



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

CATHERINE D. TORRES, M.D., CABINET SECRETARY

Date: October 27, 2011

To: Barbara Anderson, Director
Provider: R-Way, LLC
Address: 3205 Richards Lane, Suite B
State/Zip: Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

E-mail Address: Barbann1123@aol.com

Region: Northeast
Survey Date: Sept. 22 – Oct. 24, 2011
Program Surveyed: Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service Surveyed: Community Living (Family Living & Substitute Care)
Survey Type: Focused
Team Leader: Scott Good, MRC, CRC, Deputy Chief, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau
Team Members: Marti Madrid, LBSW, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau has completed a focused compliance survey of the services identified above. The purpose of the focused 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. This Report of Findings will be shared with the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division for their use in determining your current and future provider contracts. Upon receipt of this letter and Report of Findings your agency must immediately correct all deficiencies which place Individuals served at risk of harm.

The specific focus of the survey was to determine compliance with Caregivers Criminal History Screening and billing for the above identified services.

Due to the failure to be in compliance with the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), DDSD Standards and regulations your agency will additionally be referred to the Internal Review Committee for review and possible sanction.

Please call the Plan of Correction Coordinator at 505-222-8647 if you have questions about the Report of Findings. Thank you for your cooperation and for the work you perform.

Sincerely,

Scott Good, MRC, CRC

Scott Good, MRC, CRC
Deputy Chief /Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor
Division of Health Improvement
Quality Management Bureau



Division of Health Improvement • Quality Management Bureau
Quality Management Bureau • 5301 Central Ave. NE Suite 400 • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
(505) 222-8623 • FAX: (505) 222-8661 • <http://dhi.health.state.nm.us>

QMB Report of Findings – R-Way, LLC - Northeast Region - Sept. 22 – Oct. 24, 2011

Survey Report #: Q12.01.D0886.NE.001.FCD.01

Survey Process Employed:

Agency Personnel Records Reviewed Number: 24

Administrative Files Reviewed

- Billing Records
- Medical Records
- Incident Management Records
- Personnel Records
- Training Records
- Caregiver Criminal History Screening Records
- Employee Abuse Registry

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

Introduction:

After a QMB Compliance Review, your QMB Report of Findings will be sent to you via e-mail.

Each provider must develop and implement a Plan of Correction (POC) that identifies specific quality assurance and quality improvement activities the agency will implement to correct deficiencies and prevent continued non compliance.

Agencies must submit their Plan of Correction within 10 business days from the date you receive the QMB Report of Findings. (Providers who do not submit a POC within 10 business days will be referred to the Internal Review Committee [IRC] for possible actions or sanctions).

Agencies must fully implement their approved Plan of Correction within 45 business days from the date they receive the QMB Report of Findings. (Providers who fail to complete a POC within the 45 business days allowed shall be referred to the IRC for possible actions or sanctions.)

If you have questions about the Plan of Correction process, call the QMB Plan of Correction Coordinator at 505-222-8647 or email at George.Perrault@state.nm.us. Requests for technical assistance must be requested through your DDSD Regional Office.

The POC process cannot resolve disputes regarding findings. If you wish to dispute a finding on the official Report of Findings, you must file an Informal Reconsideration of Findings (IRF) request within ten (10) business days of receiving your report. Please note that you must still submit a POC for findings that are in question (see Attachment "C").

Instructions for Completing Agency POC:

Required Content

Your Plan of Correction should provide a step-by-step description of the methods to correct each deficient practice to prevent recurrence and information that ensures the regulation cited is in compliance. The remedies noted in your POC are expected to be added to your Agency's required, annual Quality Assurance Plan.

If a deficiency has already been corrected, the plan should state how it was corrected, the completion date (date the correction was accomplished), and how possible recurrence of the deficiency will be prevented.

The Plan of Correction must address the required six CMS core elements to address **each deficiency** of the POC:

1. How the specific and realistic corrective action will be accomplished for individuals found to have been affected by the deficient practice.
2. How the agency will identify other individuals who have the potential to be affected by the same deficient practice, and how the agency will act to protect individuals in similar situations.
3. What QA measures will be put into place or systemic changes made to ensure that the deficient practice will not recur
4. Indicate how the agency plans to monitor its performance to make sure that solutions are sustained. The agency must develop a QA plan for ensuring that correction is achieved and sustained. This QA plan must be implemented, and the corrective action evaluated for its effectiveness. The plan of correction is integrated into the agency quality assurance system; and

5. Include dates when corrective action will be completed. The corrective action completion dates must be acceptable to the State.
6. The POC must be signed and dated by the agency director or other authorized official.

The following details should be considered when developing your POC:

- Details about how and when Consumer, Personnel and Residential files are audited by Agency personnel to ensure they contain required documents;
- Information about how Medication Administration Records are reviewed to verify they contain all required information before they are distributed, as they are being used, and after they are completed;
- Your processes for ensuring that all staff are trained in Core Competencies, Incident Reporting, and Individual-Specific service requirements, etc;
- How accuracy in Billing documentation is assured;
- How health, safety is assured;
- For Case Management Providers, how ISPs are reviewed to verify they meet requirements, how the timeliness of LOC packet submissions and consumer visits are tracked;
- Your process for gathering, analyzing and responding to Quality data; and,
- Details about Quality Targets in various areas, current status, analyses about why targets were not met, and remedies implemented.

