



# Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)

JUNE 2016

## In this issue:

DOH Leadership Change	1
ACQ	2
EnSuenos y Los Angelitos Development Center	3
CMS Final Rule	4
DD Waiver Program	4
Aspiration Risk Management Training Calendar	5
Client Data Management System	6
Autism Programs	7
Health Equity Workgroup	7
Early Intervention Services	8
Mi Via Waiver Standards & Regulations	8
DDSD Photo Contest	9
DDSD New Hires	9

## SENIOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEADERSHIP CHANGES

On April 28, Governor Susana Martinez announced her appointment of Lynn Gallagher as Secretary Designate for the NM Department of Health (DOH). Gallagher has served as Deputy Secretary of DOH since 2013. Prior to that, she served as the General Counsel for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. Gallagher's appointment follows the sudden passing of Secretary Retta Ward in March.



"Much like Retta Ward before her, Lynn is a dedicated public servant who demonstrates strong leadership and dedication to improving the health of New Mexicans," Governor Martinez said. "Lynn is passionate about making New Mexico a better and healthier place, and I am confident in her abilities to lead our largest state agency."

Among many public health priorities, Secretary Gallagher is committed to working to prevent and treat substance abuse, strengthen vaccination rates statewide, and continue to improve health outcomes throughout New Mexico. The Department continues to make important strides in improving public health in New Mexico. For example, childhood vaccination coverage in New Mexico reached an all-time high in 2014, childhood obesity has dropped over the past five years in both kindergartners and third graders, and New Mexico saw a 57 percent decrease in birthrates among teens ages 15 to 17 between 2000 and 2014.

"Although bittersweet, I am extremely honored for this opportunity to lead the New Mexico Department of Health. Because of my close relationship with Secretary Ward, I am keenly aware of the legacy she leaves us," said Secretary Gallagher. "Like the late Secretary, I am dedicated to achieving the goals we have set to improve population health and make New Mexico a healthier place."

Gallagher was born and raised in Truth or Consequences. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Secretary Designate Gallagher, since her appointment, announced that James Ross will be joining the Department of Health as Deputy Secretary. Mr. Ross most recently served as the Cabinet and Federal Affairs Director for Governor Susana Martinez. In that position, he has overseen the Department of Health, and six other agencies over the past three years. Prior to that, he worked at DOH in the Bureau of Health Emergency Management. Prior to his time in New Mexico, Mr. Ross worked domestically and internationally on several environmental and public health programs, notably with refugees in Beirut, Lebanon and on nutritional access programs in Baltimore, MD. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from Georgetown University, Master of Arts in Education from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Master of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University.

Contributor: Marc Kolman, DDSD Deputy Director

## ACQ—Advisory Council on Quality Supports for People with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

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The Advisory Council for Quality Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families (ACQ) has had great success with interest in membership. We have received 5 vetting packets within the last two months. We are still looking for Direct Support Professionals and Self-Advocates who are interested in membership. Below are notes from a few members who explain why they wanted to become members or what they hope to achieve when they became a member of the ACQ.

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*I am a native of NM and have been privileged to work in the field of the DD Waiver since I was 20 years old. When I started working, at that time I was a young woman going to college to get my degree in Criminology, little did I know that a part time job as a Direct Support Staff would lead me to change my career. As a Direct Support staff I enjoyed working alongside the people I served and wanted to improve services for them and others. I have had the ability to work with several agencies along the way and I believe that the ACQ would allow me to have a stronger connection to others who share my passion for the Quality of Care.*

*I am excited to join the ACQ for many reasons; but most importantly to hear ideas, network and to be part of the solution on best services for the DD Waiver. I think the knowledge I gain would apply at my current position as an Executive Director with Benchmark Human Services as well as to educate others in the important work that still needs to be accomplished. Lastly I want to be able to advocate for others and to assist them to advocate for themselves.*

Juanita Watson, Executive Director, Benchmark Human Services

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*Being a part of the ACQ has allowed me greater insight into the workings and players in the New Mexico developmental/intellectual disabilities community. I enjoy interacting with other families who are on the waitlist and families that are already receiving services from the DD waiver and learning about other resources throughout the state. My daughter has been on the DD Waiver Waitlist since 2007. As we wait for those services, and navigate healthcare and educational services, it is nice to have the opportunity to use our experience to help others and to transform systems of care for other New Mexican families.*

