

PARTICIPANT CORNER

Amazing artwork by Sam. Sam uses a laser attached to his glasses while someone follows the beam with a paint brush.



Your Talent is in Demand!

Are you a poet, storyteller, artist or just want to share a picture of yourself doing a favorite activity or maybe some great news? Please submit pictures of your original artwork, short stories, or poems. Submissions to be featured in an upcoming Mi Via Newsletter. Submissions can be sent to: rachel.gonzales@hca.nm.gov

Shining Star Employees of the Month

Do you have a Direct Support Professional (DSP) that you would like to spotlight and allow to shine? DDSD would like to recognize our DSPs who provide above and beyond support to Mi Via Participants. DDSD Mi Via Unit will feature Shining Stars in the Mi Via Newsletter monthly. Submit a brief note of why you would like to recognize your staff. Submissions can be sent to: rachel.gonzales@hca.nm.gov

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FMA-Conduent Contact Information:

Phone: 1-800-283-4465

Toll-free Fax: 1-866-302-6787

E-mail for Form Submission:

docprocessing@conduent.com

Physical Address:

1720-A Randolph Rd SE

Albuquerque, NM 87106



February 2025

Shining Star of the Month

I would like to nominate **Gabriella Chevalier**; she is always going above and beyond her job to help us. She is very polite, and very understanding. Always smiling and very happy. Always there when we need anything.

Anita Cano

I wanted to recognize my daughter's caregiver of 10 years, **Shaynna T.** It is hard to believe that she has been with us for 10 years, but without her, our daughter with Down syndrome would not have such a wonderful companion on a daily basis. She has always been there for us, through challenging times and through milestone celebrations. To our daughter's parents, Shaynna has been a Godsend, a friend, and now feels like part of our family. Although Shaynna is a single mom, we always try to work together to make things work for scheduling and ensuring that Shaynna stays healthy and supported because we know raising a child is not easy.

Over the years, we have all grown and learned from each other. With each transition in life for our daughter, something new or unexpected occurs, but Shaynna is very committed and follows through for the care that our daughter needs at the time. We fully appreciate her knowledge of medications and the importance of how they can affect our daughter's disposition, and the therapies that can support her. She is in tune with our daughter's moods and disposition at any time. She knows when to interact directly, or step back and give her space. She does all this with respect and trustworthiness. Including when these transitions involve family dynamics such as a significant change or family member health matters that sometime directly impacts Shaynna and our daughter.

These days we don't see Shaynna as a person working as a "direct support professional"; we see her as a caring family member, and a person our daughter can count on. We know how hard it is to find and keep long-term caregivers these days. We are grateful and appreciative of all she has done for our family.

Thank you, **Shaynna T.**, from the bottom of our hearts.

Veronica Chavez Neuman, MBA, CedL

POSITIVE THOUGHTS

"If we wonder often, the gift of knowledge will come." – Arapaho Tribe

"Nothing is forever except change."
Buddha

"A dead end is just a good place to turn around." Naomi Judd



February 2025

Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC)

MVAC is an Advisory Council on Quality (ACQ) subcommittee. MVAC supports the Mi Via Self-Directed Waiver program in the following ways:

- To support the Mi Via idea of self-direction.
- To receive suggestions on policy issues.
- To help the Mi Via Waiver Program with the ongoing review.
- To help improve the Mi Via program.
- To help find ways to make the Mi Via processes easier.

MVAC is now taking nominees for membership. If you are interested, please email Elaine Hill for a nomination form at Elaine.Hill@hca.nm.gov

2025 MVAC Meeting Schedule:

January 23, 2025, at 12:30pm-3:30pm

April 24, 2025, at 12:30pm-3:30pm

July 2, 2025, at 12:30pm-3:30pm

October 23, 2025, at 12:30pm-3:30pm

Please email Elaine Hill at Elaine.Hill@hca.nm.gov for an invitation.

[Mi Via Advisory Committee - New Mexico Health Care Authority](#)

Service Highlights

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- Employment Support services give support to participants who want to find and keep jobs of their choice in their community
- Employment services are made to meet the individual needs of the participant
- Participants get help from employment support experts with job growth and job coaching
- Coaching services will include training in specific work tasks such as:
 - On the job
 - Vocational skills
 - Co-worker training
 - Job site study to name a few

JUST FOR LAUGHS

What do you call two birds in love?

Tweethearts

What did one volcano say to the other?

I lava you.

What do you call a sleeping bull?

