

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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From the Director's Desk - Jennifer Rodriguez, Director

Fall is my favorite time of the year. The autumnal season is a time of change; the temperatures start to drop, the leaves change colors and fall from the trees, it gets darker earlier in the day, and we even tend to eat different foods. It makes me think about change in general and how change affects people differently. Change can be stressful, change can be full of opportunity, change can be exciting, and change can be scary. Change, however, is inevitable.

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) has experienced significant change over the last year. DDSD moved from the Department of Health to the new Health Care Authority (HCA). DDSD has a new director. DDSD has implemented new organizational structures and bureau names, and DDSD has new priorities and goals.

As we approach the end of the year and settle into these changes, I'd also like to take minute to remind you of the things that have not changed.

- The HCA and DDSD's commitment to design programs that meet the needs of the individuals and families we serve
- The HCA and DDSD's mission and guiding principles
- The HCA and DDSD's dedication to preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation
- The HCA and DDSD's devotion to person-centered thinking, planning and practices
- The HCA and DDSD's desire to strengthen partnerships with the people we serve and their families, providers, advocates and other state agencies
- The HCA and DDSD's subject matter expertise and availability to assist our stakeholders
- The HCA and DDSD's promise to support our HCA staff
- The HCA and DDSD's pledge to increase provider rates at regular intervals when we receive legislative appropriations

Change will be consistent, just as leaves will change color each fall. I welcome your partnership, feedback, and suggestions in order to provide the best service system for our families, friends, neighbors, and colleagues with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our communities. I also encourage us all to look around this season and be reminded that change can be beautiful.

Respectfully,
Jen



HEALTH CARE
AUTHORITY

Developmental Disabilities Provider Summit

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, Director

On August 29, Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham and Health Care Authority Secretary, Kari Armijo, hosted a Developmental Disabilities Provider Summit. The summit provided an unprecedented opportunity to hear from our Governor and have the voices of our developmental disabilities providers and the people they represent heard, all in the spirit of listening, collaboration, and improving the intellectual and developmental disabilities system in New Mexico.

As information was shared from state officials, legislators, advocates and providers, themes began to emerge as topics that need to be clarified, addressed and/or improved upon.

The Health Care Authority is committed to protecting New Mexicans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and ensuring they have access to quality supports within a person-centered system. Expect to hear more about each of these themes over the next year!

Funding, rates and timely payments
Communication
Incident Management System
Provider administrative burden

Provider capacity
Collaboration
Systems
Training

Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) Quarterly Provider Meeting Schedule

Contributor: Angie Brooks, Regional Office Bureau Chief

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) is committed to engaging with our providers and supporting you by providing the most current and relevant information you need to be successful in your roles. To honor that commitment, DDSD is restructuring our Quarterly Provider Meetings by moving to one statewide virtual meeting each quarter, so information is shared consistently, and we are all more efficient with our time.

DDSD's first state-wide Quarterly Provider Meeting is scheduled for Friday September 20, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Below is the schedule for upcoming Quarterly Meetings. Links for meetings will be distributed closer to the meeting dates.

September 20, 2024	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
December 17, 2024	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
March 18, 2025	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
June 17, 2025	10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Health and Wellness Visits Update

Contributor: Scott Doan, Deputy Director

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) and Division of Health Improvement (DHI) continue to complete health and wellness monitoring visits for all individuals who receive Home and Community Based Waiver services. The primary focus of these visits is to prevent abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of anyone receiving DDSD administered services. Since this initiative began in March of 2023, DDSD and DHI staff have completed nearly 20,000 (19,399) health and wellness visits.

At the onset of the health and wellness visits campaign, the DDSD committed to seeing every individual in the program twice per year. As we move further into Fiscal Year 2025 (beginning July 1, 2024) DDSD and DHI have begun their second round of visits. As of September 20, 2024, DDSD and DHI have completed 44% of the second round of health and wellness visits. The goal is to complete 100% of the second round of health and wellness visits by the end of the calendar year, December 2024.