Lisa Rossignol, Parent

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*When I was a young boy, a family moved in to the house across the street. I noticed they had a little boy about my age. I was excited at the prospect of a new friend. I rushed over to introduce myself to the family with the excuse that I was just welcoming them to the neighborhood. I met their son and we became friends. When I asked why my new friend seemed to have trouble talking, I was told that he has downs syndrome. Like any other kid I had lots and lots of questions. This was my introduction to the world of I/DD and I will never forget the impact it had on my life. I always volunteered my time while in school to the Special Ed. classes all the way through college. I started working in the field with La Vida Felicidad back in 2008. When my CEO, the late Beverly Bien, introduced me to the ACQ she told me that this is a place where people that are passionate about people, can go to try and make a difference in their world. Right away I knew this is where I wanted to be. Since 2011, I have represented the Direct Support Professionals, and have been striving to help make a difference through the ACQ. I will continue to be a part of this passionate group of people and I encourage those who want to make a difference to do so. If you feel like you can make a difference and you feel like you are supposed to be doing something, if you have a passion for change, then stop wishing and just do it.*

Patrick Anaya, Direct Support Personnel, La Vida Felicidad

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If you are interested in becoming a member of the ACQ please contact Gayla Delgado at 505-476-8915 or by email at [gayla.delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:gayla.delgado@state.nm.us).

Contributor: Lori DeAnda, Co-Chair, Advisory Council for Quality Supports

## EnSueños y Los Angelitos Development Center - Employment Retreat

On February 15, 2016 EnSueños y Los Angelitos Development Center in Taos (ELADC) took a bold step towards building capacity for supported employment (SE) by hosting an Employment Retreat for staff in their agency. Executive Director, Diane Romero, saw potential for increasing their supported employment program by involving not only the SE staff, but **all** their staff, including residential, day program and even staff in their transportation department in the Employment Retreat. Her vision included the idea that "Employment is here [to stay]!" She further explained that "we need to open our minds to all clients...and to ask ourselves, what can we do to help them [be successfully employed]?" It was her goal that by the end of the day, staff would experience a change in how they perceived employment as an agency and that a more positive and collaborative attitude would spread to their clients and their families.

Abby Cooper, national consultant with Mark Gold and Associates, provided some direction for the day by sharing information about Employment First on the Federal Level and how the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) "will help workers, including workers with disabilities, access employment, education, job-driven training, and support services that give them the chance to advance their career and secure the good jobs of the future," (President Obama's message to congress upon reauthorization of WIOA, *The Institute Brief 8/2014*.)

Darlene Fattorusso, consultant from Partners for Employment with UNM/CDD, shared with the group steps that EnSueños had already taken towards advancing employment in their agency by participating in the Discovery Project with one of their consumers who is a Jackson Class Member. ELADC SE and other staff have definitely improved their staff development by taking on extra trainings in Discovery and Systematic Instruction.

Staff then broke up into small groups where they addressed some of the barriers to employment such as negative family attitudes, health issues of the jobseeker, availability of jobs in the local community, lack of support from employers, and fear of loss of benefits to name a few. The staff were then asked to provide some ideas and strategies that would provide a solution to the identified barriers. Staff of ELADC were quite vocal and provided some meaningful and actionable strategies such as educating parents, especially around benefits counseling, increasing staff development around job development and job coaching, and educating employers about people with disabilities to assist in dispelling employers' fear around liability issues when negotiating a job for a job seeker.

By the end of the day EnSueños y Los Angelitos Development Center staff were definitely on the right track as they convened their day-long retreat by putting together an action plan describing "Who will do what, by when; describing desired outcomes in the next month, six months, one year, and providing data that will track how success will be tracked and communicated" [to their entire staff]. Congratulations to EnSueños y Los Angelitos Development Center staff for taking a bold step toward increasing employment in your agency!

Contributor: Carolyn Lavadie, DDSD Northeast Regional Office



Gino, Tomas, Vanessa and Geraldine are strategizing around barriers to employment.



Ana Lisa and Joe are working on Next-steps for their Supported Employment program at ELADC.



Kim, Valerie and Diana are sharing ideas about how each department at ELADC can collaborate on SE goals for each individual.