A bulldozer.



February 2025

ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Gathering of Quilts 2/28 @9am, T or C Civic Center, 400 West Fourth
- City of Rocks State Park Public Viewing 2/22 @6:30pm, City of Rocks State Park, 327 Highway 61, Faywood
- Mardi Gras in the Mountains 2/27-3/3, Town of Red River
- Improv Show: After School Special & Lunch Ladies 2/15 @7:30pm, 1202 Parkway Dr., Santa Fe
- Eldorado Trivia Nights 2/24 @7pm, Eldorado Public Library, 14 Avenida Torreon, Santa Fe
- BINGO Night 2/21 @5:30pm, City of Socorro Senior Center, 1410 Ake Ave., Socorro
- Heather McGaughey children's Theatre Presents Seussical Jr. 2/2-2/22, Farmington Civic Center, 200 w. Arrington, Farmington
- Walk & Talk Alpaca Farm Tours 2/22 @2pm, 1 ¼ Miles south of Brady on CRM, Clovis
- Baila Las Cruces 2/27 @6:30pm, 100 N. Main St., Las Cruces
- The Liberty's Steak & Late-Night Karaoke 2/28 @6pm, Liberty Inc., 312 N. Virginia Ave, Roswell
- Singo Music BINGO 2/21 @7pm, Brew Lab 101, 3107 Eubank Blvd NE, Albuquerque

Community Resources

Home Rehabilitation

<https://shcnm.org/>

https://www.hud.gov/states/new_mexico/homeownership/homerepairs

- Bernalillo County Housing Department – BCHD
Phone: 505-314-0226
- Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority – OOHA
Phone: 505-852-0189
- San Felipe Pueblo – SFHA
Phone: 505-771-9291
- Southwestern Regional Housing & CDC – SRHCDC
Phone: 575-546-4181
- El Camino Housing Authority – ECHA
Phone: 575-835-0196

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT

Your artwork

Your poetry

Your stories

Your Shining Stars

Send submissions to:

Rachel.gonzales@hca.nm.gov



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Mi Via Circle of Support

MI VIA HCA Website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/pgsv/sdw>

Consultant Agency Name	Contact Name	Phone	E-mail	Regions(s)
Active Advocates of New Mexico	Alicia Sisneros	505-353-1778	AliciaS@ActiveAdvocatesNM.com	All of New Mexico
CNRAG, Inc. (Care Network Resource Assistance Group)	Fallon Vincell	575-621-3645	fvincell@cnragusa.com	Metro, SE & SW
Consumer Direct Personal Care (CDPC)	Margarita Chavez-Sanchez	505-344-8182 x3535	margaritacs@consumerdirectcare.com	All of New Mexico
Excel Case Management, Inc.	Jennifer Pennington	505-324-8660 ext 102	jPennington@excelcasemanagement.com	NW & SE Regions
Innovative Self Direction	Frank Aquila	505-850-7662	faquila@innovativeselfdirection.com	All of New Mexico
Los Amigos, LLC	Michelle Rutt	505-920-4511	Michelle@losamigosnm.com	All of New Mexico
Me Town Enterprises, LLC	Kimberly Riebsomer	505-310-9069	riebsomer@gmail.com	Metro & NE
Merit Consulting, LLC	Melinda Broussard	505-288-2889	mbroussard.merit@gmail.com	Metro
Peak Developmental Services	Sarah Martinez	505-281-9962	smartinez@nmddwcm.com	All of New Mexico
Self-Directed Choices	Jacob Patterson	505-508-1663	Jacob@sdchoices.com	All of New Mexico
UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD)	Carrie Roberts Janelle Groover	505-280-6442 505-401-9328	CnRoberts@salud.unm.edu itorresgroover@salud.unm.edu	All of New Mexico
Visions Case Management	Charles Clayton Evan Anderson	575-779-7419 888-588-9152	Charles@visionsnm.com evananderson@visionsnm.com	All of New Mexico



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Health Care Authority/ Medical Assistance Division – Exempt Services and Program Bureau

PO Box 2348, Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348

Toll-free Phone: 1-888-997-2583, Fax: 505-827-7277

HCA manages the FMA/Conduent contract and the TPA/Comagine contract

Deanna DeHerrera	Mi Via & Medically Fragile Waivers Staff Manager Functions: Mi via & Medically Fragile Waiver Oversight	505-629-7260	Deanna.DeHerrera@hca.nm.gov
Rachel Gonzales	Mi Via Social & Community Coordinator Functions: Conduent, Billing, Payment issues	505-490-3721	MVWaiverHSD@hca.nm.gov
Jennifer Romero	Mi Via Social & Community Coordinator Functions: Participant Eligibility Issues and Technical Assistance	505-469-8522	MVWaiverHSD@hca.nm.gov