DDSD continues to strive to improve its process for completing health and wellness visits. DDSD continues to receive feedback from various stakeholders regarding the health and wellness visits. As a result of this feedback, DDSD revised the health and wellness visit safety checklist incorporating comments from stakeholders. The latest version of the health and wellness visit safety checklist is titled “DDSD Health and Wellness Visit Safety Checklist v3.0” DDSD has also drafted a policy and procedure to formalize the process for completing visits. The policy and procedure are pending final review. Once approved, DDSD will distribute the policy and procedure widely.

Additionally, based on feedback received at the DD Provider Summit on August 29, 2024, hosted by Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham and HCA Cabinet Secretary Kari Armijo; DDSD is in the process of developing formal training on how to complete health and wellness visits. Completion of the training will be required for existing DDSD and DHI Staff responsible for completing visits, to include completion of the training for any newly hired Staff, who are assigned the responsibility of completing health and wellness visits.

DDSD would like to say **Thank You** to every person receiving services, family members, Direct Support Professionals, Case Managers/Consultants, guardians, and Direct Service Providers for your continued engagement and cooperation in the health and wellness visits, as we all strive to eliminate abuse, neglect, and exploitation from our system.



Utilizing Technical Assistance to Improve Person-Centered Planning

Contributor: Claudia Rice, Research and Policy Analyst

Person-centered planning (PCP) plays an instrumental role in the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division's (DDSD) efforts to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across the state lead the lives they choose in their homes and communities. PCP is the process of determining and organizing the services and supports a waiver recipient needs to live, work, and lead a safe and fulfilling life.

This process is directed by the waiver recipient, with their voice, strengths, goals, interests, and preferences at the forefront of plan creation. The person-centered framework ensures individuals with IDD make informed choices, have control over their lives, and support the same basic human and civil rights as others community members. PCP uses these considerations and factors to help waiver recipients, along with their chosen supports, create a customized and individualized plan for their life. These plans are a recipient's Individual Service Plan (ISP) or Service and Support Plan (SSP).

To further forge a person-centered approach, the DDSD was selected to work with the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) to receive free, short-term technical assistance (TA) on best practices in PCP. NCAPPS was established by the Administration for Community Living and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2019 to provide States, Tribes, and Territories with tools and resources to implement person-centered practices in programs that serve individuals with IDD. DDSD is honored to have been selected by NCAPPS to receive this TA.

In recent months, DDSD staff have collaborated to update the current ISP/SSP used in the four waiver programs. The goal of this ongoing project is to make these plans more accessible and person-centered. The NCAPPS TA will provide evidence-based guidance to confirm the revised ISP/SSP stay true to their current content but are more user-friendly and person-centered for waiver recipients, families, and direct support professionals. NCAPPS will also review DDSD's approach to incorporating PCP in trainings for case management staff and give input on how trainings can be strengthened or improved. Although this work is still in its beginning phase, DDSD looks forward to receiving feedback from NCAPPS.

If you have ideas on how to improve the ISP/SSP, contact Claudia Rice, Research & Policy Analyst, at Claudia.Rice@hca.nm.gov, or 505-546-9428.



2024 National Project SEARCH Conference

Contributor: Jaclyn Sanchez, Community Inclusion Coordinator



Pictured above: Project Search Conference attendees from New Mexico including Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), NM Partners for Employment, local skills instructors from the school system and representatives from local host businesses.

Highlighting New Mexico Sites and Graduates!

Project SEARCH, a one year, school-to-work transition program for young people (ages 18-22) with intellectual and developmental disabilities, hosted its National Conference in Albuquerque July 15-19, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The conference hosted people from across the country, including skills instructors, job coaches, job developers, host businesses, and state agency representatives.

The goal of Project SEARCH participants is to gain competitive, integrated employment upon completing the program. This program includes classroom settings at different sites, three 10-week internship rotations for career exploration and job skills acquisition, life skills development and customized job search assistance.

