



Monthly Memo  
November 2011

[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 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.**

## **2012 Legislative Session Just Around The Corner – Act Now!**

Sixty days until the 2012 Legislative session begins. Two months sound like a long time, but it's not. And, during that time, we will celebrate three holidays. That doesn't leave much time to have a direct impact on what will happen at the legislature affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

The holidays give us a good reason to drop in and see our Senator and Representative before they leave for Santa Fe. Here are some suggestions on how to do that.

- Send or deliver a season's greetings card wishing them a happy holiday, include a picture of your family and/or family member with a disability and ask that they please protect the Medicaid program that provides the services your son or daughter needs.
- Take or have delivered baked goods or fruit with the same message.
- Invite them to your open house.

Some examples of possible language (using your own services and dates) are:

- "Thank you for your commitment to helping people with disabilities. Please protect Medicaid funding. It pays for my daughter, Jennifer, to get in-home help with getting in and out of bed and eating."
- "Thank you for your commitment to helping people with disabilities and their families. Please put more money into serving people on waiting lists for services. My son, David, has been on the DD waiting list since 2001."

Whatever you do and how ever you choose to do it, please make a commitment to making contact with your Senator and Representative in the next two months. You and your actions are the best hope for positive action during the legislative session that begins on January 17, 2012.

## 2012 Pre-Legislative Forum to Be Held January 7

Presented once again by Disability Rights New Mexico and The Disability Coalition, the 2012 Pre-Legislative Forum will offer a preview and discussion of disability-related issues to be addressed in this year's legislative session. If you and/or your organization/agency are planning to be involved in any way in this year's legislative session – making calls, sending letters, meeting with your legislators, attending committee meetings, etc. – or even if you're just interested in what's going on with disability issues in New Mexico, we hope you'll plan to attend.

The Forum will take place in the morning and will be followed by a workshop on the new federal health care reform law (the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act, also known as PPACA or the ACA) in the afternoon. If you'd like to learn more about this law, the benefits it's already providing for health care consumers, and the changes in health care coverage it will bring when fully implemented in 2014, we encourage you to stay for the afternoon workshop as well as the pre-legislative forum.

The Forum will be held at the UNM Continuing Education Center in Albuquerque. Details and registration information will be coming out soon. But in the meantime, hold this date on your calendar. And if you already know that you're planning to attend email either Jim Jackson at [jjackson@drnm.org](mailto:jjackson@drnm.org) or Ellen Pinnes at [epinnes@msn.com](mailto:epinnes@msn.com).

## 2012 Disability Rights Awareness Day

The 2012 Disability Rights Awareness Day will be held Monday, January 23 and Tuesday, January 24 in Santa Fe during the 30-day Legislative Session. This year will feature the following activities:

- **Monday, January 23** – Presentations and workshops from 9am to approximately 4pm at the Courtyard by Marriott on Cerrillos Rd regarding key issues facing New Mexicans with disabilities. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Approximately 100-150 people to attend mostly individuals with disabilities, family members and advocates. Cost is \$10.00 for individuals with disabilities, family members and support staff. Fee for professionals is \$30.00. Please pay with checks or money orders.
- **Tuesday, January 24** - Rally in the Capitol Rotunda with speakers and awards from 11am – 1:30pm. Information tables from 9am – 3pm in both wings of the Capital Building and visits with legislators. Literally hundreds of people walk through the Capital Building and visit the information tables. There is no charge for the Tuesday activities.

For registration information contact Steve Scarton, The Arc's Self-Advocacy Program Coordinator, at 505-883-4630, 1-800-358-6493 or [sscarton@arcnm.org](mailto:sscarton@arcnm.org).

## **New Mexico Partners in Policymaking 2012**

Partners in Policymaking is a national leadership training program that offers an educational opportunity to individuals with disabilities, family members and community members to learn the most current about disability issues. The program helps to develop the skills necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government.

The 2012 program will offer one two-day session each month from March through September in Albuquerque. Each session begins at 12:00noon on Friday and concludes by 3:00 pm on Saturday.

A limited number of participants will be selected through an application process. Applicants must be willing to attend all seven sessions. There is no cost to the participants selected to attend.

For more information contact Lauriann King at 505-271-5304 or [laking@salud.unm.edu](mailto:laking@salud.unm.edu).

## **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 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.