



CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ April 2018

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 interested individuals who include self-advocates, family members, professionals, employees and dedicated New Mexicans uniting for one mission. **New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council's** mission is to 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 chose "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, **April 27, 2018**.

REGISTER NOW! DON'T MISS THE 2018 SUMMIT ON ADVOCACY FEATURING...

 Opening Plenary "How Advocacy Gets Results" - An Entertaining Conversation Between Two Seasoned

- Advocates (Lindsay Sloan and Daniel Ekman)
- Breakout Sessions Developed and Delivered by Academy Fellows (including people with disabilities and family members)
- Artists Booths Original artwork and crafts for sale handmade by people with disabilities! Bring cash and enjoy great gifts!
- **Organizational Booths** gather important information from disability organizations!
- **Drawings for Free Artwork and Crafts** Opportunity to win and take home beautiful artwork and crafts made by artist featured in our Artist's Booths.
- Networking Meet new friends from across the state and stay connected
- Dinner Buffet Enjoy a delicious dinner as you hear about what's happening with Advocacy across New Mexico

Click <u>Here</u> for a SUMMIT Brochure to print Click <u>Here</u> for a Registration Form to print Click <u>Here</u> to Register ONLINE with a Credit Card

About the Statewide Summit on Advocacy

The Summit on Advocacy is an opportunity for self-advocates and partners to gather information around self-advocacy activities and policies. The purpose is to strengthen and enhance self-advocacy efforts in New Mexico.



If you have questions or need additional information please contact us at:
Parents Reaching Out 1920 Columbia Dr SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Phone: (505)247-0192 or 1-800-524-5176



Statewide Summit on Advocacy

Advocacy Gets Results



April 18, 2018

Crowne Plaza

1901 University Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87102





Statewide Summit on Advocacy

Is a conference funded to by DDPC, and coordinated by Parents Reaching Out. The program was developed by DDPC's Advocate Leadership Academy, Spring class of 2018.

Wednsday, April 18, 2018

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12:00 - 1:30pm	Registration, Exhibits/Networking - Lunch is on your own- Snack will be served
1:30 - 2:30pm	Opening Plenary: How Advocacy Gets Results, Lindsey Sloan and Marilyn
	Martinez
2:30 - 3:00pm	Break
3:00 - 4:15pm	Breakouts: • Moving Forward with ADA Compliance
	 Dynamics of Family Relationships
4:15 - 4:30pm	Break
4:30 - 5:45pm	Breakouts: • The DD Waiver Service Standards, Important Changes for
	Families and Advocates

· Getting the Healthcare you need

Dinner and New Mexico Allies for Advocacy Event

7:00 – 10:00pm

5:45 - 7:00pm

- Individual with a Disability \$30
- Family Member \$30
- Support Staff \$30
- Professional \$50

Hotel Rooms at the Crowne Plaza:

Hotel rooms for the night of April 18, 2018 are available for out-of-town self advocates, family member or support staff traveling 200 miles round trip from home to the conference hotel. Metro and surrounding area residents may purchase a room for \$89.00 plus tax, room block will close after March 21, 2018. The hotel is located at 1901 University Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Register online at: www.classy.org/albuquerque/events/statewide-summit-advocacy/e164399

Please mail, fax, or email completed form to:

Parents Reaching Out 1920 B Columbia Dr. SE Albuquerque, NM 87106.

Email: Aleon@parentsreachingout.org Fax: 505-247-1345 For questions please call: 1-800-524-5176

Registration Form

Statewide Sum	mit on Advocacy on April 18, 2018
Name:	
	Disability Pamily Member
□ Support Staff □	Professional
Name of Organiza	ation:
Address:	
City:	State: Zip:
Phone:	<u></u>
Diagon shook whee	at accommodation usu accel to
	at accommodation you need to
participate in this	
Sign language i	500 F. S.
	needs:
Other needs:	
If you are coming	from a town 200 miles round trip fro
Albuquerque will	you need a hotel room? Yes No
Are you interested	d in attending the Parents Reaching
Out Family Leade	ership Conference April 19-20, 2018
□Yes □No	
Payment Informat	tion:
□ Check#:	
(make checks pay	yable to Parents Reaching Out)
□ Purchase Order	
Cardholder:	
Card Number:	
	Exp. Date:
Signature:	

