



## CALLING ALL ADVOCATES ~ March 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

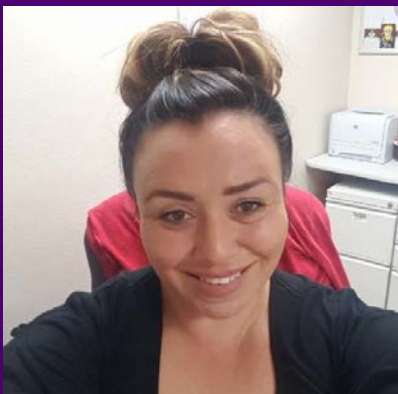
The **Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)** is interested individuals who include self-advocates, family members, professionals, employees and dedicated New Mexicans uniting for one mission. **New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council's** mission is to promote advocacy, capacity 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**.

### FEATURED NEW STAFF

**- Rachel Romero-Lovato - Office Manager**



My name is Rachel Romero-Lovato. I was born and raised in Santa Fe. I started my career with the State of New Mexico in 1996 as an intern with the State Auditor's Office in 1996. Since then, I worked with MVD, Unemployment Office, DOH and now DDPC. I worked with the Department of Health/Long-term Services Division, where I managed a program that assisted individuals with disabilities with job skill coaching. The program was designed to teach basic office skills. They were able to create a resume for future job opportunities.

I have son, who was born at 26 weeks and he only weighed 1 pound. When Jeramiah was born, he had many complications including developmental delays, hearing impairments, behavioral issues, speech impairments, and occupational delays. Also, he had some procedures done on his eyes. He has been through a lot and it was a very tough time for him and our family. I never gave up even though at sometimes I didn't sleep or get a break because he was always so sick. I had to stay strong for him, be his voice. We never gave up on our faith. Today, he has overcome many of his obstacles he had to encounter as a young child. He still struggles with some breathing, some occupational and behavior challenges. He continues to work hard with the support of his family to overcome these challenges.

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**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)** is currently facilitating its the **Advocate Leadership Academy**. The 14-week Spring class began on January 22nd and will take place weekly until April 23rd on which there will be an OPEN HOUSE and Graduation.

In February, the new "GoToTraining" was activated and implemented for those fellows joining from areas outside of Albuquerque. Planning began on numerous future events, including *See Me For Me* in March, which is coordinated with a national campaign from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. Planning also began on the statewide Self-Advocate Summit which will be held on April 18. Both events are detailed in the news section below. **CSA** staff also collaborated with other projects including a youth panel hosted by the *NM LEND* program, the *Southwest Transition Alliance* and the *Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council*.

The sixth **From Fear to Freedom** event took place on February 29 at *J and J Homecare* in Artesia. Panelists included Adam Shand and Tara Chavez, as well as, staff members Lindsay Sloan, Cynthia Berkheimer 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** staff member Dolores Harden. The presentation featured a Dream Activity being done with the approximately 15 people in attendance. The participants asked great questions and were engaged throughout the presentation. The panelists had in-depth discussions regarding barriers and discussed how their experiences related to both their views of themselves and of disability rights in general.

On March 8, the next **From Fear to Freedom** event will take place in

Santa Fe from 4:30-6:30 pm. Then, in April, Las Vegas will host an event on April 11 from 4:30-6:30 pm. A second event will then be held at **Parents Reaching Out's Family Leadership Conference** on April 19-20. The **CSA** will also work with various schools, the *NM LEND* program and **NM Allies for Advocacy** among others.

**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](mailto:Lindsay.Sloan@state.nm.us).

## Disability News & Upcoming Events

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



New Mexico Allies for Advocacy, Inc. is seeking **NOMINATIONS** for consideration for a Board of Director (BOD) position.

By March 19th, 2018,  
send email with:

A letter of interest, resume and contact information for two references  
to: [nmallies@gmail.com](mailto:nmallies@gmail.com)



For a final analysis of what took happened in the 2018 Legislative Session, read **Disability Rights New Mexico's** final legislative report [here](#)

## MARCH is National Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month

This year's theme is "See Me for Me"



The New Mexico DD Network Organizations are sponsoring an event  
on **Monday, March 26th, 2018**

**3 to 5 pm**

**Center for Development and Disability  
2300 Menaul Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87107**

[For Event Description and Flyer](#)



**2018**

Learn, Connect, Advocate

**Statewide  
Self-Advocate  
Summit**

Albuquerque NM / April 18, 2018

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

For Event Description and Flyer

## **FREE! ARTS and CRAFTS FUN EVENT at DDPC to Celebrate...**

### **MARCH is National Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month**

This year's theme is "See Me for Me"



