



## CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ February 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**.

### 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](mailto:maria.bourassa@state.nm.us).

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**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)** has begun its the **Advocate Leadership Academy**. The 14-week Spring class began on January 22nd and will take place weekly until April 23rd.

In January, CSA Staff participated in *Disability Rights Awareness Day* and the Pre-Legislative Forum. The staff has been preparing the weekly materials for the class and GoToTraining was activated. It will be in regular use for the remaining classes.

The fifth **From Fear to Freedom** event took place on January 29 at **the Baymont Inn and Suites in Hobbs**. Panelists included advocates Francine Garcia, Sergio Resendiz, Adam Shand and Tara Chavez, as well as, staff members Lindsay Sloan and Daniel Ekman. 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 Mariela Pijem. We were graciously invited by the Spanish Speaking parent group in Hobbs. The participants asked great questions and were engaged throughout the presentation. The next event for the project will take place on February 15 in Artesia.

To schedule outreach events conducted by the CSA, contact Lindsay at 505-841-4571 or [Lindsay.Sloan@state.nm.us](mailto:Lindsay.Sloan@state.nm.us).

## Disability News & Upcoming Events

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



Learn, Connect, Advocate

**2018**

**Statewide  
Self-Advocate  
Summit**

Albuquerque NM / April 18, 2018

For more information call Parents Reaching Out at 505-247-0192



**Announcing a DDSD Webinar: Presentation of DD Waiver  
Service Standards Effective March 1, 2018**

**The Following comes from the New Mexico Department of  
Health**

February 6, 2018

and

February 20, 2018

DDSD is offering two DDW Standards Presentation Sessions.  
Registration is required.

Objectives

\* The final DDW Standards will be presented in a PowerPoint  
format highlighting important changes in the revised DDW

Standards.

\* Answer questions and provide any needed clarification to providers and all attendees.

Please Follow this link to register:

When: February 6, 2018 9:00 AM MDT Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2rOA8gZ3SsiC3U27CAwJ5A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2rOA8gZ3SsiC3U27CAwJ5A)

When: February 20, 2018 9:00 AM MDT Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xpGvLMQ0QAGdKifUpMMSXg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xpGvLMQ0QAGdKifUpMMSXg)

Once registration is complete, you will receive an e-mail confirmation with a separate link to join the webinar at the scheduled time. This is a unique joining link and cannot be shared or used from multiple computers. You will require functioning speakers to listen to the webinar. If you have any technical questions or issues, please call the Center for Development and Disability Technology Services team at 505.272.5932 or 505.272.3844.

For technical questions or issues: Please call the Center for Development and Disability Technology Services team at 505.272.5932 or 505.272.3844.

For all other questions about the webinar: Please contact Systems Improvement Bureau Chief, Chris Futey 505-841-5507 or @ Christopher.futey@state.nm.us.



**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>.



### **Office of the State Treasurer Announces the Launch of New Mexico ABLÉ Accounts**

The *Office of the State Treasurer* held a press conference on January 18 to announce the creation and launch of the NM ABLÉ Program. Click [here](#) for more information on the New Mexico ABLÉ Accounts.

### **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](mailto: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.

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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 for submitting a proposal is February 28, 2018. Click [here](#) for the call on presentations.

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.](#)



**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)

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



**February 2**  
**Autism Mom's Meetup**  
**Flying Star at Juan Tabo and**  
**Montgomery**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**February 3**  
**Sensory Friendly Movie - Paddington**  
**Mitchell Theaters Starlight 8**  
**Los Lunas**  
**11:30 am**

Click [here](#) for more information



**February 9**  
**Adaptive Sports Program Disabled**  
**Veterans' Ski Camp**  
**Santa Fe Ski**  
For more information, click [here](#)



**February 10**  
**Valentines Day Party**  
**Albuquerque**  
**3:00-4:30 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**February 11**  
**Sensory Friendly Hours at Explora**  
**Albuquerque**  
**10:00-12:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**February 12**  
**Deadline for EPICS Parent**  
**Ambassador Program**  
**5:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



Parents Reaching Out

February 9  
PRO ECHO on Healthcare  
Finance for CYSHN -  
Guardianship  
10:00-11:30 am

For more information, contact Mariela Pijem at  
[mpijem@parentseachingout.org](mailto:mpijem@parentseachingout.org)



Parents Reaching Out



New Mexico Allies for Advocacy, Inc.

If there's a will,  
there's a way!

February 15  
From Fear to Freedom Event  
Artesia  
5:30 pm

Contact Adam Shand at  
[ashand@parentsreachingout.org](mailto:ashand@parentsreachingout.org)  
for more information



New Mexico Autism Society

February 14  
Adults with Autism Meetup and  
Support Group  
Albuquerque  
6:00-7:30 pm  
Click [here](#) for more information



RIO GRANDE  
DOWN SYNDROME  
NETWORK

February 15  
Supper and Songs with Katie of  
Duke City Music Therapy  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Duke City Music Therapy  
Albuquerque

For more information, click [here](#)



**February 18**  
**School Age Playgroup**  
4:30-6:30 pm  
Ten Pins and More  
Rio Rancho

For more information, click [here](#)



**February 23**  
**Adaptive Sports Program Disabled**  
**Veterans' Ski Camp**  
Santa Fe Ski

For more information, click [here](#)



**February 24**  
**Mom's Night Out**  
6:00-9:00 pm  
Battle Axe Room  
Albuquerque

For more information, click [here](#)



**February 26**  
**Teen Night**  
**North Domingo Baca Community**  
**Center**  
Albuquerque  
6:00-7:30 pm

Click [here](#) for more information



### 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** 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](mailto: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 proceedings and even trained Mental Health Treatment Guardians. [Learn more about the essentials here.](#)

### 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 and state funding [Learn more here.](#)

[Visit us and learn more!](#)

Stay Connected



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