FEATURED NEW STAFF

- Jennifer Valencia - Contract Specialist, DDPC/Guardianship Program



I've been with State Government for 23 years. I have spent most of them working in Santa Fe up until three ago when I got a job through the State here in Albuquerque. Most of my career has been working in Finance/Accounts Payable/Receivable. I've been with the DDPC Guardianship program for almost a week and I'm liking it so far. I have awesome people on my team and I look forward to working in my new position and

learning as I go.

I'm originally from Pecos, NM and now live in Rio Rancho, NM. I care for my father who is disabled, he is a BK amputee but very independent. He underwent his amputation in October of 2014 due to complications with diabetes. This was a life changing event for not only our family but especially for him. We have taken advantage of a lot of the resources available to make life as easy as possible for him. I always encourage him to never give up and to try harder and set goals to still be able to do the things he wants to do and even better than he did before. I believe a person can do whatever they want if they set their minds and heart to it.

FEATURED NEW STAFF

- Sandy Flores - Intake Coordinator, DDPC/Guardianship Program



Ms. Flores received her Bachelor of Science in 1999 from Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM and her Master of Arts in Counseling in 2009 from NM Highland University, Las Vegas, NM. She has an extensive background in the area of Education, Care Coordination, Case Management, and Home-Based Therapy for Individuals with Disabilities. Ms. Flores has been a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities since 2012.

Words of encouragement: "I do not have a disability, I have a gift! Others may see it as a disability, but I see it as a

challenge. This challenge is a gift because I have to become stronger to get around it, and smarter to figure out how to use it; others should be so lucky."

We've Reached the Finish Line!!

Advocate Leadership Academy Graduation Let's Celebrate!!!







Come join us for our Open House and to recognize our Academy Graduates

Enjoy Friends, Food and Fun!

When: Monday, April 23rd from 3:00-5:00pm

Where: DDPC Large Conference Room

625 Silver Ave SW. Suite 100

Albuquerque, NM, 87102 Parking Code: Call 841-4519

Thanks to these generous food sponsors



























Guardianship Program Update:

The Guardianship Program is a statewide, publicly funded guardianship services program for guardians of last resort for income and resource-eligible incapacitated adults, when there are no less restrictive forms of

intervention, such as a power of attorney or a decision maker designated under an Advance Directive.

The Guardianship Program staff continue to work diligently on behalf of all individuals needing Guardianship, but who fall between 200% of the Federal Poverty level. In addition to assisting with intake and providing legal assistance, compliance officers have conducted site visits to ensure that the individuals in the program are receiving the services they need. They continue to collaborate with contractors, agencies, courts and others to ensure that those who are at the point of last resort receive the Guardianship services they need. Their tireless work has positively impacted the lives of many individuals in our state.

They also continue to provide information and education about Guardianship. This includes information on what it means to be under a Guardianship, various alternatives to Guardianship that are less restrictive and how various events impact the lives of those with a Guardian and the Guardians themselves.

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.

Federal Program Update: The Federal Program projects directly relate to the current Five-Year Plan (2017-2021) developed and approved by the Council. The Plan is based on information collected statewide from New Mexicans with disabilities, family members, professionals and community members.

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 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 created a survey to identify health services gaps

which is provided to **DDPC** federal program contractors to have project participants complete and return to **DDPC**, attached to the quarterly reports.

To see the Five Year Plan of the New Mexico DD Council, click here.

Center for Self Advocacy (CSA) Update:



The *Center for Self Advocacy (CSA)* is wrapping up it's *Advocate* Leadership *Academy* this month. The 14-week Spring class began on January 22nd and will take place weekly until April 23rd on which there will be an OPEN HOUSE and Graduation.

