



## CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ August 2017

What's happening in the disability community in New Mexico

Unite in support of the **DDPC** goals of Advocacy, Capacity Building and Systems Change

The **Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)** is a group of individuals including self-advocates, family members, professionals, employees and dedicated individuals uniting for one mission. Our mission is that the **New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council** will promote advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans with developmental disabilities and their families. For more in-depth information on the **DDPC**, take a look at [our council's five goals](#).

### Recent DDPC COUNCIL News

The Council is seeking members from **outside the Albuquerque metro area**. All applications need to go through the Governor's website:

<http://www.governor.state.nm.us/>. On the website there is a drop-down box "Governor's Office" where you can choose "Boards and Commissions" and click on the line for "Apply for a Board Position." In the application, you can apply for the Council. The next DDPC Council Meeting is on Friday, **August 25**.



Council Chair, Amira Rasheed, along with Executive Director, John Block III, Deputy Director, Barbara Ibanez and Center for Self-Advocacy Program Manager,

Daniel Ekman attended the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Technical Assistance Institute and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah recently.



Daniel Ekman attended in order to take part of two panels where he discussed the ***Advocate Leadership Academy*** model with states and territories from throughout the United States. The first panel, which took place at the Technical Assistance Institute on July 12 and featured insightful presentations from the DD Council representatives in Delaware and North Dakota, was titled "Ordinary People: Extraordinary Results: Grassroots Advocacy and Youth Self-Advocacy Leadership." The second panel on July 13, which featured contributions from the South Carolina Center for Independent Living and the Utah-based national organization Next Chapter Book Club, was titled "Council Activities to Promote Self-Advocacy."

The AIDD Technical Assistance Institute on July 11-12 focused on a variety of important topics, including data recording, data reporting, cultural and linguistic diversity, self-advocacy and updates on the status of AIDD itself. Networking time was built into each session, which was conducted in a panel format in order to get a diverse range of perspectives on the presentation topics. It featured the introduction of the new Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities, Melissa Ortiz. She also attended the NACDD National Conference.

The NACDD National Conference followed July 13-14 and featured panels on Alternatives to Guardianship, Self-Advocacy, Healthcare, Community-Based Services and Emergency Preparedness. Various national projects from a variety of states were highlighted and the potential impacts of national policy developments was discussed. Both conferences emphasized that, while there is still much work to do, the DD Councils have a tremendous positive impact on their communities and are able to make a difference on not only a local level, but a national level.

## Disability News & Upcoming Events

Contact [Daniel](#) to include your news and events

**Guardianship Program Update:** If you would like to request a **presentation on guardianship**, contact Maria Bourassa, Guardianship Program Manager at 505-841-4524 or [maria.bourassa@state.nm.us](mailto:maria.bourassa@state.nm.us). The Guardianship Program has been hard at work with court hearings, site

visits to Guardianship providers and preparing the new online database.

**Federal Program Update:** The Federal Program projects directly relate to the current Five-Year Plan (2017-2021) developed and approved by the Council. The Five-Year Plan is based on input received from people with disabilities, family members, professionals and community members from across the state.

Funding for these projects is from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living/Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).

For example, the Federal Program partially funds the **Information Network** at the UNM Center for Development & Disability. The Network is a comprehensive information service to the New Mexico disability community through referrals to various agencies and by staff traveling across the state providing informational materials.

The Federal Program team is working on the FY 18 work plan, which will be completed by June 15. The team is also working on projects to improve the knowledge about the impact of our services, including identifying a comprehensive list of zip codes that includes the status of each census area in New Mexico, a survey to identify health services gaps and improvements to address cultural and linguistic diversity.

To see the Five Year Plan of the New Mexico DD Council, click [here](#).

### **Center for Self Advocacy (CSA) Update:**

Daniel Ekman was able to present on the Advocate Leadership Academy at a national conference in Salt Lake City. Read the DD Council Update section for more information. Not only was New Mexico able to raise the profile of their own self-advocacy efforts, but was able to raise awareness of the contributions of various partner organizations in New Mexico, learn from various activities taking place throughout the United States and network with various groups conducting self-advocacy efforts in their own states and territories.



