



Developmental Disabilities Supports Division

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Mission Statement

The Mission of DDSD is to effectively administer a system of person-centered community supports and services that promotes positive outcomes for all stakeholders with a primary focus on assisting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to exercise their right to make choices, grow and contribute to their community.

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Five Hundred (500) Individuals Offered Opportunity to Access Medicaid Waiver Services

On May 10, 2013 the Intake and Eligibility Bureau of DDSD mailed letters of interest to 500 individuals waiting on the Central Registry offering them the opportunity to access Medicaid Waiver services.

These individuals have the option to select the DD Mi Via Waiver, the DD Traditional Waiver or to place their allocation "on hold."

Choosing "on hold" means they remain on the Central Registry but preserve their original registration date, and therefore will be back at the top of the list when they notify the Intake and Eligibility Bureau that they are ready to return to active status on the Central Registry.

We expect most individuals to accept this opportunity. Those receiving letters may contact the regional intake worker listed in their letter if they have questions or

need help with the process.

Last fiscal year we mailed letters of interest in several smaller groups throughout the year; some of those are still in process.

In recent months DDSD staff have been working in coordination with the Human Services Department to improve the process of getting individuals into services so that services can begin more quickly.

Due to those improvements, this year all letters of interest were sent in one large group to maximize the number of individuals receiving services quickly.

It is expected that most of those offered services will have completed the process and begin receiving services by the end of November.

Given the large number whom we have offered services, at this time we do not anticipate another alloca-

tion group during this fiscal year.

However, DDSD will monitor program costs and attrition (individuals leaving services) in case we are able to fund a few more later in the fiscal year.

Please be aware the next allocation group will start with the following registration dates in each region :

- Metro: 08/22/03
- Northwest: 09/29/04
- Northeast: 01/29/04
- Southwest: 08/18/04
- Southeast: 04/11/05

Contributor: Phil Moskal, Central Registry Unit



ACT New Mexico

Access Community Together



Ready for the roping.

“If opportunity
doesn’t knock,
build a door.”
-Milton Berle



Maria enjoys her experiences in the community.

The SIS—A Progressive Move to Sustainability for the New Mexico DD Waiver Program

New Mexico is one of a growing number of states changing their resource allocation process to ensure a sustainable service system for individuals receiving services through Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver (DDW) program.

Through use of the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) assessment and other standardized methods, New Mexico is fast becoming a front runner in equitable funding decisions amidst national, state and local economic pressures.

Use of the SIS is a progressive move away from traditional models of assessment that measure a person’s deficits.

The SIS is rather an assessment tool designed to measure the support an individual needs to fully participate in community life.

The SIS is a valid and reliable assessment tool and the Advisory Council on Quality Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families endorsed the use of the SIS in early 2011.

The new resource allocation system which incorporates SIS results and other information, offers various budget levels and service package options to DDW consumers.

The current service packages developed by New Mexico provide base budget funding to individuals at levels ranging from \$29,424 all the way up to \$175,297. Additional funding for professional and other services are also available above and beyond this base budget.

The service package options are based on rigorous studies implemented by NM while preparing for the systems change including a clinical validation study, a rate study, utilization history and public input at multiple stages of the process.

In New Mexico, use of the SIS and the new resource allocation process come at the same time as other changes to the DDW service standards.

Uncertainty in the face of so much change is expected. Therefore, NM has instituted numerous qual-

ity assurance measures, appeal rights, and policies providing for safeguards as the state shifts to the new system.

New Mexico has a large responsibility to its citizens to provide an equitable and safe level of support for the over 3700 individuals in the DDW program and to ensure a sustainable system that will have the capacity to serve individuals on the waiting list and decrease time spent on the waiting list. DDS D welcomes public input and feedback as we begin this year of transition and change.

Please see our website: www.actnewmexico.com for more information about the entire series of changes to improve services. Contact your regional office for more information and assistance .

