



CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ January 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, **January 12, 2018**.

Jannel Vigil - New Compliance Officer



The **DDPC** has been fortunate to have Jannel Vigil working as the Intake Coordinator for the *Office of Guardianship (OOG)* for

the past two and a half years. Prior to that, she had worked in the disability community in various capacities for over 22 years. As a result, she has provided invaluable assistance to the OOG in explaining Guardianship to the public in various public presentations, interacting directly with individuals to help them complete intake applications and answering numerous questions from the general public regarding Guardianship both in public settings and at the office. She has also provided advice on various disability related issues to the public with the wisdom and caring spirit that comes from her many years of experience.

Recently, DDPC/OOG posted a competitive job opening for the vacant Compliance Officer position. Several good candidates applied and were interviewed, including Jannel Vigil. Based on an objective and thorough interview process, Jannel Vigil was selected as the top candidate.

Therefore, Jannel has been promoted to a Compliance Officer within the DDPC/OOG. Her experience will serve her well within her new role. As a team, the OOG only continues to get better as the wide range of talents and experiences of each of the individuals comes together to go beyond even the amazing feats that they were able to accomplish in 2017. While it can be hard for the general public to see it, OOG often serves as the unsung heroes of the DDPC during some of the most difficult times.

Disability News & Upcoming Events

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

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)** has just finished its selection process for the **Advocate Leadership Academy**. The 14-week Spring class begins January 22nd and ends April 23rd. Each class lasts two hours for the Fellows (three hours for the Team Leaders). Fellows (people with disabilities and family members) are selected and Team Leaders (previous Fellows) are invited.

In December, CSA Staff received completed applications from interested potential Fellows, conducted interviews and checked references with the Fellow candidates. The CSA Staff also refined materials, including the schedule, the Team Leader "boot camp." In addition, Fellows and Team Leaders were registered for the upcoming *Disability Rights Awareness Day* and Team Leaders for the *Pre-Legislative Forum*.

The fourth **From Fear to Freedom** event took place on December 14 at **the Holiday Inn Express in Las Cruces**. Panelists included advocates Francine Garcia, Sergio Resendiz, Adam Shand 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 Las Cruces. The event was a success as was joined by **Office of Guardianship** staff member Jannel Vigil, who presented on Guardianship to start the event. The participants asked great questions and were engaged throughout the presentation. One member of the group even made a video recapping the event. Next, the project will be scheduled during January and February events.

To schedule outreach events conducted by the CSA, contact Lindsay at

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

This is a message Ellen Pinnes regarding the **Pre-Legislative Forum**.

Date/Time: Saturday, January 13, 2018 - 8:45 to 3:30 -
Registration opens at 8:15

Location: Jewish Community Center
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE in Albuquerque

Registration/Cost: \$20 per person, which includes lunch and the afternoon workshop, if you choose to stay for it. Please register in advance so we can have adequate supplies of the materials, lunch and refreshments. See registration form and information below.

About the Forum: The annual Forum provides a review of significant disability issues in New Mexico as well as a preview of what will be addressed in the 30-day State Legislative Session, which starts January 16th. If you want to know what's happening and what you can do about it, the Forum is for you!

We'll be covering:

- the State's budget situation - it looks rosier now; how will it affect persons with disabilities?
- what changes are expected in the new version of Medicaid Centennial Care, and what's happening with Medicaid-funded long term services?
- the Federal outlook: what's going on in Washington, D.C. and how will it affect New Mexico?
- guardianship reform - recommendations from the commission appointed by the Supreme Court and proposed legislation to implement reforms
- other bills and memorials likely to be considered in the 2018 session, including: new funding for the DD waiver

program and to reduce the waiting list; limiting disclosure of recordings of police encounters with persons with mental illness; limiting "fail-first" step therapy for prescriptions and medical treatment; meeting the needs of adults with autism; transferring DVR to the Workforce Solutions Department; and more!

