



The Arc™

Monthly Memo
New Mexico

October, 2013

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 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.

The Arc believes in the potential of all human beings and promotes positive possibilities through public policy, advocacy and a variety of services. Each week Arc staff work on behalf of hundreds of individuals with disabilities around the state.

Read what one parent from a rural community wrote after she and her son attended The Arc National Conference for the first time with a stipend from The Arc of NM's Self-Determination Program for Individuals with Down syndrome. She stated, *"Participating in this program has given me renewed strength and hope for my son. That he has goals as anyone else. My dream and goals for my son are to live a full happy life being semi-independent, to get a job that he loves doing or maybe having a business of his own one day doing what he loves. That this is possible."*

"After attending the Plenary on Sunday "Our Families, Our Stories, Our Lives" that there are other families going through the same things I am with a child with a disability, the same feelings, fears, joys, sorrows, happiness, pain, hardships but we are all connected and striving, advocating for the same thing."

"Wanting our child to live a full, happy life as anyone else. That our children are not different from any other. Families come from all different walks of life, our skins may be different color, our languages but we share a common thing our child(ren). That I am not the only one." Another parent wrote "I did not know that they can continue education after high school."

Join The Arc of New Mexico and be part of The National Arc Movement that includes over 700 chapters and thousands of members. It's Easy - Go to www.arcnm.org and click on Member Registration icon.

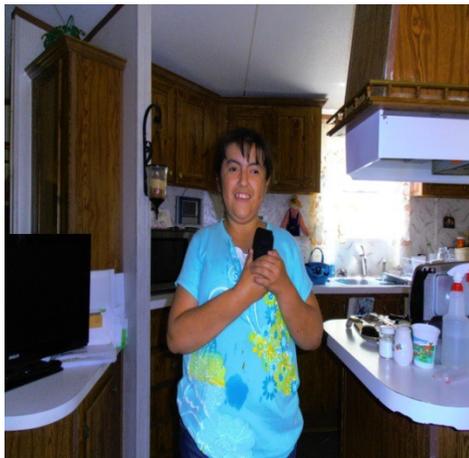
1. **Maintain Services**

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.

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

2. **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 have to wait for services that are important to their ability to live and participate in their communities in a safe and fulfilling manner. 6300 or more individuals served and underserved) are on the waiting list for developmental disabilities services with a wait time up to ten years.



not
a
(un-
of

A. Position: Protect the current DD Waiver appropriation and add new dollars to serve more people.

B. Position: Protect the state general funded programs and add new dollars to serve more people.

C. Position: Support legislation arising from the Senate Memorial 20 (Developmental Disabilities Service Waiting Time) report recommendations.

3. **Guardianship Services**

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.

Issue: At the time of death of the protected person, guardians find themselves without the authority to wrap a protected persons affairs including, paying bills and arranging for burial.

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

B. Position: Support any legislation arising from the Senate Memorial 94 (Guardianship and Conservator Working Group) report recommendations

*For more information contact Doris Husted, Director of Public Policy
dhusted@arcnm.org*

Candy
Anthony, New Mexico
Dona Ana County

Candy is 26 years old; she lives in Anthony with her mother. She enjoys playing in the park. She is inquisitive and curious. Candy was diagnosed with Happy Puppet Syndrome. This has made life a little difficult for her. She has difficulty with gross motor skills and is constantly laughing. This has hindered her ability to complete daily living skills tasks alone. She must have constant re-direction from her caregiver, her mother.

After Candy graduated her mother was forced to quit her job. There was no one to help with Candy and it became impossible for her mother to continue working outside of the home. Candy also has a very short attention span and gets bored with activities after a few minutes. Candy also likes to hide. This makes it very difficult for her mother to take her places. She runs from her



mom at times, to Candy it's a game. There is a small park right outside of their home Candy likes to go there but mom is very cautious because Candy does not distinguish between dangerous and non-dangerous situations. Mom would really like to see Candy learn to be a little more independent but she admits that she needs help.

Candy was placed on the DD waiver waiting list in the year 2000. A couple years later she checked on her application and discovered that Candy was not on the list. She filled out application again and sent it. She has checked on it regularly now and her name is still there. Mother does not know how much longer it will be but she hopes the help will come soon. Candy has recently started losing her balance and her speech has become difficult to understand. Mother would like help in these areas with Candy.

Candy also suffers from "picking" at her skin and will constantly poke at her skin until she bleeds and will then poke at scabs opening the wound again. Mom would really like help with dealing with this behavior. She feels that when they are approved for the waiver she will start receiving the much needed help and Candy will learn independence and skills needed to perform small tasks.

October 2013 proclaimed "Spread the Word to End the "R" Word Month in the City of Gallup NM. People First of Gallup, The Arc of New Mexico and The Center for Self Advocacy helped sponsor the proclamation signed by Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney on October 16th. The proclamation urges all citizens in the city of Gallup to commemorate this month and spread the word to end the "R" word throughout their communities, and pledge to support the elimination of the derogatory use of the "R" word from everyday speech. The Gallup chapter is also planning a Stop the "R" word rally on Jan. 20th of 2014.



Gallup City Councilors Allan Landavazo and Cecil Garcia pose for a photo with Gallup chapter members after the reading of the proclamation.

Carmen Garcia, Arc Advocate and Coordinator of The Arc's Self-Determination Program for Individuals with Down syndrome, was in Farmington last week and had the opportunity to speak on KGAK, KNDN Radio "All Navajo, All the Time". She gave an overview of The Arc of New Mexico and the programs it offers. Carmen talked about the People First Chapters in Farmington, Gallup and other areas in New Mexico. She also gave an overview of the Developmental Disabilities Waiting List Campaign and the Self Determination Program.