In March, our *Advocate Leadership Academy* participants began their hard work on the upcoming *Statewide Summit on Self-Advocacy* on April 18. The participants have decided on topics for their presentations and were hard at work putting presentations together on each topic. They chose four topics including ADA Compliance, Family Dynamics, Rights on the DD Waiver and Accessing Healthcare. These four topics will be the breakout o April 18sessions for the *Statewide Self-Advocacy Summit* on April 18. The leaders and fellows also participated in the March 26 *See Me For Me* event that took place at the *Center for Development and Disability.* Some individuals even filmed short videoblogs that will be posted shortly to our facebook and twitter accounts. They will end April with discussions about Disability Awareness and then prepare to present on one of their goals at the April 23 Open House.

The **CSA** staff was also hard at work in March. The staff attended a transition fair at **Rio Rancho High School** and a social work fair at the **New Mexico Highlands University** campus in Albuquerque. Staff also conducted an arts and crafts activity related to **See Me For Me**, assisted with an emergency preparedness training at **Isleta Resort and Casino** and attended the **See Me For Me** event at the **Center for Development and Disability**. They also continued to mentor individuals both within the **Academy** and in other programs such as **NMLEND**.

April will be a busy month for the **CSA**. On April 10, staff will conduct a transition presentation at *Vista Grande High School* in Taos. On April 11, an independent living presentation will be conducted at the **CDD**. **CSA** staff will also attend the *Imagine Conference* on April 12-13, but will also participate in a presentation on Emergency Preparedness and Autism.

Then, they will participate in the *Statewide Summit on Self-Advocacy* on April 18 followed by the *Parents Reaching Out Family Leadership Conference* on April 19-20. Program Manager Daniel Ekman will also be attending the *Association of University Centers on Disability 2018 Disability Policy Summit.* This doesn't include the additional work for the *2018 Spring Open House* or the *From Fear to Freedom* project.

On March 8, another From Fear to Freedom event took place at La Cumbre for a groups of grandparents. Panelists included Laurel Deans and Amelia Ann-Dickey as well as, staff members Lindsay Sloan, Marilyn Martinez and Daniel Ekman. Parents Reaching Out Family Liason Adam Shand also participated. Preparation for the event was done by staff member Lindsay Sloan in addition to Allies Quality of Life Grant Project Manager Nat Dean, and Parents Reaching Out - Quality of Life Grant Project Manager Adam Shand. The presentation featured a Dream Activity being done with the approximately 15 people in attendance. The participants asked great questions and were engaged throughout the presentation. The panelists had in-depth discussions regarding barriers and discussed how their experiences related to both their views of themselves and of disability rights in general. The From Fear to Freedom project will wrap up with two events that will take place in April. On April 4, an event will be held at Very Special Arts from 4:30-6:30 pm. Then, on April 11, our final event will take place at **New Mexico Highlands University** Tech Building Room 303 in Las Vegas from 6-8 pm. Don't miss your opportunity to see these groundbreaking events.

NEW! CSA APPOINTMENT HOURS:

Do you need to talk with someone about an issue you are having or just want to meet with a CSA staff members. We are now accepting APPOINTMENTS on Wednesday from 2-5 pm open to meet with people. If you want to schedule an appointment, contact Daniel at 505-670-5698.

To schedule outreach events conducted by the CSA, contact Lindsay at 505-841-4571 or Lindsay.Sloan@state.nm.us.

Disability News & Upcoming Events

Contact **Daniel** to include your news and events

The Following Event will be Held in conjunction with *The Arc* of New Mexico, ARCA, Zia Trust and Prezenger, Baysinger, Wideman and Sale PPC

Update on Special Needs Planning 2018



Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:00pm-5:00pm

New Mexico CPA Society 3400 Menaul Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87107 Across from American Home Furniture

Topics

- · Special Needs Trusts
- · Benefits of 2017 Tax Act
- Guardianships & Conservatorships
- ABLE Accounts
- · Pooled Trusts

Presented by:









Please RSVP by Friday, April 6, 2018

Email: kknapp@pbwslaw.com

Call: 505-872-0505

*Limited seating capacity

RSVP today!

