



Monthly Memo
January, 2013

www.arcnm.org

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The mission of The Arc of New Mexico is to improve the quality of life for individuals with 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.

Pre-Legislative Forum A Success!

The 2013 Pre-Legislative Forum was held Saturday, January 12 at the UNM Continuing Education Center in Albuquerque. The event, sponsored by the Disability Coalition and Disability Rights New Mexico, was attended by approximately 110 individuals from around the state.

In the morning information and updates were presented on a variety of topics including the state budget outlook, Medicaid redesign, Developmental Disabilities Waiver issues, and healthcare reform. In addition, a review of the 2012 legislative session was given along with a preview of the 2013 session.

The featured speaker during lunch was Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino who offered helpful and practical information and suggestions about legislators and the legislative process. (Thank you to the Independent Living Resource Center and Marino's Jersey-Style Pizza for the pizza, salad and soft drinks.) Many people stayed for the afternoon Legislative Advocacy Workshop – an excellent introduction to the New Mexico legislative process.

The Forum continues to grow in popularity and attendance. The Arc is proud to be an active member of the Disability Coalition Steering Committee. Thank you to Jim Jackson, Ellen Pinnes and the staff at Disability Rights New Mexico for a job well done.

The Arc's 2013 Legislative Priorities

Maintain Services

Issue: Medicaid continues to be the crucial source of funding for people with disabilities that allows them to live in their communities with the supports and services they need. Any reduction in the state appropriation or even a failure to appropriate sufficient dollars will result in a loss of services and a corresponding reduction in the individual's quality of life. The Human Services Department has submitted its 1115 Medicaid waiver – Centennial Care. Issues may come up before the legislature regarding such things as expanding Medicaid eligibility to 138% of poverty as the federal law now requires.

Position: *Maintain current services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.*

Waiting List

Issue: Individuals with developmental disabilities continue to apply for services and then be placed on a waiting list (called the Centralized Registry by the Department of Health). People should not have to wait for services that are important to their ability to live and participate in their communities in a safe and fulfilling manner. 5500 or more individuals (un-served and underserved) are on the waiting list for developmental disabilities services with a wait time of up to ten years.

Position:

1. *Protect the current DD Waiver appropriation and add new dollars to serve more people.*
2. *Protect the state general funded programs and add new dollars to serve more people.*

Medicaid Eligibility

Issue: New Mexico has one of the highest rates of individuals without any form of health insurance. This leads to higher insurance premiums for people who purchase health insurance and to more health care provided by the hospitals that is not reimbursed.

Position: *Support efforts to maintain the State Coverage Insurance program provided under Medicaid under the new Centennial Care waiver.*

Guardianship Services Funding

Issue: The funding for legal assistance and training for families seeking guardianship of a family member is not adequate to meet the need. Furthermore, the funding for corporate guardianship services no longer meets the need and a waiting list for services exists.

Position: *Support the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council's requested budget.*

2013 Disability Rights Awareness Day

"Moving Forward Together for Disability Rights"

Monday, February 4 – One day seminar at the Hotel Santa Fe to learn the key issues

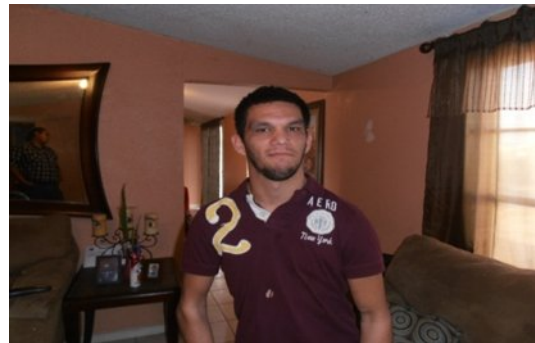
Tuesday, February 5 – Rally at the Capitol Rotunda (Speakers, Awards, Information Fair and visits with Legislators)

Join New Mexicans from across the State during the 2013 Legislative Session in Santa Fe. A hands-on community forum to advocate for your rights!

I Am Waiting – End the DD Waiver Waiting List Campaign

Manuel Chaparral, New Mexico Dona Ana County

My name is Manuel. I would like for you to know my story. I am 29 years old, and I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth. I live in the community of Chaparral NM with my mother, father, one sister and one brother. I graduated from Gadsden High School in 2005.



My name was placed on the waiver list that year, and I am still awaiting allocation. Life is rather difficult right now because I become very depressed at home. There is not much available to me and my access to the community is very limited. My family does not have the resources to help me find employment or even attend a post-secondary setting which is one of my dreams in life. I would like to take a computer class, an art class or any type of class just so I can feel like I belong.

My home is currently lacking in accessibility which makes it very difficult for me to help in my own personal hygiene, I have to depend on my mother for help, in and out of the shower and bathroom. My mobility has been compromised by lack of services in physical therapy and occupational therapy. I used to receive these services during the time that I was a student but since I graduated everything has ceased as far as intervention to help me retain my independence.

I hope that the funding will be available soon so that my name gets taken off the list and I can begin receiving the services I need. I believe that when this happens I can achieve one of my dreams, and that is to attend the community college and that maybe one day I can achieve my ultimate dream of getting married and having my own family

Are you or a family member waiting
for services?
Share your story here.

Call the Arc of New Mexico today at 505-
883-4630 or Toll Free 1-800-358-6493.

You can also email Carmen Garcia @
cgarcia@arcnm.org.

Check out our website at www.arcnm.org.



***End the DD Waiver Waiting List Campaign funded by
The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council***

Join The Arc of New Mexico – Membership is Free!

In October 2012 The Arc of New Mexico Board of Directors voted to make membership free. Join The Arc in the movement for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Show the world you support the basic human right of everyone to live, learn, work and play as valued, contributing members of their communities.

For 60 years, The Arc has promoted and protected the rights of people with I/DD and served more than 1.4 million individuals and their families through a strong national network of 700+ chapters. We advocate for the right of people with I/DD to live in homes of their choosing, have opportunities for meaningful and competitive education and employment, and have the supports and services they need to achieve their full potential.

In New Mexico, The Arc was born 57 years ago and is a statewide organization that advocates for and provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through a variety of programs:

- Public Policy in year-round committee meetings, during the Legislative Session, as an active member of the Disability Rights Coalition, Disability Rights Awareness Day, and End the DD Waiver Waiting List Campaign.
- Self-Advocacy Activities including Leadership Training, Rural Outreach and the Annual Summit on Social Equality
- Guardianship Program helping over 180 individuals live in their communities
- Master Trust Program helping individuals experience a better quality of life while protecting their government benefits
- Representative Payee Program helping over 50 individuals with their Social Security Benefits

- Advocacy, information and support through our Metro Advocate, the Southern New Mexico Office serving rural communities in southern Dona Ana County, Home Offices in Grant County and Santa Fe and our partnership with The Arc of San Juan County
- State Annual Convention held in collaboration with Summit on Social Equality

We are currently updating our website for easy, accessible on-line membership and event registration. More information about membership benefits and registration will be included in next month's memo.

Achieve with us.

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.

The Arc of New Mexico depends on public donations to sustain our work. 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.

Members of the Albuquerque Ruff Ryders present The Arc of New Mexico with a Community Award

In 2012 the Ruff Ryders sponsored a family picnic and Bar-B-Que that raised \$500 for The Arc of New Mexico. Another event will be held this year in the Spring.

