



CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ June 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](#).

IPRA Requests are sent to John Block, III at john.block@state.nm.us until June 30th, 2018. Starting July 1st, 2018, IPRA Requests are sent to Barbara Ibanez, at Barbara.ibanez@state.nm.us.

JOHN BLOCK, III, DDPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Announces his retirement effective June 30th, 2018



Thank you John for your many contributions to New Mexicans with disabilities and their families through your work at DDPC.

Happy adventures in your new journeys in life!

Recent DDPC COUNCIL News

From Amira Rasheed, DDPC Council Chair, "As most of you are aware, our Executive Director for the NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, John Block III, has made the decision to retire at the end of June. Which he will be greatly missed. The council and I met on Tuesday May 29, 2018. We have decided that with John's departure, **Barbara Ibanez** will serve as **Interim Executive Director**, beginning July 1, 2018. The council plans to do a national search for our next Executive Director."

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, **AUGUST 23 and 24, 2018**.

FEATURED NEW DDPC STAFF

- Deana Reyes - Paralegal, DDPC/Guardianship Program



My name is Deana Reyes but I prefer to be called "Dee." I have worked in both the healthcare and legal field throughout my life time. I have been a Paralegal for over 10 years. I previously worked with the SONM under HSD/CSED as a Paralegal/Legal Assistant.

Growing up I suffered from multiple ear infections that I started to lose my hearing in both of my ears. I compensated by reading people's lips and using closed captioning on my television. Because of this, I had an interest in learning sign language. I have taken some courses from middle school though high school as well as after. Fortunately, they were able to surgically repair my hearing loss. However, I still have several close friends I've gained along the way that have a hearing impairment or are deaf. A couple of them also ride motorcycles with me and our HOG family.

My words of encouragement would be:

Disability is just a word as we all have the ABILITY to overcome!

Dee Reyes

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.

Recently, they have been busy with site visits to various Guardianship agencies and Protected Persons. They have also added new positions including an additional Compliance Officer, a Contract Specialist, and a Social Worker.

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)** wrapped up its **Advocate Leadership Academy** has been doing preparatory work on various projects during the month of May. We provided technical assistance to **New Mexico Allies for Advocacy**, who submitted a Quality of Life

Grant to conduct needs assessments and action plans in rural and outlying areas in New Mexico. **Allies** is also wrapping up the *From Fear to Freedom* Project.

Summer Fun Series - starting June 13th - Reserve your Seat! Call 841-4519 - Free

During the month of June and July, the **CSA** will be holding their **Summer Fun Series** from 2:30-4:30 pm on Wednesdays. The dates will be June 13, June 20, June 27, July 11, July 18 and July 25. For more information, click [here](#) to see our flyer and feel free to pass it out among friends. TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT, CALL 841-4519. There will no costs.

Apply for Fall Class of the Advocate Leadership Academy by July 6th!

We will also continue work on the upcoming *Advocate Leadership Academy*. Click [here](#) to print out an application and either mail it to our

address at the bottom of this email or email it to Daniel.ekman@state.nm.us. If you have sent in an application and want to check on its status or have any questions about the application process, please contact Daniel.ekman@state.nm.us to get any questions answered. For anyone who applies, the applications **MUST** be in by **July 6**. **CSA** staff will interview candidates and contact their references and will send out letters the week of 23rd. For the Fellows who are selected, the classes will take place from 2:30-4:30 pm on Wednesdays from August 15 through November 14.

If you are interested in being a team leader, **DO NOT SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**. Team Leaders are by invitation only and we will make those invitations near the end of July by no later than the 30th. For those who accept the invitation and have not been Team Leaders before, there will be an initial training on August 1 from 1:30-4:30. Then, all Team Leaders, including those who have been Team Leaders before, will complete a training on August 8 from 1:30-4:30.

NEW! CSA APPOINTMENT HOURS:

Do you need to talk with someone about an issue you are having or just want to meet with a CSA staff members. We are now accepting **APPOINTMENTS** on Wednesday from 2-5 pm open to meet with people. If you want to schedule an appointment, contact Daniel at 505-670-5698.

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



Ever Wanted to Volunteer at the Center for Self Advocacy?

Here is your chance. **CSA** is looking to get more activities going, but need the help of volunteers to do so. **CSA** is looking for information about you, your schedule and what you want to do. To fill out a Volunteer Interest Form, click [here](#) and submit it to Lindsay.sloan@state.nm.us.

