



Monthly Memo
October, 2012

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.

New Mexico SIS Update

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is currently contracted with the New Mexico Department of Health to conduct 140 assessments for individuals recently allocated to the Developmental Disabilities Waiver. These individuals will have ISPs and budgets consistent with the NEW waiver standards and rates.

AAIDD has another contract with New Mexico Human Services Department to conduct initial assessments and re-assessments for people currently on the DD Waiver, beginning in December 2012 and January, 2013. Both the initial and re-assessment dates are based upon the ISP date and will occur 2-3 months before the ISP. For persons with ISPs that are no later than February 28, their budget and services will be based upon OLD waiver rates and services even if they have a SIS score.

For persons with ISPs that start March 1 or later, these individuals should have a SIS 2-3 months prior to their ISP and will have a budget and services under the NEW waiver. The state and the AAIDD scheduler will be calling families and guardians directly as well as provider agencies to schedule an initial or re-assessment.

Training materials for families have been drafted but no training has yet been scheduled for families, guardians and individuals.

NM Medicaid Redesign (Centennial Care) Update

The New Mexico Department of Health (HSD) submitted their new 1115 Waiver application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on August 17, 2012. If the plan is approved the program would be implemented January 1, 2014. Comments can be submitted through the following CMS website: <https://cmsideas.uservoice.com/forums/175352-section-1115-demonstrations-new-mexico-centennial>.

The process for selecting service providers for Centennial Care is on a fast track. Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) interested in providing services must submit their applications by November 20, 2012. HSD plans to make their selections in December and have contracts in place by February 1, 2013 giving the selected MCO's one year to prepare for service provision. HSD's goal is to select no more than five MCO's unless absolutely necessary. Selected MCO's must provide medical, behavioral and long-term services. The Developmental Disabilities Waiver is currently not included although individuals would receive medical and behavioral services through the MCO's.

For more information about Centennial Care please see that attached summary of major aspects of the design, prepared by Jim Jackson of Disability Rights New Mexico.

End the DD Waiver Waiting List Campaign

The Arc of New Mexico, with funding from the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, has officially kicked off The End the DD Waiver 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. Together we can make a difference.

Please 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. Be sure to check out our website at www.arcnm.org

Technology Thursdays at The Arc's Southern Office

In 1999 The Arc of New Mexico opened an office in Anthony, New Mexico to serve the many rural communities in southern Dona Ana County. The following article was submitted by Priscilla Salinas, Director of The Arc's Southern New Mexico Office.

The Technology Class has been meeting this month on Thursdays so we are calling it just that. So far, this month has been very productive and positive, with a really great change. The group was split into two groups so they could video chat with one another. The group jumped right into it. Although there was a camera involved no one was shy or scared. We used the staff's Skype accounts on a Mac computer and on a Dell laptop. The two groups were very comfortable in front of the camera, it seemed natural to them. A young lady felt comfortable talking to a young man and a case manager. Another young lady really opened up during the conversation. Every minute one individual had in front of the camera he talked to his uncle present in the office to give him a demonstration and show him how proud he felt. He complimented the girls on their shirts, and how nice they looked. A case manager from the DD Waiver shared some very good news - she had never seen the individual she works for talk so much!

With what was accomplished this month, the group started to create their own accounts. With the help of his uncle, the young man was able to create an account on both Skype and ooVoo.

The other ladies created an e-mail address and their next step is to create an account with ooVoo. We all realized using ooVoo would give us a better chance at having more than two people on a conference call. Technology Thursdays next step is to video chat with other individuals who cannot make it to the office to include them as part of the daily activity.

Thanks to The Arc of New Mexico's Foundation Board, our technology equipment and skills can be used with staff and the individuals we serve!

New Mexico Delegation Attends National SABE Conference

The Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) 2012 Conference was held August 30-September 2, 2012 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Arc of New Mexico and the New Mexico Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Supports Division sponsored the attendance of three self-advocates at this year's conference. Steve Scarton, The Arc's Self Advocacy Coordinator, accompanied Amira Rasheed, Sergio Resendiz and Adam Shand to the event. In all over 15 people from New Mexico attended this year's conference, including a large group sponsored by the New Mexico Center for Self Advocacy.

The group arrived home with big news and was happy to announce Amira Rasheed, President of People First Albuquerque Chapter; was elected to the SABE Board of Directors. She will represent Region 3 which includes Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Amira will be attending the Fall Board Meeting November 1-4, 2012 in Maryland.

The New Mexico self-advocates and support staff who attended felt like the conference was a great success in obtaining resources and more education on self-determination and self-advocacy.



2012 SABE Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota

Partners in Policymaking Recruiting Class of 2013

Twenty five years ago, the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities created a ground-breaking, innovative training program called *Partners in Policymaking*[®] to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. During the past two decades, important issues have been confronted and dramatic changes have been made.

In the early 1990's, The Arc of New Mexico administered the program with funding from the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. The program proved to be a very positive, life-changing event for the individuals or Partners who participated and graduated from the program. Many remain active in making changes in their local communities and within the state. Although the program was very successful, the funding ended after three years.

Good news! In 2011 the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disabilities reestablished the program in New Mexico. The mission of Partners in Policymaking is to create future leaders and advocates in the area of disabilities in New Mexico. The program utilizes the nationally based curriculum that has been replicated all over the country and around the world. The program has graduated two classes and is now recruiting Partners for the class of 2013.

Partners are selected through an application process. Interested individuals must be able and willing to commit to attend seven, two-day training sessions in Albuquerque. Partners are given brief assignments between sessions and also participate in a small group project.

Applications are due by December 14, 2012. For more information contact Lauriann King at 505-272-5304 or laking@salud.nm.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.

We Thank our 2012 Donors and Sponsors

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