WWW.PBWSLAW.COM



Letter on the Regional Office Request for Intervention (RORI) as a strategy for overcoming barriers to employment.

Click here to read the letter written by Community Inclusion
Manager Carrie N. Roberts



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, the Office will have a section on the website with stories from the community. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Amira Rasheed, A.Rasheed@nmag.gov, 505-717-3584. Click here for more information on this project.

Know Your Rights

A coalition of interested New Mexicans 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.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association of New Mexico 26th Annual Conference



The Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association of New Mexico (PSRANM) has contributed to an unwavering effort to use more effective and lower cost alternatives to long-term institutionalization over the past 30 years. They are having their 26th Annual Conference from June 13-16. This conference has a very specific focus on people in recovery and the providers that support people to maintain recovery and build resiliency. This year's conference we are focusing on: Healing, Growing, and Building Together: From Illness to Wellness. The early bird registration deadline is April 30, 2018.

PSRANM is hosting their 26th Annual Conference. This conference has a very specific focus on people in recovery and the providers that support people to maintain recovery and build resiliency. This year's conference we are focusing on: Healing, Growing, and Building Together: From Illness to Wellness.

They are seeking awards nominations for someone that has made a difference in the lives of others and/or the behavioral health field of recovery. The nominations are due by April 1, 2018. To learn more about the awards and how to submit nominations, click here.

The deadline to sponsor the conference and receive a free table is April 30, 2018. Click here for a sponsorship packet.





Support Group for LGBTQ people with disabilities

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

Learn more.



Cult ivating 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: <u>Information in English and Spanish</u>

The Following Tip Sheet on ABLE is presented by the *Information Network*, which is funded by the *NMDDPC* and administered by the *University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability*.

ABLE Act – Accounts for Persons with Disablities Act

New Mexico

What is the ABLE Act?

The ABLE Act is a federal law that allows eligible people with disabilities to open an ABLE investment and savings account. The "Bank Safe" option is a saving account and there are four investment options available. They range from aggressive to conservative (Growth, Moderate Growth, Conservative Growth, and Income Options). It allows a person with a disability to save money without losing eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and other programs. The money in this account may be used for qualified disability-related expenses.

Why open an ABLE account?

Many people with disabilities rely on Medicaid, SSI, and other public programs. To qualify for these programs, someone generally must have a low monthly income and no more than \$2,000 in countable assets. The ABLE Act allows a person to save more than this usual asset limit in an ABLE account without losing these important benefits, and to use those savings to pay for qualified expenses related to his or her disability.

Who is eligible?

An eligible person is someone whose disability began before the age of 26, and who has been living with their disability for at least one year, or expects it to last for at least a year. The applicant must also meet <u>one</u> of the following criteria:

- · Be entitled to SSI because of their disability
- · Be entitled to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) because of their disability
- Have a condition listed on the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm
- Self-certify their disability and diagnosis when opening an ABLE account.

How can someone open an ABLE account?

The ABLE account process is online. Visit www.ablenewmexico.com to register and open an account. Enrollment is free; however, a minimum deposit of \$50.00 is needed to open an account. Any deposits after that can be as little as \$1.00. Currently, there is a \$3.50 fee per month to have an account. There is also an asset fee between 0.19% and 0.34% depending on the options chosen. Any earnings on the account are free of state and federal taxes

Key facts

- · Anyone, such as a family member or friend, may contribute to the account.
- Up to \$15,000 may be put into an ABLE account each year. More than one person can
 contribute, but the total contributions from all sources is limited to \$15,000 per year.
- If the beneficiary is employed, the maximum yearly contribution is \$27,060 per year.
- If the total amount in the ABLE account exceeds \$100,000, then SSI benefits will be suspended until the amount in the account drops back down to \$100,000 or less.
- ABLE account funds do not affect eligibility for Medicaid, SSI and other programs.
- ABLE account funds must be spent on costs related to living with a disability.
- Disability-related expenses may include health care, education, housing, personal support services, transportation, employment training, assistive technology and other services.
- If Medicaid benefits were used while an account is open, it may be possible for Medicaid
 to seek repayment after a person's death. However, there are a number of things that the
 account can be used for before Medicaid could be repaid, such as funeral costs. Be sure
 to ask for more details.



