



Monthly Memo  
March, 2012

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

### March is the Month to Make Your Mark

Excerpted from The Arc of the United States website.



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month thanks to a 1987 Presidential Proclamation from Ronald Reagan, which was the direct result of the advocacy efforts of The Arc. A lot has changed since then, more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are living and thriving in their communities rather than institutions, there are more opportunities, more protections and more respect for and inclusion of people with I/DD in their communities. But we must remember that many of those advancements were hard won. Advocacy was the impetus for many of the positive changes in our society, such as the creation of DD Awareness Month. And that will continue only as long as we fight for it.

In 2012, a pivotal Presidential election year, we are fighting to protect Medicaid. Since many people with disabilities rely on publicly funded services to fully participate in their communities, policy makers need to know you are concerned about continuing those services in the face of budget cuts during tough economic times. Take advantage of March to make your mark on the candidates who hope to hold office in 2013 and beyond. Use Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month as a reason to get involved and get active today!

Visit [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org) for more information.

## **Local March Awareness Activity - Stop the "R" Word Rally**

Join the Center for Self-Advocacy and People First of Albuquerque for a rally at the Albuquerque Civic Plaza on Monday, March 19, 2012 from 11am until 2pm

For more information call the Center at 341-0036 or Steve at The Arc 883-4630.

## **The Arc of New Mexico in Grant County**

Great news! Vicki Galindo has joined The Arc Team as a Community Advocate in Silver City. She is married to Daniel to and is the proud parent of Anthony, Greg, and Jaimie. Vicki is currently a member of the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and works for Project Ristra administered by the University of New Mexico Center for Developmental Disabilities. She has previously worked for The Arc and Parents Reaching Out and participated in Partners in Policymaking and The Arc's Institute on Self-Determination. Vicki's office hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am until 3pm. Vicki can be reached at 1-575-590-7957. Welcome Vicki!

## **End the Waiting List Campaign**

The Arc of New Mexico – in collaboration with the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Disability Rights New Mexico, and Parents Reaching Out has started a Waiting List Campaign. The goal is to put a face on the issue. Strategies will include a web page highlighting individual and family stories, town hall meetings, and testimony at public meetings and hearings in Santa Fe and around the state.

We need your help. We are asking individuals and families who are on the waiting list to share their stories with us. In this way we can make the issue real to our state legislators, state administrators and other elected officials.

If interested in sharing your story visit our website at [www.arcnm.org](http://www.arcnm.org) and click on the yellow End the Waiting List box. This section includes information about the waiting list, individual stories and a photo/story release form. Complete the photo/story release and mail, email, or fax the form, your story and photo to The Arc of New Mexico.

## **Public Meetings to be Held re Proposed Changes to DD Waiver**

The Department of Health Developmental Disability Services Division has posted the proposed changes to the Developmental Disabilities Waiver on the DDS website. Now is the time to review and make your comments to the DDS. The deadline for submitting public comments is March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Public meetings will be held around New Mexico to provide information to the public and input on the DD Waiver will be taken during these meetings as well.

<p><b>Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>  <b>Region: Metro</b> (Albuquerque area)  <b>Time:</b> 2:00. – 4:00 P.M., 6-8 P.M.  <b>Location:</b> Presbyterian Hospital , Savage Auditorium,  1100 Central Ave SE, Albuquerque, NM</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012</b>  <b>Region: Northeast</b>  <b>Time:</b> 2:00 - 4:00 P.M., 6:00- 8:00 P.M.  <b>Location:</b> The National Guard Armory,  2011 Industrial Park, Espanola, NM 87532.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>  <b>Region: Southeast</b>  <b>Time:</b> 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.  <b>Location:</b> State Highway Dept,  1 W Earl Cummins Loop, Roswell, NM</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>  <b>Region: Northwest- Gallup</b>  <b>Time:</b> 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.  <b>Location:</b> First United Methodist Church,  1800 Redrock Drive, Gallup, NM 87301</p>
<p><b>Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>  <b>Region: Southwest</b>  <b>Times:</b> 2:00-4:00 P.M. &amp; 6:00 and 8:00 P.M.  <b>Location:</b> Thomas Branigan Memorial Library  (Las Cruces Public Library), Roadrunner Conf.  Rm  200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM  88001</p>	<p><b>Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>  <b>Region: Northwest- Farmington</b>  <b>Time:</b> 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.  <b>Location:</b> San Juan College West,  69 Country Road 6500,  Kirtland, NM 87417</p>