New Mexico has grown from having a few to seven host business sites across the state with two more on the way. The New Mexico Project SEARCH sites are Farmington Municipal Services, Hilton Garden Inn (Gallup), Presbyterian Rust Medical Center (Rio Rancho), Embassy Suites Hotel (Albuquerque,) UNM Hospital (Albuquerque,) Holloman Air Force Base (Alamogordo,) and The Hive Education (Sunland Park). Sites that are being developed are: Central Consolidated School District (Shiprock) and the City of Deming.

The 2024 National conference boasted about our New Mexico speakers. The Hilton Garden Inn Project SEARCH in Gallup, NM spoke on partnership, employment, and community-building within tribal communities. Project SEARCH in a southern New Mexico community spoke on integrating social connections, cultural perspective, and bilingualism to create culturally competent programs. During the closing ceremony, proud New Mexico graduates from 2015 and 2017, who are currently working, spoke about their experiences in Project SEARCH past and present.

Most program participants in New Mexico are in the state's Home and Community Based Services waiver programs or are likely to be eligible for those waiver programs. Waiver programs operated by DDSD (i.e. Mi Via Waiver, Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, or Supports Waiver) provide long term employment supports to program graduates.

For more information about Project SEARCH, please contact your Regional Office

[New Mexico Health Care Authority Regional Offices](#)
[Partners for Employment: Center for Development & Disability - UNM Health System](#)
Community Inclusion Coordinators at DDSD or Partners for Employment's local [Project SEARCH website](#)

Bureau of Behavioral Support (BBS) Subject Matter Expert (SME) Contact List

Contributor: Susan Seefeldt, BBS Bureau Chief

The Bureau of Behavioral Support (BBS) administers behavioral support programs, offers specialized training and consultation, manages crisis support services, and guides individuals towards independence and self-determination. BBS oversees behavioral support needs statewide and are a resource for all related questions pertaining to Behavioral Support Consultation (BSC), Crisis Supports, Human Rights Committee (HRC), Preliminary Risk Screening Consultation (PRSC) and Socialization and Sexuality Education (SSE). Please see the “Who to Contact” Subject Matter Expert List below. There is minimally one Regional Behavior Specialist and one Regional Crisis Specialist assigned per region. If you are unsure who to contact or feel that the assistance needed may be systemic/at a different level; please reach out directly to the BBS Bureau Chief, Susan Seefeldt.

Regional Behavior Specialist (RBS) Specific Areas:	Contact Info (Albuquerque Area-Metro, Northeast-NE, Northwest-NW, Southeast-SE, Southwest-SW)
Behavior Support Consultant (BSC) specific or BSC document related Psychiatric Hospitalization PRN Psychotropic Medication Use Preliminary Risk Screening Consultation (PRSC) Follow-Up for inappropriate or potentially offending sexual behavior Suicide Related Behavior Socialization/Sexuality Concerns-Friends & Relationships, Sex Education (SSE)- RBS lead Substance Abuse Concerns - RBS lead	Metro-Wanda Durant Wanda.Durandt@hca.nm.gov (505) 206-1424 NE/NW* Rita Santistevan Rita.Santistevan1@hca.nm.gov (505) 414-1961 SE/Metro Melisa Hernandez Melisa.Hernandez2@hca.nm.gov (575) 416-1961 SW- Janita.Randolph@hca.nm.gov (575) 635-0683
Regional Crisis Specialist (RCS) Specific Areas:	Contact Info
Assault (RCS lead)** Crisis Supports Funded recipient situations Crisis Supports Funding Request Elopement Human Rights Committee HRC Law Enforcement Emergency Physical Restraint (EPR)	Metro-Caroline Chavez Caroline.Chavez@hca.nm.gov (505) 263-1462 Metro-Jeff Kushner Jeffrey.Kushner@hca.nm.gov (505) 584-5333 NE/NW*-Laura Mixon Laura.Mixon@hca.nm.gov (575) 779-3840 SE-Mariann Newman Mariann.Newman@hca.nm.gov (505) 660-8522 SW-Leslie Porter Leslie.Porter1@hca.nm.gov (575) 997-5769
Other Occurrences: Consult Bureau Chief, Statewide Clinical Director, or Statewide Crisis Supervisor	Contact Info
Exception Requests Other Harm Reduction situations not listed above RORA related situations not listed above Region to Region Individual transition assistance or concerns SGF Crisis Funding request (Susan/Gabriel) Waiver/Service changes	Bureau Chief-Susan Seefeldt Susan.Seefeldt@hca.nm.gov (505) 220-0580 Clinical Director-Heather Clark Heather.Clark@hca.nm.gov (505) 360-0371 Crisis Supervisor-Gabriel Vigil Gabriel.Vigil@hca.nm.gov (505) 900-4365 BBS Provider After Hours Crisis Line (505) 250-4292