Health Care Authority / Developmental Disabilities Supports Division

5300 Homestead Rd. NE Suite 213, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone: 1-800-283-5548

DDSD operates the Mi Via Program for Developmental Disability (DD) and Medically Fragile (MF) Populations Oversees consultant agency contracts

Elaine Hill	Mi Via Waiver Program Manager Functions: Participant/Consultant Issues & Technical Assistance, & statewide MF WCF & MF CACF Contact for: Consumer Direct Personal Care	505-506-6103	elaine.hill@hca.nm.gov Fax: 505-841-6523
Krystal Armijo	Mi Via Waiver Program Coordination Functions: Participant/Consultant Issues & Technical Assistance Contact for: Peak, Visions & CNRAG	505-252-3087	krystal.armijo@hca.nm.gov Fax: 505-841-6523
Anthony Bonarrigo	Mi Via Waiver Program Coordination Functions: Participant/Consultant Issues & Technical Assistance Contact for: UNM-CDD, Innovative Self Direction, Merit & Active Advocates	505-709-7410	anthony.bonarrigo@hca.nm.gov Fax: 505-841-6523
Alicia Otoló	Mi Via Waiver Program Coordination Functions: Participant/Consultant Issues & Technical Assistance Contact for: Me Town, Self-Directed Choices & Los Amigos	505-218-1119	Alicia.otolo@hca.nm.gov Fax: 505-841-6523



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Comagine Health

PO Box 20910, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0190

Phone: 1-866-962-2180

Comagine Health is the Third-Party Assessor (TPA) for Mi Via. They are responsible for reviewing and approving the Service and Support Plans (SSP).

Blue Cross Blue Shield	866-689-1523	https://www.bcbsnm.com/turquoise-care-welcome/
Presbyterian	800-356-2219	https://www.phs.org/health-plans/turquoise-care-medicaid
Molina	844-862-4543	https://www.molinahealthcare.com/members/nm/en-us/mem/Medicaid.aspx
United Health Care	877-236-0826	https://www.uhc.com/communityplan/new-mexico/plans

Fun easy recipes:

Peanut Butter Granola Pinwheels

Makes 10 pinwheels

Total time to make: 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 2 flour tortillas (8 inches)
- 2 teaspoons of honey
- 1/2 cup granola without raisins

Directions:

1. Spread peanut butter on each tortilla
2. Drizzle with honey
3. Sprinkle granola
4. Roll tortilla up
5. Cut into slices.

Frozen Berry & Yogurt Swirls

Makes 10 pops

Total time to make: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 10 plastic or paper cups (3 ounces each)
- 2-3/4 cups fat-free honey Greek yogurt
- 1 cup mixed fresh berries
- 1/4 cup of water
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 10 wooden pop sticks

Directions:

1. Fill each cup with 1/4 cup yogurt.
2. Place berries, water and sugar in a food processor
3. Pulse until berries are finely chopped.
4. Spoon 1-1/2 tablespoons of berry mixture into each cup.
5. Stir gently with a pop stick to swirl.
6. Cover cups with foil/
7. Insert a pop stick through the foil.
8. Freeze until it is firm.



February 2025

February 2025 Dates to Remember						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1/31 Vendor checks received or deposited	1 Deadline to submit VPRs for 2/14 vendor payment
2 Groundhog Day	3 Doggy Date Night	4	5	6	7 Paychecks & vendor checks received or deposited, end of the pay period	8 Deadline to fax timesheets & mileage for 2/21 payment & VPRs for vendor payments
9 Autism Sunday	10	11 National Get Out Your Guitar Day	12	13	14 Vendor checks received or deposited	15 Deadline to submit VPRs for 2/28 vendor payment
16 Do a Grouch a Favor Day	17	18	19	20 National Love Your Pet Day	21 Paychecks & vendor checks received or deposited, end of the pay period	22 Deadline to fax timesheets & mileage for 3/7 payment & VPRs for vendor payments
23 Pinocchio Day	24	25	26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day	27	28 Vendor checks received or deposited	3/1 Deadline to submit VPRs for 3/14 vendor payment