



Alfredo Vigil, MD  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF

Building a Healthy New Mexico!

Bill Richardson, Governor

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Deputy Secretary

Jessica Sutin  
Deputy Secretary

Karen Armitage, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

Date: December 12, 2008  
To: Abel Valdez, Executive Director  
Provider: Journeys Day Program, Inc.  
Address: 2509 Vermont St. NE Ste. A - 2  
State/Zip: Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

CC: Abel Valdez, Board Chair  
Address: P. O. Box 8432  
State/Zip: Fairview, New Mexico 87533

Region: Northeast  
Survey Date: October 28 - 30, 2008  
Program Surveyed: Developmental Disabilities Waiver  
Service Surveyed: Community Living (Family Living)  
Survey Type: Routine  
Team Leader: Marti Madrid, LBSW, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau  
Team Members: Tony Fragua, BFA, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau  
Survey #: Q09.02.D0775.NE.001.RTN.01

Dear Mr. Valdez:

The Division of Health Improvement Quality Management Bureau has completed a quality review 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:**

The Division of Health Improvement is pleased to grant your agency a "QUALITY" certification for substantial compliance with DDSD Standards and regulations.

**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.

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 505-841-5831, if you have questions about the survey or the report. Thank you for your cooperation and for the work you perform.

Sincerely,



Marti Madrid, LBSW  
Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor  
Division of Health Improvement  
Quality Management Bureau

## Survey Process Employed:

Entrance Conference Date: October 28, 2008

Present: **Journeys Day Program, Inc.**  
Lynn Martin, Service Coordinator  
Ryan Munsell, Quality Assurance Officer

**DOH/DHI/QMB**

Marti Madrid, LBSW, Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor  
Tony Fragua, BFA, Healthcare Surveyor

Exit Conference Date: October 30, 2008

Present: **Journeys Day Program, Inc.**  
Abel Valdez, Executive Director  
Lynn Martin, Service Coordinator

**DOH/DHI/QMB**

Marti Madrid, LBSW, Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor  
Tony Fragua, BFA, Healthcare Surveyor

**Homes Visited** **Number: 3**

Administrative Locations Visited Number: 1

Total Sample Size Number: 3

Persons Served Interviewed Number: 3

Records Reviewed (Persons Served) Number: 3

Administrative Files Reviewed

- Billing Records
- Medical Records
- Incident Management Records
- Personnel Files
- Training Records
- Agency Policy and Procedure
- Caregiver Criminal History Screening Records
- Employee Abuse Registry
- Human Rights Notes and/or Meeting Minutes
- Nursing personnel files
- Evacuation Drills
- Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance Plan

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

## 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 DDS 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.

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

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 DDS 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 DDS Director. The Request must be made in writing to the QMB Bureau Chief and received within 5 days of notification from the IRF decision.

### **Regarding IRC Sanctions:**

DHI Quality Review Survey Report – Journeys Day Program, Inc. - Northeast Region, October 28 - 30, 2008 8



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:** Journeys Day Program, Inc. - Northeast Region  
**Program:** Developmental Disabilities Waiver  
**Service:** Community Living (Family Living)  
**Monitoring Type:** Routine  
**Date of Survey:** October 28 - 30, 2008

Statute	Deficiency	Agency Plan of Correction and Responsible Party	Date Due
<p><b>Tag # 1A22 Staff Competence</b></p> <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> <p>(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;</p> <p>(2) Direct service personnel shall have the ability to read and carry out the requirements in an ISP;</p> <p>(3) Direct service personnel shall be available to communicate in the language that is</p>	<p><b>Scope and Severity Rating: C</b></p> <p>Based on interview, the Agency failed to ensure that training competencies were met for 1 of 3 Direct Service Personnel.</p> <p>When DSP were asked what they would do if there was a medication error the following was reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSP # 4 stated, "I would call Lynn, document, then discard, flush it." Per Agency policy the staff is required to, "Place the meds in a sealed bag or container, label with the individual's name, dosage, date and time and the reason the med was not administered. Store in a locked box with the other meds until it can be returned to the pharmacist."</li> </ul>		

<p>functionally required by the individual or in the use of any specific augmentative communication system utilized by the individual;</p> <p>(4) Direct service personnel shall meet the qualifications specified by DDS in the Policy Governing the Training Requirements for Direct Support Staff and 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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**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 3 of 3 individuals. Progress notes and billing records supported billing activities for the months of June, July and August 2008.