**Friday, March 23rd, 2018**

**2 to 4 pm**

**DDPC Large Conference Room**

**625 Silver Ave. SW Suite 100**

**Albuquerque, NM 87102**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Call Rachel at  
841-4519**

For Event Description and Flyer

The Following Event will be Held in conjunction with *The Arc of New Mexico, ARCA, Zia Trust and Prezenger, Baysinger, Wideman and Sale PPC*

# Update on Special Needs Planning 2018



**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**  
**3:00pm-5:00pm**

New Mexico CPA Society  
3400 Menaul Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
Across from American Home  
Furniture

## Topics

- Special Needs Trusts
- Benefits of 2017 Tax Act
- Guardianships & Conservatorships
- ABLE Accounts
- Pooled Trusts

**Presented by:**



**Please RSVP by Friday, April 6, 2018**

Email: [kknapp@pbwslaw.com](mailto:kknapp@pbwslaw.com)

Call: 505-872-0505

\*Limited seating capacity

RSVP today!

[WWW.PBWSLAW.COM](http://WWW.PBWSLAW.COM)





**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\\_2rOA8gZ3SsiC3U27CAw  
J5A](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\\_xpGvLMQ0QAGdKifUpM  
MSXg](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>.

## 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.

*PSRANM* is hosting their 26th Annual Conference. 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.

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](#)

The 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ablenewmexico.com)

ABLE National  
Resource Center  
202-296-2040

[www.abilnrc.org/](http://www.abilnrc.org/)

## Questions?

Call the CDD  
Information Network

1-800-552-8195

or visit our website at

[www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet](http://www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet)

Informational Tip  
Sheets:

[www.cdd.unm.edu/info-net/tip-sheets.html](http://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](http://www.drn.org)

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



**March 1-2**  
**ADA Accessibility Training and NMBC -**  
**2015 Accessibility Updates**  
**Sheraton Uptown ABQ**  
For more information, click [here](#)



**March 2**  
**Adaptive Sports Program**  
**Ski Santa Fe**  
For more information, click [here](#)



**March 2**  
**Autism Mom's Meetup**  
**Flying Star Westside 10700 Corrales**  
**Rd. NW**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information





**March 3**  
**Sensory Friendly Movie - Peter Rabbit**  
**Mitchell Theaters Starlight 8**  
**Los Lunas**  
**11:30 am**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**March 8-10**  
**Adaptive Cycling for Veterans**  
**Albuquerque VA Hospital**  
**9:00-4:30 pm**  
For more information, click [here](#)



**March 10**  
**Bowling for Autism**  
**Star light Lanes Albuquerque**  
**1:00-5:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**March 11**  
**Adaptive Kayaking for Veterans**  
**Albuquerque VA Hospital**  
**9:00-4:30 pm**  
For more information, click [here](#)



New Mexico Autism Society

**March 13**  
**Sibling Support Group**  
**2300 Buena Vista Dr. SE Albuquerque**  
**6:00-7:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



New Mexico Autism Society

**March 16**  
**Santa Fe Autism Support Group**  
**Holy Family Episcopal Church - Santa Fe**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



Parents Reaching Out

**March 18**  
**2018 Self-Advocacy Summit -**  
**"Advocacy Gets Results"**  
**Crowne Plaza**  
**Albuquerque**  
See flyer above for more information



DDPC  
NEW MEXICO  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PLANNING COUNCIL



Parents Reaching Out

**March 19-20**  
**Family Leadership Conference**  
**Crowne Plaza**  
**Albuquerque**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**March 24**  
**World Down Syndrome Day**  
**Event**  
**7:00-11:00 am**  
**North Lawn of the Balloon Museum**  
**Albuquerque**  
For more information, click [here](#)



**March 26-27**  
**Spring Break Learning Program**  
**9:00 - 4:00 pm**  
For more information, click [here](#)



**March 21**  
**Adults with Autism Meetup and**  
**Support Group**  
**2300 Buena Vista Dr. SE Albuquerque**  
**6:00-7:30 pm**  
Click [here](#) for more information



**March 22-24**  
**Partners in Policymaking**  
**Albuquerque Airport Sheraton**



**February 26  
Teen Night  
2300 Buena Vista Dr. NE  
Albuquerque  
5:30-6:30 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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Albuquerque. New Mexico 87102  
(505) 841-4519  
[www.nmddpc.com](http://www.nmddpc.com)

