

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVSION NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. From the Directors Desk

- 2. Health and Wellness Visits & Client Program Counts
- 3. Waiver Recipient Housing
- 4. NM START Program
- 5. NM START Program (cont.)
- 6. StationMD Expansion & NCAPCPS Technical Help
- 7. DDSD Employment First
- 8. Supports Waiver Updates
- 9. Direct Care Workforce & Electronic Visit Verification
- 10. Transition Fair
- 11. Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services
- 12. Inclusive Talent Showcase
- 13. Eblasts / New Hires and Promotions
- 14. About Us

From the Director's Desk - Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Director

Happy New Year from DDSD!

It's hard to believe that 2024 is over... but what a year it was! I'd like to take a moment to share some of DDSD's 2024 successes with you.

- Completed over 11,500 Health and Wellness Visits in 2024
- Created a new Bureau of Individual Safety and Advocacy focused on risk management and prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Revised DDSD's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles
- Transitioned to the Health Care Authority
- Finished Super Allocation and allocated an additional 500 people into waiver services
- Executed a statewide quarterly provider meeting
- Offered StationMD telemedicine supports to the Developmental Disabilities, Mi Via and Medcally Fragile Waivers
- Hired a new management team in the Clinical Services Bureau
- Purchased a new x-ray machine for the Special Needs Dental Clinic
- Shared new housing, suicide prevention, substance abuse disorders and crisis resources from the Behavior Health Services Division of the HCA
- Resumed quarterly Advocacy Partners meetings
- Simplified a 2-tiered budget utilization review process to a single process
- Expanded Therap utilization across the waiver provider network
- Developed and piloted a predictive risk model for use in scheduling Health and Wellness Visits
- Collected first set of direct support professional data
- On-boarded 13 new waiver providers-the most in any year ever!

And the list could go on...!

As the new year begins, I am full of hope and ambition. I reflect on lessons learned, embrace my own personal growth, and I step forward with courage. There is endless potential to improve the lives of New Mexicans. Let's walk in solidarity to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are free from abuse, neglect and exploitation, and are heard, valued and empowered. Cheers to 2025!

Jen



Health and Wellness Visits Update

Contributor: Scott Doan, Deputy Director, DDSD

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) and Division of Health Improvement (DHI) remain committed to completing health and wellness visits for all individuals who receive home and community-based waiver services. Health and wellness visits began in March of 2023, and since then DDSD and DHI staff have completed over 22,300 health and wellness visits.

At the onset of the health and wellness visits campaign, DDSD committed to seeing every individual in the program twice per year. As of December 1, 2024, DDSD and DHI have completed 75.27% 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 strives to improve its process for completing health and wellness visits. DDSD has received feedback from stakeholders regarding the health and wellness visits and made changes to the "Health and Wellness Visit Safety Checklist" as a result of the feedback. A revised training for all staff completing visits is being finalized also. DDSD continues to seek and listen to feedback from all stakeholders regarding the health and wellness visits.

As calendar year 2024 comes to a close, DDSD would like to again 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. The only way to eliminate abuse, neglect, and exploitation from our system is if we all stay diligent, heed the warning signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation, work together, and when in doubt, report!

Client Program Counts

Contributor: Justin Stewart, Bureau Chief - Systems & Data Bureau

Participants by Waiver as of 11/25/24		
Waiver	Participant Count	
Developmental Disabilities Waiver	4,464	
Mi Via Waiver	3,308	
Supports Waiver	70	
Medically Fragile Waiver	174	
Total	7,937	

Housing for Waiver Recipients:

Contributor: Claudia Rice, Research and Policy Analyst

Resources from the Behavioral Health Services Division & Centers for Independent Living

On July 1st, 2024, the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) became part of the New Mexico Health Care Authority (HCA). The HCA encompasses many divisions, one of which is the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD). Along with intergovernmental collaborators, the BHSD provides a variety of services and resources to New Mexico's Medicaid recipients, including housing services. BHSD's housing programs serve vulnerable populations such as the homeless, those with substance use disorders, and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).



Two of these housing programs are the Set Aside Housing Program/Special Needs Program, and Section 811 Project Rental Assistance. The Set Aside Housing Program/Special Needs Program was created in partnership with the Mortgage Finance Authority in 2009. This program allows qualifying individuals and families to access rent restricted housing units. The BHSD oversees 372 housing units across 43 properties in this program. Section 811 Project Rental Assistance is a rental assistance program in which Housing & Urban Development provide grants to help eligible individuals pay for housing expenses, such as rent.

