

## **Health Care Authority Updates for Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC): 07/25/2024**

As many of you are aware the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) is now part of the Health Care Authority (HCA). This change became effective July 1, 2024. There are no changes or interruptions to the services we provide to Mi Via Participants and Families.

### **1. The Mi Via Unit Team:**

- Program Manager: Elaine Hill  
[Elaine.Hill@doh.nm.gov](mailto:Elaine.Hill@doh.nm.gov), 505-506-6103
- Program Coordinator: Krystal Armijo  
[Krystal.Armijo@doh.nm.gov](mailto:Krystal.Armijo@doh.nm.gov), 505-252-3087
- Program Coordinator: Anthony Bonarrigo  
[Anthony.Bonarrigo@doh.nm.gov](mailto:Anthony.Bonarrigo@doh.nm.gov), 505-709-7410
- Program Coordinator: Alicia Otolo  
[Alicia.Otolo@doh.nm.gov](mailto:Alicia.Otolo@doh.nm.gov), 505-218-1119

\*We are in the process of hiring at least two more Mi Via Program Coordinators.

### **2. Making the Service and Support Plan (SSP) Better-Tell Us What You Think!**

DDSD is seeking to revise the SSP document to make it more accessible, user-friendly, and person-centered. A Smartsheet link is below to provide any recommendations you may have for making the SSP better:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/85e9f283a262428ea003988fcc15c286>.

Claudia Rice, DDSD Research & Policy Analyst, met with Althea and 7 other MVAC members to collaborate and discuss the SSP format. (Feedback included.) We have included the feedback received from this group and will include with all other input we have received.

### **3. *NEW*: Client Rights, Grievance and Reporting Form:**

- Notify participants of their rights
- Identify how to report abuse, neglect and exploitation
- How to file a grievance with DDSD
- Effective July 1, 2024
- This form is available for all Mi Via Participants and Families, and you can request one from your Consultant.

#### 4. Mi Via Renewal:

The Mi Via Waiver, which promotes self-direction, best practices, and ensures continuous quality improvement is due to be renewed with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for another five (5) year cycle on October 1, 2025.

We want to hear from YOU! Now is the time to provide us with your input and recommendations to improve the Mi Via Waiver. What is working? What enhancements would you like to see in self-direction? What ideas do you have to better meet the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities? Please share your suggestions at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a4832f2de8804b3eb4b22118821a3bf1>

Below are waiver renewal items the State is focusing on. For more information on these topics, please attend one of our in-person town hall meetings throughout the summer of 2024.

- Mi Via Waiver training compliance
- Abuse, neglect, and exploitation information and requirements
- Rate increases
- Employer of Record (EOR) waiver service
- Employment outside the Individual Budget Allotment
- New Legally Responsible Individual, relative and guardian payment allowances
- Individual Budget Allotment increases

The Mi Via Unit will be hosting town hall meetings throughout the state to discuss waiver renewal. Below you will find the dates and locations:

- a. Monday, August 5th – Albuquerque**  
5300 Homestead Road, NE Albuquerque NM 87110  
Hozho Room 109 (Training Room)  
9:00 am to 11:00 am
- b. Tuesday, August 6th - Santa Fe**  
Harold L. Runnels Building (Auditorium)  
1190 S St. Francis Dr. Santa Fe, NM 87505  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- c. Friday, August 9th – Farmington**  
Sycamore Park Community Center  
1051 Sycamore Street, Farmington NM 87401  
11:00 am to 1:00pm

**d. Monday August 12th – Taos**

Virtual Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 291 036 187 208

Passcode: YQCbXL

**Dial in by phone**

[+1 505-312-4308,222614592#](#) United States, Albuquerque

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 222 614 592#

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**e. Wednesday, August 14th – Roswell**

DDSD Southeast Regional Office

726 South Sunset, Suite B, Roswell, NM 88203

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**f. Thursday, August 15th – Las Cruces**

CYFD Protective Services

2805 Roadrunner Pkwy, Las Cruces, NM 88011

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

**g. Friday August 16th – Virtual Sessions: Links will be provided**

- 9:00 am to 10:00 am - Albuquerque, NM
- 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - Gallup, NM
- 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Santa Fe, NM

## **5. Current Waiver Amendment**

A Mi Via Waiver amendment is currently available to view and provide public comment on. This amendment includes the rate recommendations from the 2023 Public Consultant Group Inc, final report.

