date of hire, Social Security number category) on all required personnel to be submitted to DDS Statewide Training Database within the first ninety (90) calendar days of providing services;</p> <p>(b) Staff who do not wish to use his or her Social Security Number may request an alternative tracking number; and</p> <p>(c) Quarterly personnel update reports sent to DDS Statewide Training Database to reflect new hires, terminations, inter-provider Agency position changes, and name changes.</p>			
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Tag # 1A28 (CoP) Incident Mgt. System	Scope & Severity Rating: F		
<p><b>NMAC 7.1.13.10 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:</b></p> <p><b>A. General:</b> All licensed health care facilities and community based service providers shall establish and maintain an incident management system, which emphasizes the principles of prevention and staff involvement. The licensed health care facility or community based service provider shall ensure that the incident management system policies and procedures requires all employees to be competently trained to respond to, report, and document incidents in a timely and accurate manner.</p> <p><b>D. Training Documentation:</b> All licensed health care facilities and community based service providers shall prepare training documentation for each employee to include a signed statement indicating the date, time, and place they received their incident management reporting instruction. The licensed health care facility and community based service provider shall maintain documentation of an employee's training for a period of at least twelve (12) months, or six (6) months after termination of an employee's employment. Training curricula shall be kept on the provider premises and made available on request by the department. Training documentation shall be made available immediately upon a division representative's request. Failure to provide employee training documentation shall subject the licensed health care facility or community based service provider to the penalties provided for in this rule.</p>	<p>Based on record review and interview, the Agency failed to provide documentation verifying completion of Incident Management Training for 4 of 8 Agency Personnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident Management (Abuse, Neglect &amp; Exploitation) (#40, 41, 42, &amp; 43)</li> </ul> <p>When DSP were asked what two State Agencies is suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation reported; the following was reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSP #43 stated, "Contact Case Manager and then the Service Coordinator from High Desert Family Services."</li> </ul>		

Tag # 1A28 (CoP) Incident Mgt. System	Scope & Severity Rating: D		
<p><b>NMAC 7.1.13.10 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:</b></p> <p><b>A. General:</b> All licensed health care facilities and community based service providers shall establish and maintain an incident management system, which emphasizes the principles of prevention and staff involvement. The licensed health care facility or community based service provider shall ensure that the incident management system policies and procedures requires all employees to be competently trained to respond to, report, and document incidents in a timely and accurate manner.</p> <p><b>E. Consumer and Guardian Orientation Packet:</b> Consumers, family members and legal guardians shall be made aware of and have available immediate accessibility to the licensed health care facility and community based service provider incident reporting processes. The licensed health care facility and community based service provider shall provide consumers, family members or legal guardians an orientation packet to include incident management systems policies and procedural information concerning the reporting of abuse, neglect or misappropriation. The licensed health care facility and community based service provider shall include a signed statement indicating the date, time, and place they received their orientation packet to be contained in the consumer's file. The appropriate consumer, family member or legal guardian shall sign this at the time of orientation.</p>	<p>Based on record review, the Agency failed to provide documentation indicating consumer, family members, or legal guardians had received an orientation packet including incident management system policies and procedural information concerning the reporting of abuse, neglect or exploitation for 1 of 4 individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Guardian Incident Management (Abuse, Neglect &amp; Exploitation) Training (#3)</li> </ul>		

Tag # 1A28 (CoP) Incident Mgt. System	Scope & Severity Rating: D		
<p><b>NMAC 7.1.13.10 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:</b></p> <p><b>A. General:</b> All licensed health care facilities and community based service providers shall establish and maintain an incident management system, which emphasizes the principles of prevention and staff involvement. The licensed health care facility or community based service provider shall ensure that the incident management system policies and procedures requires all employees to be competently trained to respond to, report, and document incidents in a timely and accurate manner.</p> <p><b>F. Posting of Incident Management Information Poster:</b> All licensed health care facilities and community based service providers shall post two (2) or more posters, to be furnished by the division, in a prominent public location which states all incident management reporting procedures, including contact numbers and Internet addresses. All licensed health care facilities and community based service providers operating sixty (60) or more beds shall post three (3) or more posters, to be furnished by the division, in a prominent public location which states all incident management reporting procedures, including contact numbers and Internet addresses. The posters shall be posted where employees report each day and from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. Each licensed health care facility or community based service provider shall take steps to insure that the notices are not altered, defaced, removed, or covered by other material. [7.1.13.10 NMAC - N, 02/28/06]</p>	<p>Based on observation, the Agency failed to post two (2) or more Incident Management Information posters in a prominent public location for the following locations:</p> <p>Residence of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual # 2</li> </ul>		

Tag # 6L13 (CoP) - CL Healthcare Reqts.	Scope and Severity Rating: D		
<p>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007</p> <p><b>CHAPTER 6. VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING</b></p> <p><b>G. Health Care Requirements for Community Living Services.</b></p> <p>(1) The Community Living Service providers shall ensure completion of a HAT for each individual receiving this service. The HAT shall be completed 2 weeks prior to the annual ISP meeting and submitted to the Case Manager and all other IDT Members. A revised HAT is required to also be submitted whenever the individual's health status changes significantly. For individuals who are newly allocated to the DD Waiver program, the HAT may be completed within 2 weeks following the initial ISP meeting and submitted with any strategies and support plans indicated in the ISP, or within 72 hours following admission into direct services, which ever comes first.</p> <p>(2) Each individual will have a Health Care Coordinator, designated by the IDT. When the individual's HAT score is 4, 5 or 6 the Health Care Coordinator shall be an IDT member, other than the individual. The Health Care Coordinator shall oversee and monitor health care services for the individual in accordance with these standards. In circumstances where no IDT member voluntarily accepts designation as the health care coordinator, the community living provider shall assign a staff member to this role.</p> <p>(3) For each individual receiving Community Living Services, the provider agency shall ensure and document the following:</p> <p>(a) Provision of health care oversight consistent with these Standards as detailed in Chapter One section III E: Healthcare Documentation by Nurses For Community Living Services, Community Inclusion Services and Private Duty</p>	<p>Based on record review, the Agency failed to provide documentation of annual physical examinations and/or other examinations as specified by a licensed physician for 1 of 4 individuals receiving Community Living Services.</p> <p>The following were not found, not current or incomplete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental Exam (#3)</li> <li>• Vision Exam (#3)</li> </ul>		