Disability News & Upcoming Events

Contact Daniel to include your news and events



Family Leader Traineeship Opportunity

LEADERSHIP

PUBLIC POLICY

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMING

FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

CULTURALLY COMPETENT CARE

**NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INCLUDING
AUTISM**

NM LEND may be for you if you are interested in these topics.

**As a Family Leader trainee, you would attend seminars
with other trainees each Friday during the
Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters.
Applications are currently being accepted.
Stipends are awarded.**

Questions? Please contact Phyllis Shingle, NM LEND Family Faculty, at
pshingle@salud.unm.edu. To learn more and apply: www.cdd.unm.edu/NMLEND

New Mexico Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
Program (NMLEND) at the UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD)

UNM Center for Development and Disability | University of New Mexico | 2300 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107-1851 |
505.272.3000 | University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service

cdd.unm.edu



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



The following message is from Shantih Bisland-Naggan of UNM-CDD

We are delighted to bring you the FDIC's Money Smart Train the Trainer workshop on July 18, 2018, from 10 am - 12 pm, at UNM CDD. In this workshop, we will learn how to use the Money Smart curriculum with the individuals with whom we work.

Here is the description: Money Smart is a comprehensive financial education curriculum designed to help low- and moderate-income individuals outside the financial mainstream enhance their financial skills and create positive banking relationships. Money Smart has reached over 3 million consumers since 2001. Research shows that the curriculum can positively influence how consumers manage their finances, and these changes are sustainable in the months after the training.

We have opened up registration to our Metro SELL and School-to-Work Transition Alliance groups only for one week.

The workshop is free, but registration is required. If you wish to attend, please register by Thursday, May 3 to be sure you have a place reserved. After that date, registration will be opened up to other agencies.

Here is the registration link:

https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0033-0021-235a539ea4104b74b03fdbb7401021b8

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you there.



Parents Reaching Out



Shift

SHIFT Transition Series

- Parents, youth with disabilities ages 14-26 and professionals are invited to attend!
- Learn about Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs).
- Get information for accessing the supports and services you need.
- Hear stories of people with disabilities who are living the lives they choose.
- Leave with next steps for adult life, career planning and job support.
- When you register, you will automatically be signed up for all three sessions.
- Please register by June 12, 2018 to reserve your spot!

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018: The Road to a Good Life

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018: The Road to Careers and Employment

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018: The Road to Independence and Interdependence

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: Parents Reaching Out
1920 B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

For more information and to register contact:

Parents Reaching Out
1920 B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-247-0192 · 1-800-524-5176



Individuals with disabilities who need any form of accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should notify the office when registering for this event.



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.

Message from *Ocate Cliffs Retreat Center and Autistic Workspace*



For two weeks from June 17 to July 1, there will be a work retreat held at *Ocate Cliffs*. You can come and help build Ocate Cliffs retreat center while being in an autistic workspace. This year we are combining our traditional autistic focused retreat with an international camp. Up to 10 volunteers from around the world are invited through Volunteers for Peace.

For more information on the event, go to <http://www.divergentlabs.org/ocatecliffs/volunteer/work-retreat-june-2018/>

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 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](#)

Following Tip Sheet on ABLE is presented by the **Information Network**, which is funded by the **NMDDPC** and administered by the **University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability**.

ABLE Act – Accounts for Persons with Disabilities Act

New Mexico

What is the ABLE Act?

The ABLE Act is a federal law that allows eligible people with disabilities to open an ABLE investment and savings account. The "Bank Safe" option is a saving account and there are four investment options available. They range from aggressive to conservative (Growth, Moderate Growth, Conservative Growth, and Income Options). It allows a person with a disability to save money without losing eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and other programs. The money in this account may be used for qualified disability-related expenses.

Why open an ABLE account?

Many people with disabilities rely on Medicaid, SSI, and other public programs. To qualify for these programs, someone generally must have a low monthly income and no more than \$2,000 in countable assets. The ABLE Act allows a person to save more than this usual asset limit in an ABLE account without losing these important benefits, and to use those savings to pay for qualified expenses related to his or her disability.

Who is eligible?

An eligible person is someone whose disability began before the age of 26, and who has been living with their disability for at least one year, or expects it to last for at least a year. The applicant must also meet one of the following criteria:

- Be entitled to SSI because of their disability
- Be entitled to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) because of their disability
- Have a condition listed on the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm
- Self-certify their disability and diagnosis when opening an ABLE account.