**We hope that you will join us for these important meetings. If you need directions, or special accommodations, please contact your DDS Regional Office:**

**Metro Region:** 1-505-841-5544, Tanya Frazier, **Northwest Region:** 1-505-863-9937, Crystal Wright, **Northeast Region:** 1-575-758-5934, Charlene Cain, **Southwest Region:** 1-575-528-5180, Scott Doan, **Southeast Region:** 1-575-624-6100, Jessica Renteria

**Information regarding the changes to the DD Waiver , including the Supports Intensity Scale Assessment (SIS), rate study results, proposed rates, service packages, the new DD Waiver Standards and instructions for sending formal feedback are posted on the DDS Website at :**

<http://nmhealth.org/ddsd/resourcesupportbureaupublications/DDW/CommitmentToCommunityDDW.htm>

## **Disability Rights Awareness Day 2012**

The 2012 Disability Rights Awareness Days were held on January 23-24 in Santa Fe during the legislative session. The theme for the event was, “Bringing the Voice of Disability to Our Legislators.” Over 160 people participated each day. Monday’s education and training day at The Marriot Hotel included presentations on self advocacy, legislative advocacy, guardianship budget and service issues, and the DD waiver waiting list campaign.

Tuesday’s rally at the state capitol was exciting and well attended. After a rousing welcome from Michael Murphy of ILRC, the programs in the Rotunda included an update from Disability Coalition members on key issues in this year’s legislative session, messages from state legislators, and a presentation by NM Disability Youth Leaders. The crowd was also entertained with a poetry reading by Mary McGinnis, a local Santa Fe poet.

With support from the Public Education Department this year approximately 65 high school students from Santa Fe, Las Cruces and Albuquerque attended the event and were present on the house and senate floors as Disability Rights Awareness Day was recognized by legislative memorial. During the afternoon participants were supported at the host tables to learn the name of their legislators and pay them a visit.

Thank you, Disability Coalition members sponsors, exhibitors and presenters for all the help you provided to assure the continuing success of Disability Rights Awareness Days.

## **NM Dept of Health Policy on Expedited Allocations to DD**

It is the policy of the DOH Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) to allow for expedited allocation to the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Program under special circumstances and in response to legal mandates. If a person qualifies for an expedited allocation and subsequently is determined to meet both medical and financial eligibility criteria, services would not begin immediately but would be available sooner than if the person had to wait for allocation based upon the date of registration. In order to meet the expedited allocation criteria, at least one of the specific criteria from A, B, C, or D, and criterion E must be met:

A. An individual on the Central Registry who has been determined to have a developmental disability and whose current situation meets the statutory definition of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation as substantiated by Adult or Child Protective services; **or**

B. An individual on the Central Registry who has been determined to have a developmental disability and due to death or sudden disability of his/her primary caregiver is without continued care or an alternate primary caregiver; **or**

C. An individual on the Central Registry who has been determined to have a developmental disability who was most recently on a civil DD commitment pursuant to NMSA, 1978 §43-1-13 (and as referenced in NMSA, 1978 §31-9-1.6), and who continues to need developmental disabilities services to assure health and safety; **or**

D. An individual who previously was determined eligible for and participated in the DD Waiver Program whose case was closed administratively by the Human Services Department in accordance with their rules due to the client's need for inpatient hospitalization or other residential clinical treatment that extended past sixty (60) days, and who now has completed such treatment and is ready to return to the DD Waiver Program; **AND**

E. Current available resources are inadequate to maintain the health and safety of the individual. The DDSD has sole authority in the determination of an Expedited Allocation in accordance with this policy and other DDSD rules and requirements.

The committee to review expedited allocation requests does not meet on a regular schedule but on an as-needed basis.

## **The Arc of New Mexico Renews Affiliation with National Arc**

The Arc of New Mexico has renewed its annual affiliation with The Arc of the United States. As an affiliated chapter we are part of the largest non-profit federation devoted to advocate on behalf of and serve people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and their

families and the only nonprofit that represents all people with I/DD regardless of diagnosis, at all stages of life. The National Arc Movement includes 41 state chapters and over 650 local chapters in 43 of the 49 states and territories.

## **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.