* In-person needs may be met by the Metro Region depending on the specific location of our NW individual.

**Severe injury may need to go to RBS depending on circumstances.

Training Updates

Contributor: Eryn Bailey - Training Unit Manager

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) Training and Knowledge Management Unit is excited to announce a more streamlined and predictable schedule of our five core courses taught via livestream or face-to-face. Starting in October, the five core courses facilitated by our Training and Knowledge Management Unit Trainers will follow this format:

- Individual Service Plan (ISP) Classes will be held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- ISP Critique Classes will be held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.
- Promoting Effective Teamwork (PET) Classes will be held the 1st Thursday of each month.
- Effective Individual Specific Training Techniques (EIST) Classes will be held the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- Effective Trainer Techniques Part 2 (ETT) Classes will be held once per quarter in the second month of each quarter.

This schedule may occasionally be altered due to other holidays, office closures, or unforeseen scheduling issues throughout the year, however we will make every effort to remain consistent with the outline above. Our hope is that this change will improve the scheduling process and make it easier and faster for our team to add the training schedule onto the Training Hub Calendar. In addition, we want to make it easier for agencies to plan to meet their training requirements.

Provider Capacity Updates

Contributor: Tammy Barth, Provider Enrollment Relations Unit Manager

Many stakeholders have expressed concerns about provider capacity since the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) eliminated its 13+ year waiting list. As the Provider Enrollment Relations Unit manager, I am happy to report that we have received the highest number of new provider applications in the last twelve months, then we have in the last sixteen years!

We are currently assisting eight (8) new Health Care Authority (HCA)- approved providers with obtaining approval on their Medicaid number applications so they can start providing Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Mi Via Waiver services. Those services consist of Community Integrated Employment, Customized Community Supports, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, and Consultant services. We are also working with five (5) additional new providers whose applications are currently under HCA review. The services being applied for consist of Adult Nursing, Behavioral Support Consultation, Community Integrated Employment-Group, Community Integrated Employment-Individual, Customized Community Supports-Group, Customized Community Supports-Individual, Customized In-Home Supports, Family Living, Non-Medical Transportation, Respite, and Supported Living.

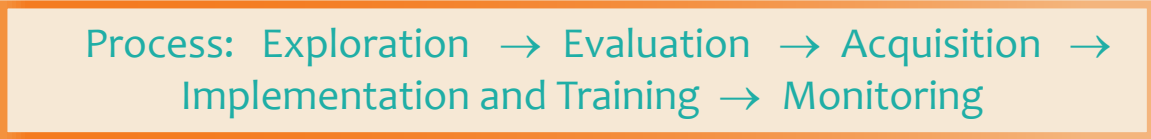
In the last year (Sept 2023-Sept 2024), DDSD added three (3) new Supported Living providers.

The Provider Enrollment Relations Unit monitors waiver service provider capacity to ensure that the waivers have enough providers to provide services and engages in recruitment efforts on an on-going basis.

