



## "CALLING ALL ADVOCATES" August 2015

What's happening in the disability community in New Mexico.

### Unite in support of the **DDPC** and our 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 Mexico with developmental disabilities and their families. For more in-depth information on the **DDPC**, take a look at [our council's seven goals](#).

Contact Daniel Ekman to get the word out about monthly events at [Daniel.ekman@state.nm.us](mailto:Daniel.ekman@state.nm.us).

### August Events



August 17 -

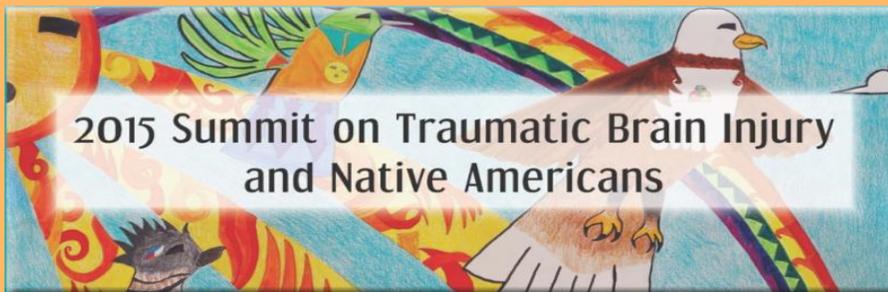
**November 30, 2015** An adult with a disability or anyone who knows an adult with a disability will be interested in this class. The **Fall Class** is a collaboration between two **University of New Mexico** Special Education Professors, Graduate Students and **The Center for Self Advocacy**.

- Dr. Susan Copeland and Dr. Megan Griffin bring their graduate students to the Center twelve times over the course of their class entitled *Advocacy & Empowerment with Individuals with Intellectual Disability and Severe Disabilities*. While they are at **UNM**, they learn about self-advocacy and how crucial advocacy is to the quality of life of individuals with disabilities.

There are many **benefits** for those who join the program:

- Attend weekly classes every Monday afternoon starting on August 17 and going until November 30.
- Learn about self-advocacy and leadership and then practice those skills during their group work.
- Meet many new people and influence the lives of special education students and future professionals.
- Share their work with community members. Past participants have also gained confidence, improved their public speaking skills and have opened the door to new opportunities within the disability community.
- Finally, not only is the class free, but our self-advocates get paid \$100 per month for participating in the class. This is for working hard to create a product, and DDPC believes that they should be compensated.
- All we ask is a weekly commitment and a desire to actively participate in the project. **For anyone who wants to sign up or find out more information**, please contact Joseph Calloway at [joseph.calloway@state.nm.us](mailto:joseph.calloway@state.nm.us) or 505-841-4571.

Interested in Brain Injury and Native American Disability Issues?



**August 19 - 21, 2015**

- To REGISTER and for more information on this unique and informative conference, go to <http://www.cdd.unm.edu/summit2015/>
- Then plan to attend the *2015 Summit on Traumatic Brain Injury and Native Americans*. The conference will take place at the Embassy Suites on **August 19 to August 21**. The main reasons why this conference is held include the fact that Native Americans have a higher rate of Traumatic Brain Injuries than other groups, lack culturally competent services and face barriers in major areas including prevention, assessment, diagnostic screening, treatment and health resources.

**Fun Activity/Fact of the Month**



**August 20 - 22, 2015**

For more information on this unique and inaugural event, visit the **Indigenous Fine Art Market's** website at <http://www.indigefam.org/>



New Mexico Guardianship Association  
**August 21, 2015**

- Attend the **New Mexico Guardianship Association 5th Annual Guardianship Symposium** called *The Elephant in the Room: Caring About the Invisible in Society*
- To REGISTER or for more information , go to <http://www.nmguardianassoc.org/#!events/c1aj3>
- The event is scheduled for **Friday August 21** at the **Sheraton** in **Uptown Albuquerque**.



**August 31 - September 1, 2015**

- To REGISTER and for more information:  
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eb667j60f8163b55&llr=zexpgguab>.
- Those who are interested can also contact Rebecca Roybal at 505-925-0898 or [rroybal1@salud.unm.edu](mailto:rroybal1@salud.unm.edu).

**Get to Know Us at DDPC**

Featured Staff Profile: Deputy Director Barbara Ibanez

Barbara Ibanez joined the **DDPC** as the new Deputy Director. She comes from the **University of New Mexico's Center for Development and Disability** where she managed numerous projects that have benefitted the disability community for the last 22 years in New Mexico. She founded **New Mexico Young Disability Leaders**, which created a *Disability Awareness Curriculum* and organized *Disability Awareness* presentations and *Disability History* skits for the past five years with two senate memorials recommending the curriculum be taught in public schools. She also recruited the original members of the **New Mexico Allies for Advocacy** team that went to Los Angeles and are now a grassroots, non-profit organizations ran by people with disabilities for people with disabilities.