Waiver recipients, their families or supports, or their Consultant, Case Manager, or Community Support Coordinator can learn more about one or both programs, and other housing services, by contacting a Local Lead Agency. Local Lead Agencies screen people for program eligibility and connect them to the best housing services for their unique situation and needs. People can qualify for and receive services from multiple housing programs.

- To look for a Local Lead Agency in your area, visit: Local Lead Agency
- To learn more about services available through the BHSD, visit: Bhsd Home

While it is extremely important to ensure Waiver recipients have safe and accessible housing, it is also crucial that individuals have the skills to live with independence. This can be accomplished by working with Centers for Independent Living. Centers for Independent Living are cross-disability, non-residential, private nonprofit agencies that provide independent living services. These programs help equip those with IDD to live with more autonomy by providing independent living skills training, advocacy training, help people access home or vehicle modifications, and more. There are Centers for Independent Living across the state. For more information, follow the web links below:

- Independent Living Resource Center, Independent Living Resource Center New Mexico (*ilrcnm.org)
- New Vistas Independent Living Center, New Vistas | Improving Lives Since 1971
- The Ability Center, The Ability Center Dedicated to the memory of Diana Woodruff

New Mexico START Program (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources Treatment)

Contributor: Susan Seefeldt, Bureau Chief - Behavioral Supports Bureau

NEW MEXICO START is a program of the Center for Development & Disability at the University of New Mexico.

NM START is an evidence-based, community crisis prevention and intervention service model for individuals aged 6 and older with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Intellectual Disability and other mental health needs. The START model is personcentered and solutions focused. All services are based on principles of positive psychology; we focus on increasing positive aspects in the lives of our participants.

Criteria for services:

- Individuals with ASD, ASD/IDD and mental health needs
- Ages 6 Through Adulthood
- Albuquerque residents or within 2 hours drive (expansion of service area will occur over the next year)

At least one of the following:

- Currently at or has been to a psychiatric hospital within the past 24 months
- Has additional staffing needs due to challenging behavior or is receiving one to one or more staffing
- Has complex mental health needs that require crisis intervention, calls to 911, frequent medication changes
- Is a risk of losing their work, home or school placement due to challenging behavior/ mental health needs
- Complex behavioral, medical and/or trauma related issues & has appeared to have deteriorated over months

Crisis Stabilization/Emergency Support	Immediate support during crisis events for NM START enrolled individuals from Monday-Friday 8am- 5pm. Supports team with stabilization, consultation, and decision-making. May provide emergency assessment as needed. *NM START crisis response <u>does not</u> involve restraint, physical de-escalation, or transport.
Ongoing Assessment Activities	Involves a comprehensive evaluation of the system of supports and individual mental health and current levels of need. Includes interviews, questionnaires, assessment tools, and direct observation.
Comprehensive Service Evaluation (CSE)	Provides an in-depth review of a person's treatment and service history to identify opportunities to strengthen outcomes. Information from outreach meetings, observations, and comprehensive record reviews is used to offer a strengths-based reframing of the person's service history, attempting to identify opportunities to strengthen outcomes for the person.
Cross-Systems Crisis Prevention and Intervention Planning	Following an extensive intake evaluation process, summarizes the biopsychosocial influences on the person's current functioning and provides a plan to PREVENT crisis event from occurring and what to do during a crisis event for de-escalation and support.
Clinical Education Team and follow-up	Learning forums for START teams and community partners to learn together in the context of an active START recipient. May be comprised of START team members, local mental health clinicians, IDD, emergency, and/or inpatient service providers. A review of recommendations with persons and families occurs as follow-up.
Medical/Psychiatric Consult	NM START Team members receive weekly medical/ psychiatric consultations from Medical Director for individuals to inform supports.
Facilitate Medical/Psychiatric Follow Up	NM START team members can facilitate coordination with different medical providers, attend medical appointments, or review notes.
START facilitated team meeting	We can also facilitate meetings between various staff or providers as needed.
Referral to Resources	Refer to other disability supports and services (e.g., DDW, SSI). Can refer to other services for navigational support or advocacy.
Outreach visits	Provide training or consultation to teams or staff providing vocational or home care. Can occasionally support school teams. NM START team members can attend IDT, IEP or other team meetings.
Facilitate therapeutic supports	Refer to therapy providers or other mental health supports. Consult with providers to support the application of learned skills and adherence to treatment regimens.
Therapeutic Coaching	Short-course intensive sessions focused on skill-building and solution-focused strategies.