<p>Nursing Services.</p> <p>b) That each individual with a score of 4, 5, or 6 on the HAT, has a Health Care Plan developed by a licensed nurse.</p> <p>(c) That an individual with chronic condition(s) with the potential to exacerbate into a life threatening condition, has Crisis Prevention/ Intervention Plan(s) developed by a licensed nurse or other appropriate professional for each such condition.</p> <p>(4) That an average of 3 hours of documented nutritional counseling is available annually, if recommended by the IDT.</p> <p>(5) That the physical property and grounds are free of hazards to the individual's health and safety.</p> <p>(6) In addition, for each individual receiving Supported Living or Family Living Services, the provider shall verify and document the following:</p> <p>(a) The individual has a primary licensed physician;</p> <p>(b) The individual receives an annual physical examination and other examinations as specified by a licensed physician;</p> <p>(c) The individual receives annual dental check-ups and other check-ups as specified by a licensed dentist;</p> <p>(d) The individual receives eye examinations as specified by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist; and</p> <p>(e) Agency activities that occur as follow-up to medical appointments (e.g. treatment, visits to specialists, changes in medication or daily routine).</p>			
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Tag # 6L14 Residential Case File	Scope and Severity Rating: E		
<p>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007  CHAPTER 6. VIII. COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICE PROVIDER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>A. Residence Case File: For individuals receiving Supported Living or Family Living, the Agency shall maintain in the individual's home a complete and current confidential case file for each individual. For individuals receiving Independent Living Services, rather than maintaining this file at the individual's home, the complete and current confidential case file for each individual shall be maintained at the agency's administrative site. Each file shall include the following:</p> <p>(1) Complete and current ISP and all supplemental plans specific to the individual;  (2) Complete and current Health Assessment Tool;  (3) Current emergency contact information, which includes the individual's address, telephone number, names and telephone numbers of residential Community Living Support providers, relatives, or guardian or conservator, primary care physician's name(s) and telephone number(s), pharmacy name, address and telephone number and dentist name, address and telephone number, and health plan;  (4) Up-to-date progress notes, signed and dated by the person making the note for at least the past month (older notes may be transferred to the agency office);  (5) Data collected to document ISP Action Plan implementation  (6) Progress notes written by direct care staff and by nurses regarding individual health status and physical conditions including action taken in</p>	<p>Based on record review, the Agency failed to maintain a complete and confidential case file in the residence for 2 of 4 Individuals receiving Family Living Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual ISP (#1)</li> <li>• ISP Signature Page (#1)</li> <li>• Addendum A (#1)</li> <li>• Individual Specific Training (Addendum B) (#1)</li> <li>• Positive Behavioral Plan (#4)</li> <li>• Speech Therapy Plan (#1)</li> <li>• Occupational Therapy Plan (#1)</li> <li>• Health Assessment Tool (#4)</li> </ul>		

response to identified changes in condition for at least the past month;

(7) Physician's or qualified health care providers written orders;

(8) Progress notes documenting implementation of a physician's or qualified health care provider's order(s);

(9) Medication Administration Record (MAR) for the past three (3) months which includes:

- (a) The name of the individual;
- (b) A transcription of the healthcare practitioners prescription including the brand and generic name of the medication;
- (c) Diagnosis for which the medication is prescribed;
- (d) Dosage, frequency and method/route of delivery;
- (e) Times and dates of delivery;
- (f) Initials of person administering or assisting with medication; and
- (g) An explanation of any medication irregularity, allergic reaction or adverse effect.
- (h) For PRN medication an explanation for the use of the PRN must include:
  - (i) Observable signs/symptoms or circumstances in which the medication is to be used, and
  - (ii) Documentation of the effectiveness/result of the PRN delivered.
- (i) A MAR is not required for individuals participating in Independent Living Services who self-administer their own medication. However, when medication administration is provided as part of the Independent Living Service a MAR must be maintained at the individual's home and an updated copy must be placed in the agency file on a weekly basis.

(10) Record of visits to healthcare practitioners including any treatment provided at the visit and

a record of all diagnostic testing for the current ISP year; and  
(11) Medical History to include: demographic data, current and past medical diagnoses including the cause (if known) of the developmental disability and any psychiatric diagnosis, allergies (food, environmental, medications), status of routine adult health care screenings, immunizations, hospital discharge summaries for past twelve (12) months, past medical history including hospitalizations, surgeries, injuries, family history and current physical exam.

**ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: Reimbursement Deficiencies**

**BILLING  
TAG #1A12**

**Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007 Chapter 1. III. PROVIDER AGENCY DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND LOCATION**

**B. Billable Units:** The documentation of the billable time spent with an individual shall be kept on the written or electronic record that is prepared prior to a request for reimbursement from the HSD. For each unit billed, the record shall contain the following:

- (1) Date, start and end time of each service encounter or other billable service interval;
- (2) A description of what occurred during the encounter or service interval; and
- (3) The signature or authenticated name of staff providing the service.

Billing for Community Living (Family Living) service was reviewed for 4 of 4 individuals. Progress notes and billing records supported billing activities for the months of July, August and September 2008.