



CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ December 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 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](#).

A Tribute For A Man Who Brought Out the Light in All of Those He Knew and Saw - Justin Moore -



If you ever entered the **DDPC** Office or interacted with us, the first person you would meet or talk to would have been Justin. Given how our

mission is about uplifting individuals through an improved quality of life and inclusion, it is appropriate that he was the first one who many people associated with our office.

Before he retired for health reasons, he had been the longest tenured staff member at the **DDPC**. He was a constant for everyone who has visited the office. Justin was someone who was always hard at work, giving the best of his efforts so all of us would be able to do what we needed to the best of our abilities. He performed so many important tasks that might not have been seen or noticed by the general public, but were critical parts of keeping the DDPC functioning at its best. It's hard to list all of the different tasks because there were so many. Yet, that is only a small part of what made Justin so special.

The quality that most people in the disability community associate with him was that he had a good heart and showed kindness to all. He was a man who could talk to anyone he encountered about such a wide variety of topics. This not only speaks to the fact that he was an extremely intelligent individual, but that he had the wisdom to know how to use his knowledge and intelligence to uplift those around him. Those who knew him know that he had a great sense of humor and saw that he could use it to brighten our spirits when we had a weight on our shoulders.

When anyone who encountered him and just needed someone to talk to, Justin was always there with a listening ear and you truly felt that you were at the forefront of his mind even with all the responsibilities on his shoulders.

He also truly had a passion for our mission for individuals with disabilities. He served on State councils on the *American with Disabilities Act* and had a great knowledge of the spirit as well as the letter of that law. He used much of this work to educate those around him and changed the thinking of many individuals who were educated through his work.

Finally, he was someone who loved life and enjoyed it to the fullest. Even near the end of his life, his relatives commented during a recent holiday dinner about how he was making jokes, laughing and engaging in conversation in a way that only Justin could. It's a fitting memory of an individual who would make us feel the same way as those relatives who were at his dinner table that day. Just his presence and the way in which he carried himself could uplift us. We couldn't help it, whether we were just meeting him or had known him for a long period of time. May his good heart, good natured spirit and wisdom continue to influence all of us in the same way. If it does, we in the disability community will all be

better for it.

As a final note: I hope this Tribute passes the "Justin Test" - he was so great at editing and improving our written products.

Rest in peace my Friend

Daniel.ekman@state.nm.us

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, **January 12, 2018**.

Disability News & Upcoming Events

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

RECAP of the DDPC Fall Fiesta



On November 18, the **DDPC** hosted the *Fall Fiesta For Friends* where food, stories and fun activities were shared. The theme of this event was friendship and there was an activity where each person defined what a true friend was to them. Those present had a chance to write a thank you card of appreciation to a friend. With food and music as the backdrop, those in attendance reconnected with old friends and met many new ones.

WELCOME TO NEW ADVOCATE TRAINER MARILYN MARTINEZ



DDPC/CSA is honored to have Marilyn Martinez as a new Advocate Trainer. She has extensive experience within the disability community and, for many, needs no introduction. Marilyn Martinez has been involved with the DDPC/CSA for over a decade, completed Partners in Policymaking and was a NM LEND Faculty Member. She has also led a statewide and national legislative effort to end the SSI Marriage Penalty. She wrote a book about her life called "Battling the Basement" and hosted a TV show for many years called "Advogrri Meets World." She has served on The Arc of New Mexico board, the Disability Rights New Mexico board, and was a past member of the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. She was also a past president of People First and has served on the Advisory Council on Quality. She is a board member of NM Allies for Advocacy and committed and key member of the self-advocacy movement in New Mexico.

RECAP of the DDPC OPEN HOUSE and Academy GRADUATI ON



On November 27, the **DDPC** and approximately 70 community members and colleagues met to celebrate the end of our 2017 *Fall Advocate Leadership Academy* and learn more about our program. **DDPC** staff members were able to inform the audience about our upcoming Academy and many other **DDPC** Programs and initiatives.

However, the stars of the night were truly our Academy Team Leaders and Fellows who were graduating. The Team Leaders introduced their Fellows and talked about their strengths and their growth during the *Academy*. In turn, the Fellows talked about the goals they were working on and their plans for the future. They discussed how the Academy brought them closer together as a group of advocates while opening up their hearts and minds to the possibilities out there to help improve the lives of people with disabilities. Their powerful words resonated with the audience and inspired them to become proactive in the issues facing our community.



Elizabeth Lutz, *Academy Fellow*

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:



ATTENTION interested people with disabilities and/or family members!