In addition, CSA staff spent July preparing the upcoming **Advocate Leadership Academy** on August 14. They selected 9 fellows and 5 team leaders. This session will be the first where two of the fellows are from outside of the Albuquerque Metro Area and will be using technology to participate in the classes. The staff took the feedback from the pilot class and incorporated it into the new program schedule, which is more oriented on the self-assessments and goals of the fellows. For the team leaders, there is a training on July 31 from 1-5 pm. Congratulations to all who were accepted into this Academy group.

To schedule outreach events conducted by the CSA, contact Daniel at 505-841-4558 or [Daniel.Ekman@state.nm.us](mailto:Daniel.Ekman@state.nm.us).

### FEATURED DDPC MEMBER: Vice-Chair, Sergio Resendiz



Sergio has been a self-advocate member of the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council for 4 years. Currently, Sergio is the Vice Chair of the Council. He has participated in the DDPC/CSA Fall Class, the Summit on Advocacy and the Southwest Conference on Disability. He graduated from Partners in Policymaking, serves on the New Mexico Allies for Advocacy Board and is a New Mexico Young Disability Leader. He worked at the Arc of Southern New Mexico as a Self-Advocate Project Assistant for 10 years while living in Chaparral. He currently lives in Albuquerque. He enjoys sports,

speaking out and making friends.

The New Mexico Legislative Health and Human Services Disability Concerns Subcommittee has released their workplan. It includes topics, meeting locations and meeting times. Click [here](#) for work plan.



### **Medicaid Telephone Identity Theft Scam Alert**

#### **The Following comes from the New Mexico Human Services Department Website**

There have been reports of what appears to be an identity theft scam by callers claiming to be representatives of the New Mexico Medicaid program. These solicitors are calling individuals several times a day and asking for their name, Social Security Number, and Medicaid number. Medicaid recipients should never provide personal information such as Social Security Number or Medicaid identification numbers over the phone to unsolicited callers.

These callers are not affiliated with the New Mexico Human Services Department, its Medicaid program, the Centennial Care managed care organizations, or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

If you have received an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be a representative of the Human Services Department or the New Mexico Medicaid program, you may file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>. If you have already fallen victim to this or a similar scam, please visit <http://www.identitytheft.gov>.

## Disability Awareness Curriculum Input Needed

The office of the Attorney General Outreach Division is developing a disability awareness curriculum. As part of this curriculum, they will have a section on their website with stories from the community. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Amira Rasheed, [A.Rasheed@nmaq.gov](mailto:A.Rasheed@nmaq.gov), 505-717-3584. Click [here](#) for more information on this project.

## Know Your Rights

A coalition of different groups and individuals is working on the **Know Your Rights** campaign which addresses the CMS Final Rule and rights of individuals with disabilities. The Final Rule amends the regulations which govern the Medicaid 1915 (c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs. These rules are an important step forward in federal policy, supporting inclusion and integration of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

For more information on the campaign, go to <http://actnewmexico.org/cms-final-rule.html> or contact Wendy Corry at [wendy@corryconsulting.com](mailto:wendy@corryconsulting.com).

**August Events** Contact 505-670-5698 to include your upcoming events.





**August 24**  
*Albuquerque Yoga Program (Adaptive Sports Program)*  
**Bodylanguage Studio, Albuquerque**  
[More information.](#)



**August 25**  
*Governor's Commission On Disability Meeting*  
**Disability Rights New Mexico, Albuquerque**  
[More information.](#)



**August 26**  
*Adaptive Kayaking Open House (Adaptive Sports Program)*  
**Rio Rancho Aquatic Center, Rio Rancho**  
[More information.](#)



**August 30**  
*Sled Hockey (Adaptive Sports Program)*  
**Albuquerque**  
[More information.](#)



**AUGUST 30, 2017**  
**New Mexico Allies for Advocacy**  
**STAKEHOLDER MEETING - ALL INVITED**  
**FOOD Provided**  
**5:00 - 6:30pm**  
**Landmark Apartments Library Meeting Room**  
**6303 Indian School Blvd.**

Albuquerque  
Call Daniel at 505-670-5698 for the phone conference call number or more information.