A public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., Mountain Time (MT)**. The conference call toll-free number is: **800-747-5150, Access Code: 0440241**.

The waiver amendments are available on the HSD website at <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/public-information-and-communications/opportunity-for-public-comment/public-notice-proposed-waiver-changes-and-opportunities-to-comment/comment-period-open/>.

**6. Gross Tax Receipt Outside the Budget:**

The Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) is currently included in the cost of services for Mi Via participants. By removing the cost of the GRT outside of the Individual Budgetary Allotment (IBA) participants will have more money available to spend on purchasing services.

- HSD is working with FOCOSOnline to implement this change and ensure an area in the system where the GRT will be accounted for, and codes will need to be created for the GRT billing purposes'
- The anticipated effective date of this will be the end of summer 2024. More information on this is to follow.

**7. Individual Budgetary Allotment Increase and Additional Funding:**

Individual Budget Allotment amounts have been increased to accommodate increased rates that have occurred over the last few years. The effective date was for submissions (*not SSP dates*) beginning July 1, 2024 forward.

Here's what you need to know.

- The FOCOS Online system has been programmed with the increased IBA amounts to be effective July 1, 2024.
- Nothing needs to be done by the participant, Employer of Record or consultant to access the increased IBA.
- If rates are re-negotiated by participants and/or employer of records, the usual process must be followed and any vendor or employee agreements in place will need to be updated and submitted to the Conduent.
- As of July 1, 2024, all Additional Funding (AF) will be reviewed at initial and renewal of budget and participants must meet one of the AF criteria located in the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) and Service Standards. A letter of direction (LOD) has been issued to the TPA.

<b>Budget Levels</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>NEW effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024</b>
0-17	\$23,443	\$24,690.17
18-20	\$54,589	\$57,493.13
18-20 with IHLS	\$68,589	\$80,468.61
>21	\$71,710	\$84,130.17

**8. DDSD Webpages Have Moved**

- 1. Please find us here: [Home - New Mexico Human Services Department \(nm.gov\)](https://www.nm.gov).

- 2. Click on Looking for Assistance
- 3. Find all DDSD Pages on left side Navigation bar

### **9. Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) Information Form**

- Submit as an attachment using the link on the form.
- Form and Q&A are in CM toolkit on new webpages: [DDW - Service Planning and Budgets - New Mexico Human Services Department \(nm.gov\)](#)

### **10. New Editions (NE) Consulting Inc. will be conducting onsite visits in New Mexico in September 2024.**

The New Editions visits are an opportunity for our federal partners to visit with some of our waiver recipients to see a “day-in-the-life” and observe whether the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule: Home and Community Based Services Settings Requirements are actually in effect.

HCA Medical Assistance Division and Developmental Disabilities Supports Division will be sending letters to families who will be visited in advance, so they have a better understanding of the purpose, expectations, etc.

### **11. Next batch of allocations were released on June 24, 2024.**

DDSD is anticipating 500 new people entering the waiver system.

### **12. The CMS Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services Final Rule has been passed!**

Main Elements of the rule:

- Person-Centered Planning
- Grievance in Fee-for-Service Systems
- Critical Incident Management Systems
- HCBS Payment Adequacy and Transparency
- HCBS Quality Measure Set
- Access Reporting (Waitlist Reporting)
- Standardization of HCBS Reporting Requirements and Transparency
- Medicaid Advisory Committee and Beneficiary Advisory Group

### **13. Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Technical Assistance Initiative**

New Mexico was selected for Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Technical Assistance Initiative.

New Mexico is one of 20 accepted applicant states for a technical assistance initiative, delivered by the Administration for Community Living's Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Strategies Center.

Stakeholders from the developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD), New Mexico Department of Aging and Long-Term Services, Human Services Department, Department of Workforce Solutions, and New Mexico Caregivers Coalition will receive 250 hours of personalized assistance to explore workforce problems and examine caregivers needs.

National subject matter experts from the DCW and their partners Advancing States, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services, and the National Association of State Medicaid Directors will assist in creating solutions to the most pressing workforce issues.

DDSD will utilize the initiative to enhance and strengthen caregiver workforce recruitment, training, and retention strategies