- Metro: Toll Free: (800) 283-5548
- Northwest: Toll Free: (866) 862-0448
- Northeast: Toll Free: (866) 315-7123
- Southwest: Toll Free: (866) 742-5226
- Southeast: Toll Free: (866) 895-9138

Contributor: Christina Hill, SIS Coordinator

Family Infant Toddler Program: New Mexico enters the race! – The Race To the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant!



The NM RTT-ELC leadership team meets with Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in Washington DC.

New Mexico was selected as one of fourteen states to have received a Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge Grant

Over the next four year the RTT-ELC grant funding will help NM expand access to quality early childhood services.

We are excited that New Mexico was one of five (5) additional states to be awarded a Race To the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) Grant. Fourteen (14) states have received a significant investment from the Obama Administration to build a quality early learning state system for children birth to five and their families. New Mexico's award was for \$25 million over four years, and recently heard that NM is likely to get an additional award of \$12.5 million, bringing the total award to \$37.5 million!

The RTT-ELC grant is jointly administered by the US Department of Education (DOE) and the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). This represents unprecedented collaboration across the two Departments that oversee IDEA Part C Early Intervention; Title 1; Even Start; Pre-Kindergarten; and IDEA 619 Preschool Special Educa-

tion on the DOE side; and Head Start / Early Head Start, Child Care and Home Visiting on the HHS side. Through the RTT-ELC grant the federal government is challenging states to build an inter-agency early childhood system and one that promotes access to high quality early learning services.

The New Mexico grant is a collaborative effort across the Public Education Department, the Children Youth and Families Department and the Department of Health. The Key areas of the grant include the following projects:

Tiered Quality Rating & Improvement System (TQRIS): Building on the work that CYFD has done in developing the FOCUS TQRIS for child care, the FIT Program will be analyzing the Essential Elements of Quality for early intervention services and then determining the tools to measure quality in those areas.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment System: A standardized assessment tool and process to be utilized with all kindergarten-

ers. This authentic assessment process will provide kindergarten teachers with critical information regarding children's learning that can be used to inform curriculum planning and differentiated instruction.

Professional Development: There is an increasing need for a qualified workforce. The RTT-ELC grant will expand the number of early childhood higher education TEACH scholarships across systems.

Early Childhood Data System: The development of a cross agency early childhood data system that through a unique identifier will provide longitudinal data .

Investment Zones: Investing in communities where high risk families have limited access to quality early childhood services includes building the capacity of communities to both apply for grants and to administer early childhood services and may also include the forming of early childhood councils to conduct an assessment of early childhood needs and gaps in their communities.

Contributor: Andy Gomm, FIT Program Director

Success Story: Tina Defines Her Own Life's Meaning and Personal Expression

Tina: "Well that didn't work out the way you thought it would, did it now what are you going to do to me?" Once again, Tina's predictable response to the latest behavioral intervention effort to manage, influence, or simply contain her that failed at best and backfired dramatically at worst.

Tina was removed from her adoptive home at age six due to destructive tantrums at home and school. She spent the next 36 years institutionalized. She was repeatedly deemed too dangerous for community placement and in need of intensive behavioral treatment. As noted above, as each intervention failed, subsequent strategies grew more and more intrusive and aversive. She responded by becoming more assaultive and destructive.

However, we weren't satisfied with trying to influence her challenging behavior. We determined that she was not reaching her potential for independence. None of which held any interest to her. "My meals come on a tray, why should I learn to cook?" , "I

don't care if this place is a mess, it's not my mess or my place, why should I learn to clean?" And so on.

We finally arrived at seeking alternative approaches only after exhausting available behavioral technology. We ultimately placed Tina in a home of her own, with 12 hours of staff support daily. We left her a menu of skills that we would be happy to teach her if and when she was interested. Sixteen years and eight homes later, she remains in community support. She has become a passable cook, an excellent housekeeper, and a voracious reader. She is a news junkie and keeps a particularly close eye on weather and politics.