Enabling Participation Through Technology: Therapist/Team Collaboration

Contributor: Robin Leinwand, Statewide Occupational Therapy Consultant

The use of Assistive and Enabling Technology is a critical component of services that support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). These technologies improve participation and aid functional access to chosen activities and occupations. In turn, assessments by therapists should look at the whole person and how they interact with their environment, including personal and cultural acceptance of those technologies. Technology can have a direct impact on personal safety and independence as well as the physical and mental health of the individual.



Therapists: Therapists design and train supportive/adaptive strategies through direct collaboration with the person, Direct Support Professionals/Family Living Providers, and/or others who offer support.

- Therapists follow the Participatory Approach which asserts all individuals benefit from assistive technologies that promote participation in life activities.
- Individuals with complex positioning or access needs should consider including therapists when planning for use of Assistive and Enabling Technologies.

Ways Therapists Assist the Person with the Use of Enabling Technology

Physical Therapist	Occupational Therapist	Speech Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propose positioning options for person and devices - Observe person’s movement patterns - Determine ability to use switches or touch screens - Assess muscle strength for interactive expectations - Collaborate with durable medical equipment (DME) company, person, & team to trial mobility equipment for desired activity/technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine optimal size, texture, and placement of switches - Observe person at house with DSP while trialing a borrowed task sequencing app - Train DSP how to position video monitors/interactive screens to support visual differences - Identify most appropriate fall detection smart watch features for person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the interactive tool or speech to text app being considered to make sure it works for the person - Help team understand how a person’s communication device may or may not work with other items being considered - Customize prompts to match person’s cognitive & language skills

The waivers provide options to support funding for assistive technology items and implementation of remote and enabling technology services. For more information contact your Case Manager, Consultant, Community Supports Coordinator, or one of these DDSD Tech Champions listed in the chart below.

Need help from DDSD? Contact DDSD Technology Champions

Anysia Fernandez	505 629-7476	Supports Waiver
Christina Hill	505 690-4094	Community Programs and Co-Chair
Elaine Hill	505 506-6103	Mi Via Waiver
Jacob Archuleta	505 452-6883	Training & Knowledge Manament Unit
Angie Brooks	575 915-8345	Regional Offices and Co-Chair
Aaron Joplin	505- 78-3035	Northwest Regional Office Director
Katherine Herrera	505 592-2672	Community Inclusion
Robin Leinwand	505 239-1768	Clinical Services - Occupational Therapist
David Naranjo	505 551-2509	Northeast Regional Office
Krystal Barela	505 592-2672	Northeast Regional Office

StationMD's Expansion to Mi Via and Medically Fragile Waivers

Contributor: Paige Bagby, Communications Director - StationMD

To improve healthcare options for New Mexicans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), and to better support their families and caregivers, last year the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) of the Health Care Authority (HCA) started offering StationMD's IDD-specialized 24/7 telehealth service, so people on the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver could connect with a doctor anytime, from anywhere in New Mexico, for any medical concern. Because so many people on the DD Waiver enrolled, DDSD is expanding eligibility to people on the Mi Via Waiver, and the Medically Fragile Waiver, this year.

All StationMD clinicians are board-certified and specially trained to care for people with IDD. They're available around the clock to address a wide range of medical issues, from fever and vomiting to seasonal illnesses, seizures, rashes, falls, prescription refills, ordering labs, and to assess whether a trip to the emergency room (ER) or urgent care is necessary.