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### *From Fear to Freedom Grant Project*



New Mexico Allies for Advocacy is partnering with Parents Reaching Out on a \$15,000 grant project. "From Fear to Freedom: Family Support Groups and Know Your Rights" is a collaborative effort between Parents Reaching Out (PRO) and New Mexico Allies for Advocacy (Allies) to educate the parents of children with disabilities about their rights in adulthood. Through this effort, we hope to address misconceptions about the Know Your Rights campaign, help parents understand why the Know Your Rights campaign is important for their children, raise the expectations that parents have for their future adult children with disabilities and increase the dialogue about future opportunities between parents and their children with disabilities.

"From Fear to Freedom" reflects a synergy among the goals of these three programs. One objective is to raise awareness of rights for parents with disabilities by offering education and communication opportunities in 10 communities. Another objective is to get relevant information from the Know Your Rights campaign to the parents, in particular through adults with disabilities sharing how misconceptions about adults with disabilities impact them. Adult self-advocates will also share their success stories from their adult lives. In doing so, this will create a new normative expectation of rights for parents not just in the present, but when their children become adults. Finally, the project will create a link between adult self-advocates and their initiatives, parents and their initiatives, and communities to create a shared vision of what the future will look like for children with disabilities.



**HOLD THE DATE:**

**October 11-13, 2017  
Southwest Conference on Disability  
Albuquerque**

Click [here](#) for more information.



Click [here](#) for early bird registration.



**Support Group for LGBTQ  
people with disabilities**

**1st and 3rd Thursday of each month  
6:00pm-7:30pm**

[Learn more.](#)



**Cultivating Coders**

provides rural Native communities  
with world-class Computer Science education.

[Learn more.](#)

## Martial Arts classes at the Mountain Dojo 319 Mountain NE Albuquerque

For Itty Bittys, Kids, or Adults on Thursdays. [Learn more.](#)

## Resources

"Health and Safety for Caregivers" four-hour training. The topics include workers rights, preventing infection, and Musculoskeletal Safety. The class is free to agencies and caregivers. It can be provided at an agency location and a time convenient to the agency and caregivers. Click [here](#) for a flyer with more specific information. If you would like to arrange a training, call Pamela Stafford, M.A., CESP at 505-710-9680.

Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) worked with providers, advocates, and other stakeholders to develop a Provider Data Summary that makes key data about providers available to the public. [Learn more.](#)

From the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line: [Information in English and Spanish](#)



### Disability Rights New Mexico is looking for participant for two boards

The first board is the Disability Rights New Mexico Board of Directors.  
The second board is for the Mental Health Advisory Council.  
For more information on these boards and to apply, go to [www.drn.org](http://www.drn.org)



### Disability Rights New Mexico has moved

Their Albuquerque Office is no longer on Central and Louisiana. They are now located at 3916 Juan Tabo Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Their new office is on the east side of Juan Tabo Blvd., NE, between Comanche and Montgomery. Turn east at the traffic light for "Juan Tabo Place", and they are in the second building on the right.  
Their contact information has NOT changed.

### Center for Self Advocacy

Exciting news and upcoming events at the **New Mexico Center for Self Advocacy**:  
[Keep up with our calendar of](#)

### Guardianship Program

The **Guardianship Program** is a statewide, publicly funded guardianship services

### Federal Program

The **Federal Program** addresses five key areas including self-advocacy, education and early

[future events here.](#)

**The Center for Self Advocacy** has continued outreach to various schools. If you want **Center** staff to present at a school near you, contact Suzanne Kryder at [Suzanne.Kryder@state.nm.us](mailto:Suzanne.Kryder@state.nm.us) or 505-841-4571.

program for guardians of last resort for income and resource-eligible incapacitated adults.

The **Guardianship Program** provides guardians, legal services for court proceedings and even trained Mental Health Treatment Guardians. [Learn more about the essentials here.](#)

intervention, leadership/quality assurance, community action and support and employment.

The organizations funded through the **Federal Program** and others are supported by federal and state funding [Learn more here.](#)