Note: Instruction or in-service of staff alone may not be a sufficient plan of correction. This is a good first step toward correction, but additional steps should be taken to ensure the deficiency is corrected and will not recur.

Completion Dates

- The plan of correction must include a **completion date** (entered in the far right-hand column) for each finding. Be sure the date is **realistic** in the amount of time your Agency will need to correct the deficiency; not to exceed 45 business days.
- Direct care issues should be corrected immediately and monitored appropriately.
- Some deficiencies may require a staged plan to accomplish total correction.
- Deficiencies requiring replacement of equipment, etc., may require more time to accomplish correction but should show reasonable time frames.

Initial Submission of the Plan of Correction Requirements

1. The Plan of Correction must be completed on the official QMB Survey Report of Findings/Plan of Correction Form and received by QMB within ten (10) business days from the date you received the report of findings.
2. For questions about the POC process, call the POC Coordinator, George Perrault at 505-222-8647 for assistance.
3. For Technical Assistance (TA) in developing or implementing your POC, contact your local DDS Regional Office.
4. Submit your POC to George Perrault, POC Coordinator in any of the following ways:
 - a. Electronically at George.Perrault@state.nm.us (*preferred method*)
 - b. Fax to 505-222-8661, or
 - c. Mail to POC Coordinator, 5301 Central Avenue SW, Suite 400, Albuquerque, NM 87108
5. Do not submit supporting documentation (evidence of compliance) to QMB until after your POC has been approved by the POC Coordinator.
6. QMB will notify you when your POC has been “approve” or “denied.”
 - a. Whether your POC is “approved,” or “denied,” you will have a maximum of 45 business days from the date of receipt of your Report of Findings to correct all survey deficiencies.
 - b. If your POC is denied, it must be revised and resubmitted as soon as possible, as the 45 business day limit is in effect.
 - c. If your POC is denied a second time your agency may be referred to the Internal Review Committee.

- d. You will receive written confirmation when your POC has been approved by QMB and a final deadline for completion of your POC.
7. Failure to submit your POC within 10 business days without prior approval of an extension by QMB will result in a referral to the Internal Review Committee and the possible implementation of monetary penalties and/or sanctions.

POC Document Submission Requirements

Once your POC has been approved by the QMB Plan of Correction Coordinator you must submit copies of documents as evidence that all deficiencies have been corrected, as follows.

1. Your internal documents are due within a maximum of 45 business days of receipt of your Report of Findings.
2. You may submit your documents by postal mail (paper hard copy or on a disc), fax, or electronically (scanned and attached to e-mails).
3. All submitted documents must be annotated; please be sure the tag numbers and Identification numbers are indicated on each document submitted. Documents which are not annotated with the Tag number and Identification number may not be accepted.
4. Do not submit original documents; Please provide copies or scanned electronic files for evidence. Originals must be maintained in the agency file(s) per DDSD Standards.
5. In lieu of some documents, you may submit copies of file or home audit forms that clearly indicate cited deficiencies have been corrected, other attestations of correction must be approved by the Plan of Correction Coordinator prior to their submission.
6. For billing deficiencies, you must submit:
 - a. Evidence of an internal audit of billing documentation for a sample of individuals and timeframes;
 - b. Copies of "void and adjust" forms submitted to correct all over-billed or unjustified units billed identified during your internal audit.

Revisions, Modifications or Extensions to your Plan of Correction (post QMB approval) must be made in writing and submitted to the Plan of Correction Coordinator at QMB, prior to the due date and are approved on a case-by-case basis. No changes may be made to your POC or the timeframes for implementation without written approval of the POC Coordinator.

QMB Determinations of Compliance

- “Compliance with Conditions of Participation”
The QMB determination of “Compliance with Conditions of Participation,” indicates that a provider is in compliance with all ‘Conditions of Participation,’ (CoP) but may have standard level deficiencies (deficiencies which are not at the condition level) out of compliance. The agency has obtained a level of compliance such that there is a minimal potential for harm to individuals’ health and safety. To qualify for a determination of Compliance with Conditions of Participation, the provider must be in compliance with *all* Conditions of Participation.
- “Partial-Compliance with Conditions of Participation”
The QMB determination of “Partial-Compliance with Conditions of Participation” indicates that a provider is out of compliance with one (1) to three (3) ‘Conditions of Participation.’ This partial-compliance, if not corrected, may result in a serious negative outcome or the potential for more than minimal harm to individuals’ health and safety. The Agency may also have standard level deficiencies (deficiencies which are not at the condition level).

Providers receiving a repeat determination of ‘Partial-Compliance’ for repeat deficiencies of CoPs may be referred by the Quality Management Bureau to the Internal Review Committee (IRC) for consideration of remedies and possible actions.

