On 10/29/14 I met with Randy Costales, Director for the Arc of NM regarding Contract 0212 – Self Advocacy Initiative and the review went well. Recently Steve Scarton left The Arc of NM and his position has been filled, according to Randy by Amira Rasheed. The Arc of NM is extremely excited with the new selection and they believe that Amira will do well as Steve’s replacement in working with people across the state on this contract. When asked about any Goals and Objectives for The Arc of NM, Randy stated that he believed that Amira will do well at making connections in the communities across the state but he will have to get back with me to discuss what Strategic Goals and Objectives for the year will be since Steve didn’t leave any information. I’m in the process of sending him parts of the RFP that The Arc of NM submitted because he’s unable to locate some critical information. He was also unable to talk about and new activities as well as activities that didn’t work in FY 14, since Steve is no longer with The Arc of NM.

He also stated that Adam Shand resigned from The Arc of NM and was unsure why. He seemed disappointed with Adam’s decision to leave.

Randy seems to think that the Federal numbers that he’s reporting are accurate. The narratives that The Arc of NM provided in FY 14 were well done and I thanked him for always submitting their information in a timely fashion.

Randy stated that there were budgetary issues that came up near the end but he was happy to hear the entire contract amount was used but he has a few reservations about the FY 15 budget. Randy lost his father in August and with Steve leaving he believes they are running a little behind. I assured him that I will be in close contact with his office near the end of the fiscal year to monitor their budget.

Randy stated that he plans on meeting with The Center for Self Advocacy soon to plan various events that our staff will work on with The Arc of NM.

Randy believes that the many forums that they fund through our contract allow them to pick up various individuals from across the state that eventually will attend the larger events like The Summit and also DRAD.

Overall, it appears to me that we probably need to watch this contract closely because Randy seems distracted with the loss of his father and with Amira being new. He stated that he’s thinking that they need to do a lot of work on this contract if they will spend the entire amount. He stated that the delay of getting the contract approved was always on the back of his mind but I reminded him that the contract was never going to be denied since it was identical to last year with little or no changes.

- Reviewed by Ana Callahan Segura