State of New Mexico ABLE Program

www.ablenewmexico.com

ABLE National Resource Center 202-296-2040

www.ablenrc.org/

Questions?

Call the CDD Information Network

1-800-552-8195

or visit our website at

www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet

Informational Tip Sheets:

www.cdd.unm.edu/info net/tip-sheets.html



The information contained in this document is for general purposes only. This is not intended to provide medical or legal advice. Funded in part by the FMA Developmental Disabilities Planning Council BMADDPC2 Revised 02/12/2018





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.drnm.org

11770 ______

APRIL CALENDAR of Events Contact 505-670-5698 to

include your upcoming events.



They Don't Know Who I am!"

From Stereotypes to Reciprocity in Special Education 5:00-6:30 pm

Domenici Auditorium (UNM Health Sciences) Albuquerque For more information, click here



April 7
Autism Under the Big Top: Ellen
Reavis Race for Autism
Balloon Fiesta Park
11:00 am

Click here to register and for information



April 11
Service Animals: What You Need to
Know
Andres Z. Silva Conference Center
Deming
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Click here for more information



April 11
Update on Special Needs
Planning 2018
New Mexico CPA Society
3:00 - 5:00 pm
For more information, see the flyer above.



April 11 Mom's Night Out Casa Rodena Winery 6:00 - 8:00 pm For more information, click here



April 12-13
Imagine Autism Conference:
Embracing Change - Transitions
Through the Lifespans
Isleta Resort and Casino
Click here for more information



April 12
Service Animals: What You Need to
Know
Global Resource Center
Silver City
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Click here for more information



April 14
Celebration of Inclusion and Play
A Park Above
Rio Rancho
10:00 - 12:00 pm
For more information, click here



April 14
Mom's Night Out
9:00 - 10:00 am
For more information, click here



April 15
Sensory Friendly Hours at Explora
10-12 pm
Click here for more information



April 18
2018 Self-Advocacy Summit "Advocacy Gets Results"
Crowne Plaza
Albuquerque

See flyer above for more information





April 19-20
Family Leadership Conference
Crowne Plaza
Albuquerque
Click here for more information



April 21
Under 7 Play Group
Los Duranes Community Center
Albuquerque
11:00 - 1:00 pm
For more information, click here



April 21
Roswell Walk for Autism
Cielo Grande
12:00-5:00 pm
Click here to register and for information



April 22
School Age Playgroup
Coolspringz
Albuquerque
4:30 - 6:30 pm
For more information, click here



April 26-27
Governor's Commission on Disability
Ramada Hotel and Conference Center
Las Cruces

For more information, click here



April 27
Adult Social Group
Silva Lanes
Albuquerque
6:00 - 8:00 pm
For more information, click here

Center for Self Advocacy

Exciting news and upcoming events at the *New Mexico Center for Self Advocacy:*<u>Keep up with our calendar</u>

of 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 Lindsay Sloan at Lindsay.Sloan@state.nm.us or 505-841-4571.

Guardianship Program

The *Guardianship Program* is a statewide, publicly funded guardianship services program for guardians of last resort for income and resource-eligible incapacitated adults.

The **Guardianship Program** provides guardians, legal services for court

Federal Program

The *Federal Program* addresses five key areas including self-advocacy, education and early intervention, leadership/quality assurance, community action and support and employment.

The organizations funded through the **Federal Program** and others are supported

proceedings and even trained Mental Health by federal and state funding **Learn more** Treatment Guardians. here. Learn more about the essentials here. Visit us and learn more!





625 Silver Avenue SW Suite 100, Albuquerque. New Mexico 87102 (505) 841-4519 www.nmddpc.com