- “Non-Compliant with Conditions of Participation”:
The QMB determination of “Non-Compliance with Conditions of Participation,” indicates a provider is significantly out of compliance with Conditions of Participation and/or has:
 - a. Four (4) Conditions of Participation out of compliance.
 - b. Multiple findings of widespread non-compliance with any standard or regulation with a significant potential for more than minimal harm.
 - c. Any finding of actual harm or Immediate Jeopardy.

The Agency may also have standard level deficiencies (deficiencies which are not at the condition level).

Providers receiving a repeat determination of ‘Non-Compliance’ will be referred by Quality Management Bureau to the Internal Review Committee (IRC) for consideration of remedies and possible actions.

Attachment C

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

Introduction:

Throughout the QMB Survey process, surveyors are openly communicating with providers. Open communication means surveyors have clarified issues and/or requested missing information before completing the review through the use of the signed/dated “Document Request,” or “administrative Needs,” etc. forms. Regardless, there may still be instances where the provider disagrees with a specific finding. Providers may use the following process to informally dispute a finding.

Instructions:

1. The Informal Reconsideration of the Finding (IRF) request must be in writing to the QMB Deputy Bureau Chief **within 10 business days** of receipt of the final Report of Findings.
2. The written request for an IRF *must* be completed on the QMB Request for Informal Reconsideration of Finding form available on the QMB website: <http://dhi.health.state.nm.us/qmb>
3. The written request for an IRF must specify in detail the request for reconsideration and why the finding is inaccurate.
4. The IRF request must include all supporting documentation or evidence.
5. If you have questions about the IRC process, email the IRF Chairperson, Scott Good at scott.good@state.nm.us for assistance.

The following limitations apply to the IRF process:

- The request for an IRF and all supporting evidence must be received within 10 business 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 or requested 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 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 DHI/QMB determination of compliance or the length of their DDSD provider contract.

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

The IRF Committee will review the request, 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 removed or modified, it will be noted and removed or modified from the Report of Findings. 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.

Agency: R-Way, LLC - Northeast Region
Program: Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service: Community Living (Family Living & Substitute Care)
Monitoring Type: Focused Survey
Date of Survey: Sept. 22 – Oct. 24, 2011

Standard of Care	Deficiency	Agency Plan of Correction and Responsible Party	Due Date
CMS Assurance: Qualified Providers			
Tag # 1A25 (CoP) CCHS			
<p>NMAC 7.1.9.8 CAREGIVER AND HOSPITAL CAREGIVER EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS: F. Timely Submission: Care providers shall submit all fees and pertinent application information for all individuals who meet the definition of an applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver as described in Subsections B, D and K of 7.1.9.7 NMAC, no later than twenty (20) calendar days from the first day of employment or effective date of a contractual relationship with the care provider.</p> <p>NMAC 7.1.9.9 CAREGIVERS OR HOSPITAL CAREGIVERS AND APPLICANTS WITH DISQUALIFYING CONVICTIONS: 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.</p> <p>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;</p>	<p>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 24 of 24 Agency Personnel.</p> <p>The following Agency Personnel Files contained evidence of Caregiver Criminal History Screenings submitted after the required timeframe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #1 – Date of hire 6/14/2011. Submitted 8/8/2011 • #2 – Date of hire 6/9/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #4 – Date of hire 3/24/2011, Submitted 5/5/2011 • #5 – Date of hire 4/14/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #6 – Date of hire 6/30/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #7 – Date of hire 6/14/2011, Submitted 8/8/2011 	<p><u>Provider:</u> In addition to stating the Plan of Correction for these findings, also please provide your evidence of on-going Quality Assurance / Quality Improvement specific to this tag below this line.</p> <hr/>	

<p>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.</p> <p>Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Service Standards effective 4/1/2007 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #8 – Date of hire 5/10/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #9 – Date of hire 7/15/2011, Submitted 8/15/2011 • #13 – Date of hire 4/13/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #14 – Date of hire 7/11/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #19 – Date of hire 9/13/2011, Submitted 9/29/2011 • #21 – Date of hire 9/1/2011, Submitted 9/29/2011 • #22 – Date of hire 5/6/2011, Submitted 8/1/2011 • #23 – Date of hire 8/8/2011, Submitted 9/2/2011 • #69 – Date of hire 6/15/2010, Submitted August 1, 2011. **During the time of employment #69 was found to have a disqualifying conviction of forgery and conspiracy to commit a crime. <p>The following Agency Personnel Files contained no evidence of Caregiver Criminal History Screenings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #3 – Date of hire 8/9/2011 • #10 – Date of hire 9/29/2011 • #11 – Date of hire 4/5/2011 • #12 – Date of hire 4/20/2011 		
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• #15 – Date of hire 7/14/2011• #16 – Date of hire 8/30/2011• #17 – Date of hire 3/31/2011• #18 – Date of hire 6/24/2011• #20 – Date of hire 7/5/2011 | | |
|--|---|--|--|