How can someone open an ABLE account?

The ABLE account process is online. Visit www.ablenewmexico.com to register and open an account. Enrollment is free; however, a minimum deposit of \$50.00 is needed to open an account. Any deposits after that can be as little as \$1.00. Currently, there is a \$3.50 fee per month to have an account. There is also an asset fee between 0.19% and 0.34% depending on the options chosen. Any earnings on the account are free of state and federal taxes

Key facts:

- Anyone, such as a family member or friend, may contribute to the account.
- Up to \$15,000 may be put into an ABLE account each year. More than one person can contribute, but the total contributions from all sources is limited to \$15,000 per year.
- If the beneficiary is employed, the maximum yearly contribution is \$27,060 per year.
- If the total amount in the ABLE account exceeds \$100,000, then SSI benefits will be suspended until the amount in the account drops back down to \$100,000 or less.
- ABLE account funds do not affect eligibility for Medicaid, SSI and other programs.
- ABLE account funds must be spent on costs related to living with a disability.
- Disability-related expenses may include health care, education, housing, personal support services, transportation, employment training, assistive technology and other services.
- If Medicaid benefits were used while an account is open, it may be possible for Medicaid to seek repayment after a person's death. However, there are a number of things that the account can be used for before Medicaid could be repaid, such as funeral costs. Be sure to ask for more details.



State of New Mexico
ABLE Program

www.ablenewmexico.com

ABLE National
Resource Center
202-296-2040

www.ablenrc.org/

Questions?

Call the CDD
Information Network
1-800-552-8195

or visit our website at
www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet

Informational Tip
Sheets:

www.cdd.unm.edu/info-net/tip-sheets.html

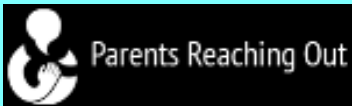


Disability Rights New Mexico is looking for participant for two boards

The first board is the Disability Rights New Mexico Board of Directors.
The second board is for the Mental Health Advisory Council.

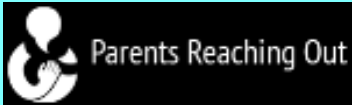
For more information on these boards and to apply, go to www.drn.org

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



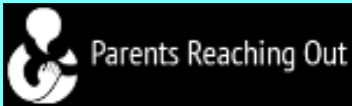
June 14, 2018
SHIFT Transition Series
The Road to a Good Life
Parents Reaching Out
Albuquerque, NM
10:00-12:00 pm

For more information, click [here](#)



June 21, 2018
SHIFT Transition Series
The Road to Careers and Employment
Parents Reaching Out
Albuquerque, NM
10:00-12:00 pm

For more information, click [here](#)



June 28, 2018
SHIFT Transition Series
The Road to Independence and
Interdependence
Parents Reaching Out
Albuquerque, NM
10:00-12:00 pm

For more information, click [here](#)



June 14
ACQ Meeting
1:30-2:30 pm

For more information, click [here](#)



June 23
Under 7 and School Age
Playgroup
3:00-4:00 pm

For more information, click [here](#)



June 23
Mom's Night Out
6:00-7:00 pm

For more information, click [here](#)



June 1
Mom's Meetup
Flying Star
4501 Juan Tabo Blvd.
Albuquerque, NM
6:30-8:00 PM
Click [here](#) for more
information



June 2
Sensory Friendly Movie
Mitchell Starlight Cinema 8
2266 Sun Ranch Loop
Los Lunas, NM
11:30-1:30 PM
Click [here](#) for more

information



June 9
Imagination Playground
Playdate
2300 Buena Vista Rd. SE
Albuquerque, NM
10:30-12:30 PM
Click [here](#) for more
information



June 18
Dad's Meetup
Nexus Brewery
4730 Pan American Freeway
NE
Albuquerque, NM
6:30-8:00 PM
Click [here](#) for more information



June 19
Sibling Support
2300 Buena Vista Rd. SE
Albuquerque, NM
5:30-7:00 PM
Click [here](#) for more
information



June 20
Adults with Autism Support
Group
2300 Buena Vista Rd. SE
Albuquerque, NM
6:00-7:30 PM
Click [here](#) for more
information



June 30
Summer BBQ
Haynes Park
2006 Grande Blvd SE.
Rio Rancho, NM
5:30-7:30 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 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.

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.](#)

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

[Visit us and learn more!](#)

Stay Connected



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