The **Center for Self Advocacy (CSA)** has just passed its application deadline for the **Advocate Leadership Academy**.

- 14-week Spring Class starting in mid-January 2018

- If you have any questions about whether or not your application was received or have questions regarding its status, call Daniel Ekman at 505-670-5698 or email him at Daniel.ekman@state.nm.us

The **CSA** staff have kept busy during the month of November. The Fall Class concluded during this time and the Program Manager attended the **Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)** Conference in Washington D.C. There, he received important information about cultural, racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity within the disability community and beyond. A panel was conducted on November 8 at a **UNM** class and the **CSA** continued its collaboration with various organizations.

The third **From Fear to Freedom** event took place on November 15 at **Parents Reaching Out. Advocate Leadership Academy** Leaders Sacheen Smith and Marilyn Martinez were panel participants and staff member Daniel Ekman participated. Preparation for the event was done by staff member Lindsay Sloan in addition to **Allies Quality of Life Grant** Project Manager Nat Dean, **Parents Reaching Out Quality of Life Grant** Project Manager Adam Shand and **Parents Reaching Out** group liaison and staff member Dolores Harden. This group took place with a Native American parents groups in Albuquerque. **Parents Reaching Out, New Mexico Allies for Advocacy** and **CSA** staff are now preparing for the next event, which will be held on December 14 in Las Cruces with **Parents Reaching Out's** Spanish speaking parents group.

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



HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

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>.

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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, 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.

For more information on the campaign, go to <http://actnewmexico.org/cms-final-rule.html>

From Fear to Freedom Grant Project



New Mexico Allies for Advocacy (Allies) is partnering with Parents Reaching Out (PRO) on a \$15,000 grant project - "From Fear to Freedom: Family Support Groups and Know Your Rights." This is an endeavor to educate parents of children with disabilities about their rights in adulthood. This project addresses 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 PRO, Allies and DDPC. One objective is to raise awareness of rights for parents with disabilities by offering education and communication opportunities in ten New Mexico communities. Another objective is to provide relevant information from the Know Your Rights campaign to parents, through adults with disabilities, sharing how misconceptions about adults with disabilities impact them. Adult self-advocates also share their success stories from their adult lives. In doing so, this creates a new normative expectation of rights for parents not just currently, but when their children become adults. Finally, the project creates 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.



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



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.

DECEMBER CALENDAR of Events Contact 505-670-5698 to include your upcoming events.



**RIO GRANDE
DOWN SYNDROME
NETWORK**

**December 9
Holiday Party**

Hotel Albuquerque
10:00 - 12:30 PM

For more information, click [here](#)



**RIO GRANDE
DOWN SYNDROME
NETWORK**

**December 10
VFW 5890 & American Legion 118 Christmas
Party**

1:00 - 3:00 PM
1500 Barbara Loop SE
Rio Rancho

For more information, click [here](#)



December 11
Service Animals: What You Need to Know
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Dona Ana County Government Center
Las Cruces, NM
For more information, click [here](#)



December 12
Service Animals: What You Need to Know
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Civic Center
Truth or Consequences, NM
For more information, click [here](#)



Parents Reaching Out

December 11
Office Hours in Questa
1:00 - 5:00 PM
Village of Questa Council Chambers
For more information, click [here](#)



Parents Reaching Out

December 11
Accommodations and Modifications in Schools
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Village of Questa Council Chambers
For more information, click [here](#)



Parents Reaching Out

December 13
Cookies with Santa
5:30 - 6:30 PM
Parents Reaching Out Office
For more information, click [here](#)



Parents Reaching Out

December 14
Spanish Speaking Support Group
TBD
Las Cruces, NM



December 20
 Deadline to Submit Presentations Proposals
 for Disability Rights Awareness Day
 Submit them to Ellen Pinnes at epinnes@msn.com



December 30
Sled Hockey
 Adaptive Sports Program
 6:15 PM
 Outpost Ice Arena
 Click [here](#) for more information

PRE -LEGISLATIVE FORUM

SAVE THE DATE: January 13, 2018
 Jewish Community Center
 Albuquerque, NM



Disability Rights Awareness Day

SAVE THE DATE: January 25-26, 2018
 Drury Plaza Hotel and Roundhouse
 Santa Fe, NM



**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.](#)

The Center for Self Advocacy

**Guardianship
 Program**

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

Federal Program

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

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.

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.](#)

and employment.

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



[Visit us and learn more!](#)

