Date: February 19, 2009

To: Mr. Eddie Romero, Executive Director
Provider: Northern New Mexico Quality Care, LLC
Address: 1101 Johnnie Roybal
State/City/Zip: Espanola, New Mexico 87532

E-mail Address: ecromero@cybermesa.com

Region: Northeast
Survey Date: February 9 - 11, 2009
Program Surveyed: Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service Surveyed: Community Living (Family Living) & Community Inclusion (Community Access)
Survey Type: Initial
Team Leader: Barbara Czinger, MSW, LISW, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau
Team Members: Marti Madrid, LBSW, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau & Florie Alire, RN, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau

Survey #: Q09.03.86286854.NE.001.INT.01

Dear Mr. Romero,

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 new agency a continuation of your "PROVISIONAL" certification for compliance with DDSD Standards and regulations. As part of your Provisional certification, QMB will conduct an additional annual review prior to the end of your current provider agreement. The outcome of that review will be used in determining future DHI certifications.

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 505-476-9023, if you have questions about the survey or the report. Thank you for your cooperation and for the work you perform.

Sincerely,

Barbara Czinger, MSW, LISW
Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor
Division of Health Improvement
Quality Management Bureau

Survey Process Employed:

Entrance Conference Date:	February 9, 2009
Present:	**Northern New Mexico Quality Care, LLC** Eddie Romero, Executive Director Stephanie Romero, Human Resources Director **DOH/DHI/QMB** Barbara Czinger, MSW, LISW, Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor Marti Madrid, LBSW, Healthcare Surveyor Florie Alire, RN, Healthcare Surveyor
Exit Conference Date:	February 11, 2009
Present:	**Northern New Mexico Quality Care, LLC** Eddie Romero, Executive Director Sam Gallegos, Service Coordinator **DOH/DHI/QMB** Barbara Czinger, MSW, LISW, Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor Marti Madrid, LBSW, Healthcare Surveyor Florie Alire, RN, Healthcare Surveyor **DDSD - NE Regional Office** Tom Trujillo (via phone)
Homes Visited	**Number: 6**
Administrative Locations Visited	Number: 1
Total Sample Size	Number: 6 0 - Jackson Class Members 6 - Non-Jackson 6 - Family Living 3 - Community Access
Persons Served Interviewed	Number: 3
Persons Served Observed	Number: 1 (One individual did not respond to surveyors questions. Two individuals were not home during on-site visits.)
Records Reviewed (Persons Served)	Number: 6
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

Attachment A

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.

Attachment B

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		
SEVERITY			**Isolated 01% - 15%**	**Pattern 16% - 79%**	**Widespread 80% - 100%**
	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.

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: **Northern New Mexico Quality Care, LLC - Northeast Region**
Program: Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service: Community Living (Family Living) & Community Inclusion (Community Access)
Monitoring Type: Initial
Date of Survey: **February 9 - 11, 2009**

Statute	Deficiency	Agency Plan of Correction and Responsible Party	Date Due
Tag # 1A08 Agency Case File	**Scope and Severity Rating: A**		
Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007 **CHAPTER 1 II. PROVIDER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS:** 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. **D. Provider Agency Case File for the Individual:** All Provider Agencies shall maintain at the administrative office a confidential case file for each individual. Case records belong to the individual receiving services and copies shall be provided to the receiving agency whenever an individual changes providers. The record must also be made available for review when requested by DOH, HSD or federal government representatives for oversight purposes. The individual's case file shall include the following requirements: (1) Emergency contact information, including the individual's address, telephone number, names and telephone numbers of relatives, or guardian or conservator, physician's name(s) and telephone number(s), pharmacy name, address and telephone number, and health plan if appropriate; (2) The individual's complete and current ISP,	Based on record review, the Agency failed to maintain at the administrative office a confidential case file for 1 of 6 individuals. Review of the Agency individual case files revealed the following items were not found, incomplete, and/or not current: • ISP Signature Page (#5)		

with all supplemental plans specific to the individual, and the most current completed Health Assessment Tool (HAT); (3) Progress notes and other service delivery documentation; (4) Crisis Prevention/Intervention Plans, if there are any for the individual; (5) A medical history, which shall include at least demographic data, current and past medical diagnoses including the cause (if known) of the developmental disability, psychiatric diagnoses, allergies (food, environmental, medications), immunizations, and most recent physical exam; (6) When applicable, transition plans completed for individuals at the time of discharge from Fort Stanton Hospital or Los Lunas Hospital and Training School; and (7) Case records belong to the individual receiving services and copies shall be provided to the individual upon request. (8) The receiving Provider Agency shall be provided at a minimum the following records whenever an individual changes provider agencies: (a) Complete file for the past 12 months; (b) ISP and quarterly reports from the current and prior ISP year; (c) Intake information from original admission to services; and (d) When applicable, the Individual Transition Plan at the time of discharge from Los Lunas Hospital and Training School or Ft. Stanton Hospital.			