New Mexico START Program

START can provide:

- Engagement of systems around crisis prevention/intervention and stabilization
- Collaboration with providers in the community, service coordinators, mobile crisis teams, inpatient crisis, hospitals and prescribers
- Crisis prevention and intervention planning, linkages, outreach
- Expertise on mental health from a biopsychosocial perspective
- Outreach and education for families and community partners, therapeutic strategies and supports.

Not all individuals receive all services as services are specific to the individual's needs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is START a new program?

START is a systemic model program developed at the University of New Hampshire; it has been refined for 30 years and is currently in approximately 20 states. NM START began August, 2023. As a replication site we receive technical assistance from the National Center on START Services to insure fidelity to the model.

What ages does NM START support?

6 years through adulthood.

What types of individuals are referred to NM START?

All of our referred participants are in crisis and have diagnoses of ASD/IDD-MH; the primary reason for referral is aggression.

How long do participants remain with NM START?

The average length of time for START enrollment is 18 months. Plans are updated every 90 days or as needed.

Where are NM START services available?

NM START services are currently available in the metro Albuquerque area and within a two-hour radius of Albuquerque Our intention is to respond in person when a crisis occurs.

How do we start an individual in NM START services?

Telephone us at 505.272.1062 or email at CDD-NMSTART@salud.unm.edu

We will need first/last name, date of birth, diagnoses, referral source, reason for referral. We will ask for a parent, or documented guardian and if they are aware of the referral and have expressed an interest in services. We require signatures on a consent to treat and Release of Information (ROI) prior to the start of services. Our clinical staff will follow up to complete a referral interview to insure appropriateness for our program.

What are the costs of the NM START program?

There is no charge for our services.

What services will participants receive in NM START?

All participants receive an extensive intake, assessments, provisional crisis plans, cross system crisis prevention and intervention, and a plan of services and outreach. Therapeutic coaching may also be recommended; this coaching is meant to enhance the participant's systems of support and is not a direct service to the participant.

If the individual already receives BSC services, how does that work?

NM START Coordinators work in conjunction with BSCs. For individuals on any of the DDSD waivers, the BSC has primary responsibility for services, training. BSC plans must be utilized (PBSP, BCIP and RMP when applicable) by the Agency and IDT. NM START Coordinators work with the BSC to incorporate additional strategies when appropriate. BSC services are a designed to be a long-term relationship while NM START is not.

DDSD has Expanded the Use of StationMD to Additional Waivers

Contributer: Angie Brooks, Bureau Chief - Regional Offices Bureau

For the past two years, the Development Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) has been partnering with StationMD to bring emergency telemedicine to participants in the Developmental Disabilities Waiver. DDSD is pleased to announce that beginning in October 2024, the utilization of StationMD became available to participants in both the Mi Via and Medically Fragile Waivers in addition to the traditional DD Waiver. Presentations have been given to Consultants, University of New Mexico, Medically Fragile Waiver Case Managers and to the families participating in the Medically Fragile Waiver.

StationMD - Current Enrollment Across Waivers	
DD Waiver Providers enrolled (approximately 1,700 individuals)	39
Mi Via participants	46
Medically Fragile participants	9

Throughout this past calendar year, utilization of StationMD has steadily increased. In January 2024, StationMD was utilized 137 times and October 2024, StationMD was utilized 280 times.

If you are interested in enrolling with StationMD, please reach out to <u>Angie.Brooks@hca.nm.gov</u> or visit their website at <u>Home - StationMD</u>.

National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices & Systems Providing Individualized Technical Assistance to DDSD

Contributer: Claudia Rice, Research and Policy Analyst

Person-centered planning (PCP) is the individual-directed process of determining and organizing services and supports that waiver recipients need to live, work, and lead a safe, fulfilling life. In September 2024, the DDSD received technical assistance from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) to improve person-centered plans, used across home and community-based services waivers, and the development and planning process and content, emphasizing the importance of PCP.

The DDSD received valuable evidence-based recommendations on how to improve the Individual Service Plan (ISP) and Service and Support Plan (SSP) and enhance person-centeredness throughout plan development. Recommendations highlighted the importance of prompts to help with planning discussions, person-centered wording and language considerations, and ensuring the person-centered plan is concise yet comprehensive. DDSD is using this technical assistance to revise the ISP/SSP, and will be soliciting feedback from external stakeholders on these updates in the coming weeks and months.