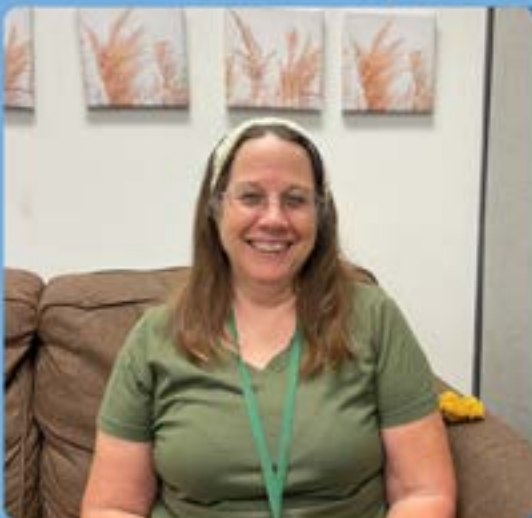
Since launching the program in 2023, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Of the 2,420 individuals eligible for StationMD through the DD Waiver, 58 percent (1,397) have enrolled for services. As a result of people using StationMD more regularly, DDSD expects to see a reduction in ER visits and improved health outcomes among the IDD population.

In rural areas, where support providers and caregivers may be limited, and distance to a doctor can be an additional barrier to healthcare, StationMD has been more than convenient. For some people it's literally lifesaving, as it may be their only means of getting medical guidance when they urgently need it.

StationMD has conducted more than 100,000 telemedicine visits with people with IDD nationwide, and more than 90 percent of patient concerns are resolved through their telemedicine visit. This helps reduce hospital visits and minimize disruptions to daily activities, medication schedules, meals, work, and sleep for patients and caregivers alike. As a result, people with IDD and their circles of support can spend less time and resources managing health and more time doing what they enjoy.

For information on eligibility to use StationMD, and for instructions on how to enroll for services, please visit: <https://go.stationmd.com/NewMexico>

StationMD is proud to work with Joye Burke from ARCA in New Mexico



What motivates you to excel at your job?

"Getting to know all the individuals in our homes, hearing their stories, seeing the joy in their faces when they have achieved a goal that they have been working on, and helping them work toward achieving the goal."

Any advice for your colleagues to succeed in their role?

"...Have an open heart and accept our clients as they are. Our clients are like everyone else. They're people with feelings, who want to work, make friends, have fun, and accomplish things they set out to do."

StationMD

Stay Informed: Supports Waiver Renewal

Contributor: Anysia Fernandez, Supports Waiver Manager

Virtual Town Hall Meetings Invitation

Join us as we pave the way for a brighter future with Supports Waiver Renewal! You are invited to participate in the virtual town hall meetings hosted by the Health Care Authority (HCA), Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD), Supports Waiver Unit and Medical Assistance Division (MAD).

When:

Monday, September 30, 2024, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

[Join the meeting now](#)

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 5:30PM to 7:00PM

[Join the meeting now](#)

Thursday, October 3, 2024, 9:30AM to 11:00AM

[Join the meeting now](#)

It is time to renew the Supports Waiver through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Town Hall Meetings are an opportunity to share your thoughts and suggestions about the Supports Waiver and how it can better meet your needs. Supports Waiver participants, families, advocates, state agency partners, and community members are all invited.

Attendees will be informed about proposed changes to the Supports Waiver and will have the chance to ask questions, share their input and make their voices heard. Let's unite to shape a better Supports Waiver.

Mi Via Updates

Contributor: Elaine Hill, Mi Via Program Manager

From August 5 through September 1 the Mi Via Unit held Town Hall meetings in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Farmington, Roswell and Las Cruces. Additionally, DDSD hosted virtual Town Hall meetings for people in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Gallup and Taos.

Thank you to all who participated! The Mi Via Unit received feedback from participants, their families, state staff and service providers. Throughout these meetings we discussed rate increases, employment outside the budget, the Individual Budget Allotment (IBA) increase, and revisions on the Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) allowances. Our most commented on topical items include:

- The Employer of Record (EOR) Waiver Service
 - o Mi Via participants, their advocates and service providers are requesting to keep the option of having a volunteer provide EOR services.
 - o They are also concerned that using an EOR vendor would utilize too much of a participant's budget.
- Limitations to Respite and Community Direct Support hours
 - o DDSD received many comments requesting that Community Direct Support services remain uncapped.
 - o Participants and their families are concerned that if this service is limited to 35 hours a week, they may lose providers who rely on full time employment.