Tag # 1A20 DSP Training Documents	Scope and Severity Rating: E		
Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007 **CHAPTER 1 IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDER AGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL:** 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. **C**. Orientation and Training Requirements: 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: (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 (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.	Based on record review, the Agency failed to ensure that Orientation and Training requirements were met for 3 of 12 Direct Service Personnel. Review of Direct Service Personnel training records found no evidence of the following required DOH/DDSD trainings and certification being completed: • First Aid (DSP #14) • CPR (DSP #14) • Assisting With Medications (DSP #15 & 20)		

Tag # 1A25 (CoP) CCHS	Scope and Severity Rating: D		
NMAC 7.1.9.9 **A. Prohibition on Employment:** A care provider shall not hire or continue the employment or contractual services of any applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver for whom the care provider has received notice of a disqualifying conviction, except as provided in Subsection B of this section. **NMAC 7.1.9.11** **DISQUALIFYING CONVICTIONS.** The following felony convictions disqualify an applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver from employment or contractual services with a care provider: **A.** homicide; **B.** trafficking, or trafficking in controlled substances; **C.** kidnapping, false imprisonment, aggravated assault or aggravated battery; **D.** rape, criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual contact, incest, indecent exposure, or other related felony sexual offenses; **E.** crimes involving adult abuse, neglect or financial exploitation; **F.** crimes involving child abuse or neglect; **G.** crimes involving robbery, larceny, extortion, burglary, fraud, forgery, embezzlement, credit card fraud, or receiving stolen property; or **H**. an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy involving any of the felonies in this subsection. Chapter 1.IV. General Provider Requirements. D. Criminal History Screening: All personnel shall be screened by the Provider Agency in regard to the employee's qualifications, references, and employment history, prior to employment. All Provider Agencies shall comply with the Criminal Records Screening for Caregivers 7.1.12 NMAC and Employee Abuse Registry 7.1.12 NMAC as required by the Department of Health, Division of Health Improvement.	Based on record review, the Agency failed to maintain documentation indicating no "disqualifying convictions" or documentation of the timely submission of pertinent application information to the Caregiver Criminal History Screening Program was on file for 1 of 14 Agency Personnel. • #7 - Date of Hire 3/1/2008		

Tag # 1A32 (CoP) ISP Implementation	Scope and Severity Rating: E		
NMAC **7.26.5.16.C and D** **Development of the ISP. Implementation of the ISP.** The ISP shall be implemented according to the timelines determined by the IDT and as specified in the ISP for each stated desired outcomes and action plan. C. The IDT shall review and discuss information and recommendations with the individual, with the goal of supporting the individual in attaining desired outcomes. The IDT develops an ISP based upon the individual's personal vision statement, strengths, needs, interests and preferences. The ISP is a dynamic document, revised periodically, as needed, and amended to reflect progress towards personal goals and achievements consistent with the individual's future vision. This regulation is consistent with standards established for individual plan development as set forth by the commission on the accreditation of rehabilitation facilities (CARF) and/or other program accreditation approved and adopted by the developmental disabilities division and the department of health. It is the policy of the developmental disabilities division (DDD), that to the extent permitted by funding, each individual receive supports and services that will assist and encourage independence and productivity in the community and attempt to prevent regression or loss of current capabilities. Services and supports include specialized and/or generic services, training, education and/or treatment as determined by the IDT and documented in the ISP. D. The intent is to provide choice and obtain opportunities for individuals to live, work and play with full participation in their communities. The following principles provide direction and purpose in planning for individuals with developmental disabilities. [05/03/94; 01/15/97; Recompiled 10/31/01]	Based on record review, the Agency failed to implement the ISP according to the timelines determined by the IDT and as specified in the ISP for each stated desired outcomes and action plan for 5 of 6 individuals. Per Individuals ISP's the following was found with regards to the implementation of ISP Outcomes: Community Living Data Collection/Data Tracking/Progress with regards to ISP Outcomes: • None found 3/2008 - 2/2009 (#2) • None found 3/2008 - 2/2009 (#3) • None found 3/2008 - 2/2009 (#4) • None found 3/2008 - 2/2009 (#5) • None found for 3/2008 - 2/2009 (#6) Community Access Data Collection/Data Tracking/Progress with regards to ISP Outcomes: • None found 3/2008 - 2/2009 (#5)		

Tag # 1A37 Individual Specific Training	Scope and Severity Rating: D		
Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007 **CHAPTER 1 IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDER AGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL:** 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. **C**. Orientation and Training Requirements: 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: (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.	Based on record review, the Agency failed to ensure that Individual Specific Training requirements were met for 1 of 14 Agency Personnel. • Individual Specific Training (SC #8)		

Tag # 5I11 Reporting Requirements	Scope and Severity Rating: A		
Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007 **CHAPTER 5 IV. COMMUNITY INCLUSION SERVICES PROVIDER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS** **E. Provider Agency Reporting Requirements:** All Community Inclusion Provider Agencies are required to submit written quarterly status reports to the individual's Case Manager no later than fourteen (14) calendar days following the end of each quarter. In addition to reporting required by specific Community Access, Supported Employment, and Adult Habilitation Standards, the quarterly reports shall contain the following written documentation: (1) Identification and implementation of a meaningful day definition for each person served; (2) Documentation summarizing the following: (a) Daily choice-based options; and (b) Daily progress toward goals using age-appropriate strategies specified in each individual's action plan in the ISP. (3) Significant changes in the individual's routine or staffing; (4) Unusual or significant life events; (5) Quarterly updates on health status, including changes in medication, assistive technology needs and durable medical equipment needs; (6) Record of personally meaningful community inclusion; (7) Success of supports as measured by whether or not the person makes progress toward his or her desired outcomes as identified in the ISP; and (8) Any additional reporting required by DDSD.	Based on record review, the Agency failed to complete quarterly reports as required for 1 of 3 individuals receiving Community Inclusion services. Community Access Quarterly Reports • Individual #3 - None found 3/2008 - 2/2009		

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) and Community Inclusion (CA) service was reviewed for 6 of 6 individuals (6 FL & 3 CA). Progress notes and billing records supported billing activities for the months of September, October, and November 2008.