A Legislator's View - Lunch with Representative Liz Thomson: Get an insider's view of the upcoming legislative session from Representative Thomson, is the parent of an adult son with a disability, former chair of the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and a long-time advocate on disability issues. She was first elected to the House in 2012 and returned to the Legislature in 2016. During legislative sessions, Representative Thomson is vice-chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee and a member of the powerful House Appropriations and Finance Committee. She also sits on several interim committees that cover health and disability issues, including the Health and Human Services Committee and its Disabilities Concerns and Behavioral Health Subcommittees, and the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee, of which she is co-chair.

Legislative Advocacy Workshop: How does a bill become law, and how does the legislative process really work in New Mexico? In the afternoon session, find out how you can have an impact on the Legislative process, and why it's important for you to do so. Ellen Pinnes, from The Disability Coalition, and Jim Jackson, from Disability Rights New Mexico, who both have years of experience as public interest "lobbyists," will explain how the Legislature works and share tips for communicating with legislators. All workshop participants will receive a "Legislative Tool Kit" full of information and resource materials. You will have an opportunity to sign up for the Policy and Legislative Action Network. As part of the PLAN, you can join with others to become an active advocate on issues affecting the disability community and have an impact on important public policy decisions.

This is a
DDPC
Project
which is
funded
through Federal funding:



Disability Rights Awareness Day



Disability Rights New Mexico and the New Mexico Disability Coalition are pleased to be hosting ***Disability Rights Awareness Day 2018, (DRAD)***. The theme this year is "Re-energizing support of Disability Rights". This two day event will be held in Santa Fe on Thursday, **January 25th and Friday, January 26th**. Events includes a conference on Thursday followed by a day at the State Capitol on Friday.

Attendance is encouraged, as this will be a great opportunity to share information with others and learn more about the supports available to you and/or friends and family.

DRAD is a wonderful way to network with other agencies, corporations and consumers while gaining a better understanding of the issues facing many New Mexicans with disabilities.

DDPC is very excited about this year's event and appreciate your support. The goal is to make this an informative and exciting experience for all involved. Your presence would help us meet this goal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bernadine Chavez or Robin Garrison at Disability Rights New Mexico, (505) 256-3100 or email us at drad@drnm.org .

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**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>.

Disability Awareness Curriculum Input Needed

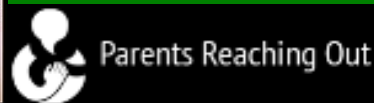
The Office of the Attorney General, Outreach Division is developing a disability awareness curriculum. As part of this curriculum, the Office will have a section on the website with stories from the community. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Amira Rasheed, A.Rasheed@nmag.gov, 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.

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.

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



January 3
Deadline to Register for Disability Rights Awareness Day
To register, click [here](#) and complete the form



January 6
Coolspringz Jump Event
Coolspringz
9:00 - 10:00 AM
For more information, click [here](#)



January 9
Deadline to Register for the Pre-Legislative Forum
To register, click [here](#) and complete the form



January 11-13
Partners in Policymaking Session
Albuquerque Airport Sheraton
Albuquerque, NM

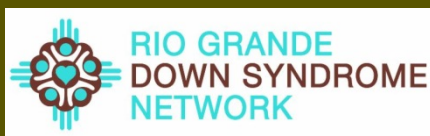
PRE -LEGISLATIVE FORUM

January 13, 2018
Jewish Community Center
Albuquerque, NM



Disability Rights Awareness Day

January 25-26, 2018
Drury Plaza Hotel and Roundhouse
Santa Fe, NM



January 27
Best Buddies Neon Lights
Friendship Ball
7:00 - 10:00 PM

Sid Cutter Pavilion at Balloon Fiesta Park
Albuquerque
For more information, click [here](#)

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

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

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

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

Health Treatment
Guardians. [Learn more
about the essentials here.](#)

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



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