Barbara also created and managed various peer mentoring programs for individuals with disabilities and Brain Injury. She created and coordinated the **Artisans Showcase, Film Festival** and the **Full Scholarship Program** for the *Southwest Conference on Disability*. She has over 32 years of experience in the disability community in Nebraska and New Mexico, starting as a direct support professional. She has extensive experience in various sectors of the community and has played important roles in the self-advocacy movement. Barbara has a Masters in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technology. Her experience and enthusiasm are a valuable asset to the **DDPC**.



---

### A Welcome to New Team Members at the **New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

Some wonderful new employees have joined the **DDPC** in various capacities. They bring a wealth of experience in the disability community along with a wealth of knowledge and fresh ideas to the **DDPC**.

- **Mary H. Smith** joined the **Guardianship Program** as a Staff Attorney. She comes from the **Attorney General's Office** and has a wealth of legal experience that will serve the **Guardianship Program** well. In fact, she managed the first guardianship program at the **State Agency on Aging** before it moved to the **Attorney General's Office** and then to the **DDPC**. Mary has nearly 30 years of experience with and passion for legal services for low-income persons and with legislation impacting guardianship and health care decision making, and this will carry-over to her responsibilities with the **Guardianship Program**.
- **Jannel M. Vigil** was hired as the Intake Coordinator for the **Guardianship Program**. She previously worked at the **University of New Mexico's Center for Development and Disability Information Network** as an Information Specialist. Thus, she brings a vast knowledge of various statewide and national resources, with an understanding of the issues that are relevant within the disability community. She will be an important asset to the **Guardianship Program**.
- **Donald Martinez** was hired as a Compliance Officer for the **Guardianship Program**. He comes from the **State Land Office** and has over 20 years of experience in government/public service including a period of time at the **Department of Transportation** working with transit programs. His extensive experience and knowledge in administrative processes, budget, contracts, and compliance with state rules and regulations will greatly benefit the **Guardianship Program**.



*Program.*

---

## Recent DDPC News and Events

---

### An Update on the *Office of Guardianship*

- The *Guardianship Program* is working on two important projects right now that will provide great benefits to both the program and its customers. Currently, applicants can find the forms online and download them to their computer or print them out. However, the *Guardianship Program* is close to completing an online application for guardianship submission process. This will streamline the efficiency of that process.
- Also, in conjunction with the *Department of Information Technology*, a new and updated database system is also close to completion. This system will be superior to the current database system in use.



---

### An Update on the *Center for Self Advocacy*

- On **August 19, 20 and 21, 2015**, a team of individuals from New Mexico will be going to Phoenix, Arizona to participate in a meeting for the ***Southwest Alliance on Technical Assistance Grant***.
- This group is creating a regional collaboration between self-advocates in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.
- The goal of this collaboration is to share effective self-advocacy techniques within each state, brainstorm goals within the self-advocacy movement, and identify various ways in which the self-advocacy movement can grow and accomplish goals within each state.
- The idea behind the collaboration is that each state within the region can both share important information with other states and benefit from efforts that are taking place in other states.



---

### *Federal Program* Planning for the Future

- The ***Federal Program*** works with many key disability organizations in New Mexico. The ***DDPC*** is entering the final year of its five year plan. As a result, the ***DDPC*** itself is preparing for the start of a new five year plan.
  - Therefore, the ***Federal Program*** will soon hold a contractor's meeting in order to prepare for the upcoming five year plan submission to Washington D.C.
  - Through these efforts, the ***Federal Program*** will continue to help the ***DDPC*** meet many important goals for people with disabilities throughout New Mexico.
-

## Keep Interim Committees in Mind

- While the *2015 Legislative Session* is over, that does not mean that the Legislature is dormant.
- Currently, there are many Interim Committees that cover a wide range of issues such as *Education, Finance, Jobs, Criminal Justice, Economic Policy, Oversight and Natural Resources*.
- For example, one of the important committees for people with disabilities is the *Disability Concerns Subcommittee*, which is currently chaired by Senator Nancy Rodriguez and features nine members.
- Stay involved and keep up with these committees. Go to [http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/committees\\_interim.aspx](http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/committees_interim.aspx) to find out more about the members of each committee, information about their meetings and documents discussing relevant issues which will be discussed by each committee.



## Program Descriptions

### Center for Self Advocacy

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

[Click here to learn more about the Fall Class](#)

- **The Center for Self Advocacy** has continued outreach to various schools and is always looking for new places and new people to make presentations. Staff provides informative and unique training to schools throughout the year. If you want **Center** staff to present at a school near

### Guardianship Program

Need a guardian or more information about guardianship? 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 proceedings and even trained Mental Health Treatment Guardians. [Learn more about the essentials here.](#)

[Click here to learn the](#)

### Federal Program

See the federal program of the month section article for an example of the innovative and unique programs that are a part of the **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 by federal funding [Learn more here.](#)

you, contact  
[daniel.ekman@state.nm.us](mailto:daniel.ekman@state.nm.us)  
or call (505) 841-4558.

[basics of guardianship.](#)

The website also includes  
laws and regulations. [Go  
to our website](#)



[Visit us and learn more!](#)