To further improve the ISP/SSP and DDSD's implementation of person-centered practice, DDSD has been granted additional technical assistance by NCAPPS beginning in January 2025. This new technical assistance will focus on providing more feedback on the revised draft of the ISP/SSP, and these revisions will be melded with recommendations from DDSD staff and external stakeholders. Current case management monitoring tools and standards will also be examined to explore how these can be streamlined and more clearly defined.

Embracing the Value of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in the Workforce

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

Embracing the Value of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in the Workforce: Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) Partnerships to Recharge Employment First Policy & Implementation



Employment First is a policy framework prioritizing competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities, promoted by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in the US Department of Labor. It asserts that all individuals, regardless of disability, can fully participate in integrated employment and community life.

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) implemented its Employment First Policy in 2016, and since then, has seen significant growth in its waiver programs and working-age population. DDSD now aims to refresh its policy to improve employment outcomes across all waiver programs and the State General Fund program. Strategic partnerships with the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

(DVR) and the University of New MexicoCenter for Development and Disability are vital to providing better support.

To achieve these goals, there is a need for more supported employment provider agencies, job coaches, and job developers. DDSD and DVR fund free professional development and training and certifications through the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability, NM Partners for Employment, and its College for Employment programs. This training equips providers and family members with the necessary skills to support individuals with disabilities in their job search and employment journey.

Key resources to grow the NM network of supported employment professionals:

- Become a DDSD Community Integrated Employment Provider: Contact DDSD's Provider Enrollment & Relations Unit.
- Join DVR as a Supported Employment Vendor: Reach out to DVR. <u>8/2019 Job Developer qualifications</u>
- Explore Networking Opportunities: Join UNM/CDD Partners for Employment (PFE), the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR), and the HCA/DDSD for an opportunity to collaborate with state partners and network with your peers! The next Supported Employment Local Leaders (SELL)
- Register for free professional development training: Registration for the College of Employment Services (CES) Spring Cohort is open! This free, 16-week training is open to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge about best practices in Supported Employment. The training consists of 11 online modules and 9 one-hour Zoom discussion sessions. Click on one of the following links to learn more about the three cohort options. <u>Tuesday Cohort - 2PM</u> or <u>Wednesday Cohort - Noon</u> or <u>Thursday</u> <u>Cohort - 5:30PM</u>. Please visit UNM/CDD PFE's training portal to view the full event calendar and resource library. <u>https://cdd.health.unm.edu/pfe/</u>

Take action with us: Support inclusive hiring and policies that promote competitive integrated employment Together, we can create a diverse, innovative, and productive workforce, ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Supports Waiver Updates: What You Need to Know

Contributor: Anysia Fernandez, Supports Waiver Program Manager

Supports Waiver Census

As of July 2024, 150 individuals on the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW) wait list have accepted the offer for Supports Waiver (SW) services.

SW offers are sent out weekly to individuals on the wait list who are awaiting an allocation for the more comprehensive waivers such as the Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Mi Via (MV) Waivers. If you are on the waitlist, be on the lookout for the SW offer. There is no expiration date for the SW. If you remain on the wait list, you can access the SW by contacting Anysia Fernandez at (505) 629-7476 or Lizette Lujan at (505) 470-0279. It's important to note that participants can accept or decline the SW and still retain their place on the wait list.

Supports Waiver Transitions

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) has been informed that SW participants who have received an allocation to DD or MV Waivers are not notifying their Community Supports Coordinators (CSCs). As a result, required transition meetings are not taking place. Participants need to notify their CSC when they receive an allocation to the DD or MV Waiver and inform them of which case management agency they are selecting. Then a transition meeting must occur before switching waivers.

Updated Community Supports Coordinator (CSC) Orientation in Fiscal Year (FY)26

CSC Orientation is required for new CSC's before they begin working with waiver participants. The CSC Orientation is currently being revised. CSCs can request the interim CSC Orientation that is currently in place from the DDSD SW Unit. By FY26, the updated CSC Orientation will be available on the New Mexico Waiver Hub.

Supports Waiver (SW) Renewal- Public Input Opportunities

Tribal Notification:	December 6, 2025
Public Comment Period:	January 6, 2025- February 5, 2025
Public Hearing:	February 5, 2025

Dates are subject to change

To provide input on the SW visit: Supports Waiver - New Mexico Health Care Authority

For questions on the SW contact:

Anysia Fernandez - SW Program Manager (505) 629-7476 or

Lizette Lujan - SW Program Coordinator (505) 470-0279.