In Memory: Sheryl June Libby
January 11, 1966 – September 28, 2013

New Mexico lost a compassionate leader and effective advocate on September 28, 2013 when Sheryl Longley Libby Jones died of pancreatic cancer. Many of us were lucky to have known Sheryl but few of us knew the full scope of her contributions to the people of this state.

Sheryl lived in over 11 foster homes before she moved to Albuquerque in 1984 at the age of 19 to live in her own apartment in an independent living program at ARCA. She was one of the first 25 individuals, and the first woman in New Mexico, to be placed in a supported job through the ARC-US National Employment Training Program. She was one of the first consumer/peer trainers in New Mexico's efforts to develop a supported employment system and she was a respondent in the 1987 ARC-US national consumer satisfaction survey on supported employment. Since those early years, Sheryl has worked as a peer trainer in projects at The Arc of NM, UNM, and Center for

Development and Disability. She was an Arc AmeriCorps member in 1994. During the last five years she participated in the ARCA health and fitness programs and the DDPC Center for Self Advocacy as she continued to live independently and work in a job at the Adelante Document Center.

Sheryl inspired others with her resiliency, open heart, strong commitment to personal development and passion for helping others to improve their own lives. She was an artist who loved bright colors as evidenced in both her art work and her personal style. She deeply valued her relationship with God and with her adopted family, her birth brothers and her new husband. When asked how she would like to be remembered, she said, "As a kind person, who loved God and her family."

Building Future Leaders and

Partners in Policymaking is an intensive leadership program whose mission is to create future leaders and advocates in the area of disabilities in New Mexico. The program began in New Mexico in the early 1990's at The Arc of New Mexico with funding from the NM Developmental Disabilities currently a program at the Center for Development and Disability at UNM. The unique curriculum for this program originated in Minnesota and has been replicated all over the United States and different parts of the world. The philosophy of the program emphasizes the value of inclusion, seeing a person before the disability, and the concept



Advocates in New Mexico

intensive leadership program whose mission is to create future leaders and advocates in the area of disabilities in New Mexico. The program began in New Mexico in the early 1990's at The Arc of New Mexico with funding from the NM Developmental Disabilities currently a program at the Center for Development and Disability at UNM. The unique curriculum for this program originated in Minnesota and has been replicated all over the United States and different parts of the world. The philosophy of the program emphasizes the value of inclusion, seeing a person before the disability, and the concept

The Partners attend seven, two day training sessions to learn a variety of important topics from national speakers such as: History of the Disability Rights Movement, Inclusive Education,

Inclusive Community, Conflict/Resolution, Creative Employment, Supported Living, Federal Policy, State Legislative Process, and Community Organization. There are a variety of state and national experts who present, including Doris Husted, Director for Public Policy at The Arc of New Mexico; she shares her expertise and guidance at the State Legislative session.

The Partners come from all over the state of New Mexico and build lasting and powerful partnerships. The cost of the program is waived for participants who are selected to attend. Last month, 30 individuals graduated, and the program is currently recruiting for new participants. Individuals are encouraged to apply, especially if any of the following pertain to you:

- ⌚ You are passionate about creating positive change in the area of disabilities.
- ⌚ You are a self-advocate, family member, or community member with an interest in improving systems in New Mexico (at least 2/3 of the group needs to consist of self-advocates/family members.
- ⌚ You want to become an advocate or leader in the area of disabilities.

Partners in Policymaking is now taking applications! If you are interested in an application or if you want additional information about the program, you can contact Lauriann King at 505-272-5304 or laking@salud.unm.edu. Partners in Policymaking is a program that is supported by the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and NM Department of Health-DDSD Division.

NOTE FOR GRADUATES: If you already graduated from the program, the Center for Development and Disability and The Arc of New Mexico are collaborating on a Summit for the graduates to occur in Spring 2014. More information is coming soon.

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.

Visit www.arcnm.org to make an on-line donation. Your support is greatly appreciated

Thank you to our 2013 Arc Allies
Platinum – United Healthcare
Gold – Bank of the West

Loretta Silva
Debbie Fletcher
Phillip Grant
Jean and Tom Payne

Community Health Charities of New Mexico
United Way of Central New Mexico
New Mexico State Employees Charities
Albuquerque Ruff Ryders

Maloney's Tavern
Sally Faubion
Carmen Garcia
Dolores Harden
Doris Husted
Van Nunley
Steve Scarton
Dinah Padilla-Harvey
Roger Weinreich
Priscilla Salinas
Cindy and Bart Faris
Caitlin Kiennen-Breen
Cecilia and Reyes Gurule
Judith Greenfeld
Sarah Grace
Alma Mischke
James McNees
Arnold Klein and Bonnie Stepleton
Alma Mischke
James McNees
Debbie Chavez
Casa Verde Spa
Albuquerque Isotopes Baseball
Hinkle Family Fun Center
First Financial Credit Union
The Range Café

Randy Costales

Donene Seelbach
Vicki Galindo
Bernadette LeRouge
Yolanda Tellez

Dion's Pizza
Saba Rasheed
Amira Rasheed
Gabriel Silva
Cabot Creamery
Great Harvest Bread
Designs by Jennie
Christa Lopez
Alex Kiska
Connie DeHerrera
Eastern NM University
Daniel Ekman
Crowne Plaza Hotel
John and Violet Foley
Alvin and Mary Schiff
Martin and Corinne Padilla
Don and Sandy Skaar
PNM Resources Foundation
R.E. Stearns
Melanie and Stephen Peltier