She leads a small, quiet life with most of her time spent at home. Tina is extremely vigilant and sensitive in social situations. Tina's life is meaningful and complete from her perspective. She challenges our zeal to advocate for growing integration and life-long personal growth with "Lets see if that works out the way you think it will." She dares us to ask whether the scope of sup-

port addresses her needs, or is it bereft of imagination and creativity?

Ultimately, we honored her persistent self-advocacy and even though we find her short of her full potential, we stopped insisting that her life needs to have more meaningful, constructive goals.

We have taken our experience with Tina to heart, particularly with respect to attaching greatest value to the person's expressed and implied preferences.

Many individual's lives have been profoundly enhanced based on what Tina taught us. For most of her life, Tina has been considered a person with a challenging reputation. Now she is a pioneer who indirectly informs and guides service evolution.

**Contributor: Chris Heimerl,
Office of Behavioral Supports**

We want to hear about your success and would like to include your story in our newsletter.

Please submit your story via our website www.nmhealth.org/ddsd or contact your local regional office.

“Success is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.”
-Jim Rohn

**DDSD new employees:**

3/16/13 Ofelia Strickland Clinical Services Bureau; METRO

3/30/13 Mila Mansaram Supported Employment; METRO

3/2/13 Shirley Marin Intake and Eligibility

3/2/2013 Frank Gaona Supported Employment; METRO

4/27/13 Consuelo Martinez

6/8/13 Allison Byrnes Nurse; NWRO

National Core Indicators (NCI) Adult Consumer Survey: NM is one of 35 states participating in the National Core Indicators (NCI) survey this year. This survey is used in many states to find out how effectively services and supports help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have good lives.

You may be asked to help us by participating in this survey. A report about how well NM is doing will be available to the public in January 2015, which will help us in our policy-making and advocacy efforts. DDSD Will be contracting with MR Consulting of Tijeras, NM beginning in July to conduct the NCI Adult Consumer Survey. Read more

about the national NCI project: www.nationalcoreindicators.org/.

The Metro Regional Office:

Thanks to Travis Goldman and Loren DeCarlo from Dungarvin for presenting at the Metro Regional Quarterly Providers Meeting on March 28. Travis and Loren did an amazing job presenting how Dungarvin uses the General Events Report to trend events by individual, house, staff or shift. Through their trending of events they have been able to target events, analyze the identified situations, make necessary changes that have resulted in reduced risks to individuals and reduced reportable incidents.

The Northwest Regional Office:

Gallup-McKinley County Interagency Transition Team's "Career and Education Fair" was held at the UNM-Gallup Gurley Hall. Students, grades 8-12, and their parents were invited. The NM Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) table was cov-

ered by Jennifer Hoskie, self-advocate, Bob Mazzola & Alice Marshall of the NM Employment Institute, and Elizabeth Warthen, Community Inclusion lead from NWRO. Information was provided on 'Students for APSE', along with having available the brochure with free membership application. Ten students filled out the membership applications to join the 'Students for APSE.' Three APSE Self-Advocates had tables, displaying & selling their jewelry and beadwork, representing self-employment by owning your own businesses. One individual was able to sell \$184 in jewelry that day and another got several orders for his beadwork. He had set up a loom and did work there during the fair.

Join our Waiting List Campaign – No More Waiting!

If you or someone you know is on the DD Waiver Central Registry and want to share your story, please contact **The Arc of New Mexico**, Carmen Garcia at 505-883-4630 or 1-800-358-6430 or by e-mail at cgarcia@arcnm.org

ABOUT US:

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is located at 810 San Mateo, PO Box 26110 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110. Our website:

www.nmhealth.org/ddsd

For Information Call: (505) 476-8973 or Toll Free: 1-877-696-1472 or you can email us at SANTAFEmailbox.ddsd@state.nm.us