Direct Care Workforce Technical Assistance Initiative Update

Contributer: Scott Doan, Deputy Director - DDSD

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 is participating 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. The state agency leading New Mexico's collaboration is the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD), and they invited the Health Care Authority (HCA), including DDSD, the Department of Workforce Solutions, and the New Mexico Caregivers Coalition to . receive technical assistance with them on direct care workforce challenges and best practices. New Mexico will continue to receive technical assistance and training from the ACL through the spring of 2025.

DDSD continues to attend meetings with the ACL. The first set of meetings have been focused on learning what data is available from the various New Mexico state agencies (listed above) on Direct Support Professionals. The intent of learning about and gathering this information from all state agencies, is to utilize the information and data obtained through this initiative to enhance and strengthen caregiver workforce recruitment, training, and retention strategies.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Update.

Contributer: Jenni Mcnab, Assistant Metro Regional Director

Effective 1/25/2025 - two Mi Via codes will move to the EVV system, AuthentiCare®, to check in and out of shifts:

- 99509 E Homemaker Exception
- T1055SD-E Respite Standard Exception

Training will be available for those who provide these services and aren't familiar with AuthentiCare® as follows:

Wednesday January 15, 2025 – Friday January 17, 2025.

Tuesday January 21, 2025 – Friday January 24, 2025

Training links will be sent out soon. If there are any questions for Mi Via, please contact: <u>Deanna.DeHerrera@hca.nm</u> 505-629-7260 at MAD. <u>Elaine.Hill@hca.nm.gov</u> 505-506-6103 at DDSD.

Mi Via Waiver employees providing the following codes/services are already required to use EVV to check in and out of shifts.

99509	Homemaker
T1055SD	Respite Standard
99509-AC	HM Direct Support Vendor
T1005-AC	Respite Vendor

For any questions from Mi Via Waiver employees currently checking in & out of shifts using EVV, please contact: The Consolidated Customer Service Center 1-800-283-4465.

Transition Fair

Contributer: Chris Futey, Deputy Director - DDSD

Transition Fairs play a crucial role in empowering and educating students with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are in the process of transitioning into the workforce, higher education, or vocational schools. This can be a challenge for students, as they may not know where to start or who to connect with for a successful transition. Transition Fairs help to bridge the gap between students and the resources they need by providing students and their families with valuable tools and connections to ensure a smooth journey into this next step of their lives.

These events bring students with intellectual or developmental disabilities together with schools, potential employers, and various organizations to explore career opportunities, training resources, and skill-building paths that help prepare for life after high school. Involvement of family members and educators is also encouraged to ensure a comprehensive support system.

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) recently attended a Transition Fair at Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho, NM. DDSD's Adam Shand (see in photo) was in attendance and provided DDSD resources to help make connections and provide useful information. Adam is a DDSD Trainer and also supports School to Work Transition activities.

Participating in these events is essential because many students who are or will be supported on New Mexico waiver programs may face challenges finding meaningful employment. Guidance and connections established at transition fairs may be a first step in overcoming barriers, showing students a world of possibilities waiting to be discovered.



DDSD hopes to meet students at Rio Rancho High School 's next Transition Fair on January 28th, 2025.



Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services

Contributor Christina Hill, Deputy Bureau Chief- Community Programs Bureau

Ensuring Access to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) services for all eligible individuals is a federal rule finalized in July 2024. Called the Access Rule for short, it is designed to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to high-quality supports. While there are multiple areas of focus in the rule, one of the key components of this rule is the establishment of payment adequacy requirements for the direct care workforce that supports people in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) (i.e. Medicaid Waiver programs).

Payment adequacy is crucial for maintaining a robust provider agency and direct care professional network that can deliver essential services to Medicaid beneficiaries. Adequate payment rates help ensure that providers can cover their operational costs, attract and retain qualified staff, and invest in the necessary infrastructure to deliver high-quality care. This, in turn, supports the sustainability of direct care workers, who are essential to the provision of HCBS waiver supports.



The new rule specifics related to payment adequacy and transparency are fourfold and span milestone deadlines though 2030. The four payment adequacy activities required of states offering HCBS like the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division's (DDSD's) Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Supports Waiver and Medically Fragile Waiver are:

- Rate Disclosure and Publication: Disclosure includes average hourly payment rates, the number of Mediaid-paid claims, and the number of beneficiaries must public information.
- Interested Parties Advisory Group: This group will advise on payment rates for Direct Care Workers (DCWs) and other adequacy data.
- Reporting: There are now requirements to report on the percentage of payments going to DCWs' compensation, separated by service type and location.
- Minimum Performance Standard (80/20 rule): This part of the rule requires states to ensures 80% of Medicaid payments go to DCWs' compensation for applicable services, with criteria for exemptions.