Thank you for making your voices heard! The Health Care Authority will be providing responses to all feedback received after the formal public comment process takes place summer of 2025.

Behavioral Support Consultation (BSC) Services

Contributor: Susan Seefeldt, Bureau of Behavioral Supports - Bureau Chief

BSCs have many responsibilities in their scope of work. The table below demonstrates what BSCs do and what they do not do.

What BSCs Do:	What BSCs Do NOT:
Perform observations, compile assessment documentation, and complete other BSC plan documents (Positive Behavior Support Assessment-PBSA, Positive Behavior Support Plan-PBSB, PRN Psychotropic Medication Plan-PPMP, Behavioral Crisis Intervention Plan-BCIP, Risk Management Plan-RMP)	BSCs <u>do not</u> provide individual or group therapy, or any other mental health or behavioral health direct services that would typically be provided through the behavioral health system and billed to Medicaid or Medicare.
Develop behavior support strategies to lessen the negative impact of contributing factors to enhance the individual's autonomy and self-determination which decreases distracting, disruptive and destructive behavior.	They <u>are not</u> Crisis Response providers. Please utilize NM Crisis and Access (855-662-7474), 988 for emergency emotional distress and behavioral or mental health crisis, or 911 for emergency medical, fire and law enforcement services
Develop skills contributing to a meaningful day expanding the range of community integration to the level desired by the individual	Children and young adults who receive counseling or behavioral health services through their local school may also receive BSC services through the DD Waiver; the focus of their PBSP <u>is limited to home and community</u> , rather than the school setting. *No more than five hours of service per year may occur in the school setting for school age children and young adults, only for attending IEP meetings and cross-over training.
Enhance the individual's and the IDT's competency to predict, prevent, intervene with, and potentially reduce behaviors that interfere with quality of life and pursuit of the ISP desired outcomes	
Train staff on behavior support strategies and other aspects of BSC documents specific to the individual	

Human Rights in the Waiver System

Due to health and safety considerations arising from behavioral issues, temporary restrictions may be recommended and imposed on waiver recipients, while always maintaining an unwavering focus of safety and prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Recommendations for temporary restrictions for waiver recipients require a Human Rights Committee review prior to implementation of the strategy, or strategies proposed. Section 3.4.6 provides information on activity that is prohibited from HRC approval. Interventions applied to any person, with or without a diagnosed disability, which are considered ethically and morally unacceptable, and therefore prohibited, include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Contingent electrical aversion procedures
- 2) Seclusion and isolation
- 3) Use of time out for an adult
- 4) Overcorrection
- 5) Use of mechanical or chemical restraints
- 6) Forced physical guidance
- 7) Forced exercise
- 8) Public or private humiliation
- 9) Withholding food, water or sleep
- 10) Application of water mist, noxious taste, smell, or skin agents
- 11) Use of manual application of any physical restraint, except in emergent situations involving imminent risk of harm to self or others - defined as EPR
- 12) Privacy violations such as body checks, electronic surveillance, or items such as baby monitors in any room of the home, and remote monitoring in private areas such as bathrooms or bedrooms
- 13) Restricting a person from exiting their home using locks on doors and windows

NM Selected for Direct Care Workforce Technical Assistance Initiative

Contributor: Scott Doan, Deputy Director

In April of 2023, President Biden passed the Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers. The goal of the Executive Order is to expand and improve the infrastructure and workforce of childcare, home and community-based services, and long-term services and support. New Mexico is one of only six states in the nation selected for the Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Technical Assistance Initiative. New Mexico will participate in the first DCW program to identify and address workforce challenges related to recruitment, retention, and compensation.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center, which is part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, is the federal agency leading this initiative. Stakeholders from the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD), Department of Aging and Long-Term Services (ALTSD), Health Care Authority (HCA), Department of Workforce Solutions, and New Mexico Caregivers Coalition will participate in the program. New Mexico will receive 250 hours of personalized assistance from the ACL to explore and address workforce problems and caregiver needs. New Mexico will receive technical assistance and training from the ACL through December 31st, 2024.

