



**The Arc**<sup>™</sup>  
New Mexico

Monthly Memo  
April, 2012

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

(T) 505- 883-4630 ★ (F) 505-883-5564  
3655 Carlisle Boulevard NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110-1644

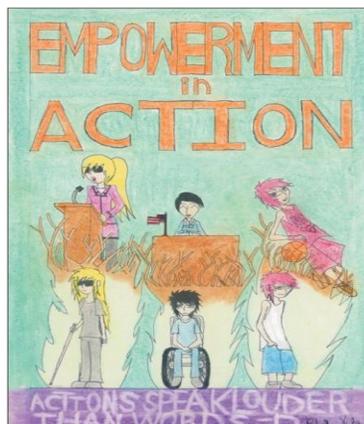
**The mission of The Arc of New Mexico is to improve the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages by advocating for equal opportunities and choices in where and how they learn, live, work, play and socialize. The Arc of New Mexico will promote self-determination, healthy families, effective community support systems and partnerships.**

**Register Now for “Empowerment in Action”**

On **Friday, June 22** the Summit on Social Equality, an event organized by and for people with disabilities, will feature educational sessions that cover a variety of issues and topics that affect them in their daily lives. Friday will also include a statewide leadership meeting, an awards dinner, a variety show and dance.

On **Saturday, June 23** The Arc of New Mexico Statewide Conference will feature additional educational sessions and an awards luncheon. The speaker for the opening plenary session will be Ms. Marty Ford, Director of The Arc of the United States’ Public Policy Office in Washington, D.C.

Visit [www.arcnm.org](http://www.arcnm.org) for more information and registration form. Early registration due May 4, 2012.



Sponsored by The Arc of New Mexico, The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the New Mexico Department of Health and UnitedHealthcare

## Grant Helps Identify Needs of Individuals with Down Syndrome

In 2011 The Arc of New Mexico received a grant from The Arc of the United States in Washington, D.C. to conduct a national search for best practices in the care, education and support of individuals with Down syndrome and conduct a needs assessment for individuals with Down syndrome living in New Mexico to identify existing services and programs and gaps in services and programs.

The following report is the result of individual interviews, focus groups, surveys and information gathered from national research. The Arc of New Mexico is already moving forward with recommendations listed in the report with the goal to develop statewide supports and services for individuals with Down syndrome.

Visit [www.arcnm.org](http://www.arcnm.org) and click on “News and Press” to download a copy of the report

## Arc of NM Position Statement on the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) is reported as a valid and reliable assessment tool, specifically designed to measure the type of support, frequency of support, and intensity of support an individual needs to fully participate in community life. The SIS was designed primarily as a person centered planning process.

Since its publication in January 2004, SIS is being used across the U.S. and abroad by service providers and agencies. The SIS was normed over 2 years on 1,308 people with varying degrees of intellectual disability from the ages of 16-72 within the United States and two provinces in Canada. Currently it is also being used in several states to inform and improve resource allocation decisions.

In New Mexico the SIS is part of an effort by the Department of Health (DOH) to maintain person centered supports while improving the overall cost effectiveness of the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver program. The SIS Pilot Project included 500 interviews and was completed on September 2, 2011. In August 2011 the SIS became mandatory for all individuals being served on the DD Waiver. The information gathered from the SIS will provide the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) with the ability to fairly and equitably develop budgets to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in New Mexico.

Major concerns with SIS in New Mexico are that individuals who have participated in the SIS receive a score but do not receive any feedback that can help them with future planning and some individuals have indicated that the process has taken too long, was very strenuous and that the questions were too personal.

### The Arc's Position

- The DD Waiver is intended to provide supports and services to individuals to help them live as active and contributing members of their communities.
- The DD Waiver was never intended for individuals to buy an entire life.

- The Arc supports the DOH’s goal to improve the overall costs of the DD Waiver program while individuals receive appropriate supports and services according their unique needs and choices.
- The Arc supports DOH’s use of a nationally normed assessment tool to fairly and equitably develop budgets to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in New Mexico.
- Individuals who participate in the SIS should receive timely feedback that can help them with future planning and an opportunity to appeal their scores if they do not reflect their needs.

## “Spread the Word to End the R-Word Day”



**Doug Lutz, Director of Constituent Services for the City of Albuquerque Mayor’s Office, reads a Proclamation signed by Mayor Richard J. Berry declaring March 19, 2012 as “Spread the Word to End the R-Word Day.”**

“People First Language (PFL) represents more respectful, accurate ways of communicating. People with disabilities are not their diagnoses or disabilities; they are people, first.

PFL is *not* about "political correctness," it's about good manners and "the golden rule."

"Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words can never hurt you," is a very harmful myth. *Words do matter!* They can raise or lower expectations; hurt or help; crush hopes or create dreams; and so much more..." Excerpted from [www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com).

## Campaign to End the D.D. Waiver Waiting List



### Samuel Jacob Martinez Grant County

---

Active

Energetic

Ambitious

Self Advocate

Emerging Entrepreneur

Waiting for DD Waiver Services

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN VISIT [WWW.ARCNM.ORG](http://WWW.ARCNM.ORG).*

*PUT A FACE ON THE ISSUE,*

*SHARE YOUR PICTURE AND STORY.*

## Be an Arc Ally – Donate to The Arc

The Arc of New Mexico is a statewide, non-profit agency that was born 56 years ago as a grassroots movement of families working vigilantly to create services for children and adults with disabilities who were being denied opportunities to receive an education, to work and to participate in their communities.

The Arc works on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families every day to ensure that they have the support to participate in and contribute to their communities. The Arc serves as the Corporate Guardian for over 180 individuals, administers Special Needs Trusts for over 400 individuals and helps over 50 individuals with their Social Security Benefits in our Representative Payee Program. We also serve hundreds of people with disabilities and their families through our Self-Advocacy Programs and our Southern New Mexico Office located in Anthony, NM.

Your contribution will help The Arc continue its efforts to ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are welcome, active and contributing members of their communities and receive supports and services according to their unique needs and choices.

You can make a one-time gift or a recurring gift. Make a donation now to support our mission to benefit all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in New Mexico.

A memorial gift is a beautiful and lasting tribute for a loved one or to a family as an expression of sympathy. Family and friends can be recognized with a gift in their honor. This might be for a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, holiday, wedding, retirement, etc.



*“DEXX” presents a check for \$500 from Albuquerque Ruff Ryders to Arc Executive Director Randy Costales*