DDSD has a head start on compliance. DDSD started provider payment reporting mandated by New Mexico (NM) legislation through House Bill 395 in the 2023 legislative session. DDSD also conducts routine rate studies required by the NM Developmental Disabilities Act every two years. DDSD will be examining how to expand on what is already in place to fully meet Access Rule requirements. DDSD expects more sub regulatory guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) soon and will be planning for compliance, engaging with stakeholders to do so. Stay tuned for more information and stakeholder engagement opportunities.

Santa Fe Inclusive Talent Showcase

Contributor:, Deputy Director, DDSD

To kick-off the holiday season the Santa Fe Inclusive Special Needs Talent Showcase returned for its third year, inviting community members to experience and celebrate the extraordinary talents of performers with special needs in early December.

I was thrilled to be in attendance, and I had the pleasure of enjoying the wonderful talents of Angelina Baca, Anna Chavez, Colin Holmes, Alandra Lopez, Christian Porter, Kim Mackey, and Christopher Thompson. Singing filled the theater, the stage hosted dancers, actors and comedians alike, and the energy was palpable. I was so proud of the bravery, confidence and empowerment displayed by each performer. It was a great night honoring diversity, inclusion and community. My cheeks hurt when I left from smiling so much! Bravo Santa Fe!

For more information on the Santa Fe Inclusive Special Needs program email: santafeinclusiveshowcase@gmail.com or text (505) 660-3948.



E-Blasts

Contributer: Tammy Barth, Provider Enrollment & Relations Unit Manager

DDSD Document Distribution – December 16, 2024 DDSD Document Distribution – December 2, 2024 Advocacy Partners Meeting PowerPoint – November 25, 2024 DDSD Provider Meeting - November 18, 2024 – November 22, 2024 DDSD Document Distribution – November 15, 2024 DDSD Provider Meeting Invitation - November 5, 2024 – November 22, 2024 DDSD Document Distribution – November 1, 2024 DDSD Provider Meeting Invitation - October 31, 2024 – November 22, 2024 DDSD Seating and Mobility Conference - October 25th and 26th, 2024 – October 23, 2024 Health Care Authority Updates on Waivers – October 16, 2024 DDSD Document Distribution – October 15, 2024 Weds Oct 9th 3:30-5:00 Therapy Consultants Virtual Office Hours – October 8, 2024 DDSD Specialty Seating Clinic Mobility and Positioning Conference – October 8, 2024

New Hires and Promotions

Contributer: Joseph Anaya, Human Resources

Kyle Cottrell, SOC/COM SV COORD-S Albuquerque office, starts 1/4/25 Dion Barbero, Purchasing Agent-O, Santa Fe office - 12/21/24 Selina Leyba, Community Programs Bureau Chief, A/O II Albuquerque - 12/7/24 Jessica Romero, Purchasing Agent-Advanced Santa Fe office - 12/7/24 Casie Buffington, Registered Nurse Level II Gallup - 11/23/24 Fatima Renteria, SOC/COM SV COORD-O Las Cruces SWRO office, starts10/26/24 Bernadette Garcia, Healthcare Surveyor-Operational, Albuquerque, starts 10/26/24 Marissa Borrello, Clinical Psychologist Level II, Starts 10/26/24 Fatima Renteria, SOC/COM SV COORD-O Las Cruces SWRO office, starts 10/26/24 Aida Franco, SOC/COM SV COORD-O Taos NERO office, starts 10/26/24 Adamaris Iguado, SEC, EX LGL/MED/EXE-A, starts: 10/26/24 Joshua Parkins, Registered Nurse Level III Albuquerque, starts 10/12/24 Nathalie Daniel, Training & Development Specialist-A, Albuquerque office - 9/28/24 Tony Fragua. Staff Manager, Albuquerque office - 9/28/24

About Us

New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is located at:

1190 S. St. Francis Drive PO Box 26110 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Our website: www.hca.nm.gov

FOR INFORMATION CALL: (505) 476-8973 or Toll Free: 1-877-696-1472 or email us at ddsd-general@doh.nm.gov

> DDSD NEWSLETTER STAFF Editor-in-Chief: Jennifer Rodriguez Editor & Layout: Peter Michaels

If you would like to write an article for the next DDSD Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, contact: Peter Michaels - DDSD Newsletter at: <u>ddsd-general@doh.nm.gov</u>