Meetings between the ACL and New Mexico have already begun. As we learn more, DDSD's intent is to utilize the resources, tools, and information obtained through this initiative to enhance and strengthen caregiver workforce recruitment, training, and retention strategies.

NM Disability Resource - NMFinder.org

Contributor: Christina Hill, Community Programs Bureau - Deputy Bureau Chief



DDSD partners with University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability, Partners for Employment (PFE). PFE is a statewide collaborative working to improve competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. PFE launched the NM Disability Resource FINDER ([NMFINDER.ORG](https://www.nmfinder.org)) which is a statewide directory of disability related resources and events. It is a participant led portal for NM events and disability resources. The more people and entities that use it, the better it becomes!

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

Contributor: Christina Hill, Community Programs Bureau - Deputy Bureau Chief

Join us for the 1st Annual New Mexico Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) Conference!

This exciting event will offer valuable information and workshops on increasing workplace inclusion and integration, as well as expanding employment opportunities for New Mexicans with disabilities and aging New Mexicans.

Registration Deadline: September 26, 2024 at:
<https://bit.ly/4cRjoHV>

Accessibility Services:

- Sign Language Interpreters
- CART Services

If you need Braille, Large Print, Spoken Spanish Interpreters, or other accommodations, please make your request by emailing Lisa at Lisa.mcniven@gcd.nm.gov or calling 505-435-9326.



E-Blasts

Contributor: Tammy Barth, Provider Enrollment & Relations Unit Manager

Notice of Opportunity to Comment – August 20, 2024

DDSD Document Distribution – August 15, 2024

DDSD Document Distribution – August 5, 2024

Notice of Opportunity to Comment-Rescheduled – July 24, 2024

Updated Fee Schedules for DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, and Medically Fragile Waiver – July 19, 2024

Public Comment Hearing Rescheduled Due to Technical Difficulties – July 17, 2024

DDSD Document Distribution – July 15, 2024

Individual Budget Allotment (IBA) Increase Rollout, Additional Funding Update and Gross Receipt Tax (GRT) Memo – July 2, 2024

DDSD Document Distribution – July 1, 2024

Very Important Conduent Updates for Providers – July 1, 2024

DDSD Newsletter for June 2024 – June 28, 2024

DDSD Document Distribution - June 17, 2024

New Hires and Promotions

Contributor: Joseph Anaya, Human Resources

Maria Montelongo, SOC/COM SV COORD-O, Gallup NWRO, starts: 6/22/24

Bernadette Montoya, SOC/COM SV COORD-O Albuquerque office starts: 6/22/24

Steven Fernandez, Staff Manager DD Waiver starts: 7/20/24

Marissa Borrello, Clinical Psychologist Level II starts: 10/26/24

Julie Pierce, Staff Manager starts:7/20/24

Melissa McBride, Registered Nurse Supervisor, starts: 7/20/24

Sara Yancey, Registered Nurse Level II Las Cruces starts: 8/3/24

Josephine Molina, SOC/COM SV COORD-O Roswell, SERO office, starts: 8/31/24

Daina Perea, SOC/COM SV COORD-O Albuquerque office, starts: 8/31/24

Anita Sena, EXEC SEC & Admin Asst-O, Albuquerque office, starts: 8/31/24

Inez Dominguez, SOC/COM SV COORD-O-generalist Albuquerque, 8/31/24

Elana Gonzales, Training & Development Specialist-A, Albuquerque, 9/28/24

Andrew McKenna, Behavioral Health Therapist II Albuquerque, 9/14/24

About Us

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If you would like to write an article for the next DDSD Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, contact:
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