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## CMS Final Rule — Settings Requirements

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### CMS Final Rule and Settings Requirements for Home and Community Based Services Waivers

New Mexico has received feedback from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on our statewide transition plan (STP). The statewide transition plan is required by CMS to show New Mexico's plans to come into compliance with new settings requirements. DDSD and the Human Services Department (HSD) are currently working to revise the statewide transition plan to meet CMS requirements. The current STP is posted on the HSD website. Revisions will include additions to the systemic assessment as well as the site specific settings assessment.

A formal public comment period, including tribal consultation, will occur July through September 2016, and will allow stakeholders and interested parties the opportunity to provide comment on the plan. The revised statewide transition plan will incorporate public comment and DDSD's responses and be resubmitted to CMS by the end of September.

For more information, DDSD has posted a webinar about the CMS Final Rule conducted in March of 2016. Please check the Activities page of the Act New Mexico Website (<http://actnewmexico.org/activities.html>) for the webinar and other timely updates.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

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## Developmental Disabilities Waiver Program—It's Time to Renew

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It's Time to Renew the traditional Developmental Disabilities Waiver Program.

The traditional Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver is a Medicaid program known as a Home and Community Based Services waiver. It is designed to provide services that support eligible individuals with developmental disabilities to live and participate as active members of their communities. New Mexico has offered the DD Waiver program since 1983, growing from 200 recipients to over 3000. In order for New Mexico to receive federal matching dollars to fund the program, the DD Waiver must be approved by the federal authority, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The DD Waiver renewal cycle with CMS is five years, and it is now time to renew.

DDSD operates the DD waiver in partnership with the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD). The currently approved DD waiver expires June 30, 2016, but HSD has requested that CMS grant an extension to the approval of the current DD waiver in order to complete a variety of activities before submitting a renewal application. Important renewal activities include: review of currently approved waiver, statewide informational meetings to gather public opinion and ideas, website updates, work with partner organizations to gather public input and draft the renewal application, a 60-day tribal notification for public comment, and a 30-day formal public comment period on any proposed changes.

At this time, DDSD does not plan on major restructuring or major changes to the DD Waiver but does plan on the following enhancements to the application:

- clarifying language throughout the waiver,
- updating the waiver application with settings and person centered planning requirements outlined in the CMS federal rule, and
- updating statewide data about the number of recipients of services.

Additional changes, if found necessary, may still be requested later in an approved waiver cycle through an amendment.

Stay tuned for updates on DD Waiver renewal activities, information about statewide meetings and submitting your ideas. Check on the Act New Mexico Website (<http://actnewmexico.org/>) under "What's New" and the Activities and Partners page.

Contributor: Christina Hill, DDSD DDW Program Manager

## 2016 DOH DDS Training Dates for Aspiration Risk Management & Participatory Approach

Training Type	Training Date	Location	Room Locations	Time	Disciplines
Participatory Approach	Monday, June 6, 2016	NE Training— Santa Fe, Toney Anaya Bldg. 2550 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87505 Trini.alderete@state.nm.us	AM Hearing Room 1 PM Hearing Room 2, Gila	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP
Participatory Approach	Thursday, July 21, 2016	Roswell-Highway Training academy 132 W. Earl Cummings Lp., Suite 735 Patricia.Hairston@state.nm.us	Auditorium (RM 4) in Am Room 8 Room 12	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP
Aspiration Risk Management	Friday, July 22, 2016	Roswell-Highway Training academy 132 W. Earl Cummings Lp., Suite 735 Patricia.Hairston@state.nm.us	Lg. Conf. Room, PM Solarium (2), Library, Rollie	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP, Nursing, CSM, BSC's
Participatory Approach	Thursday, September 8, 2106	Farmington-San Juan Center for Independence- 1204 San Juan Blvd.	Lg. Event Room (2 rms.) Consumer Room	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP
Aspiration Risk Management	Friday, Sept. 9, 2016	Farmington-San Juan Center for Independence- 1204 San Juan Blvd.	Lg. Event Rm. In AM Pm Consumer Rm, Conference Rm	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP, Nursing, CSM, BSC's
		DOH Farmington- 744 W. Animas St.	Lg. Conf. rm. (2 rms.)		
Participatory Approach	Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016	Metro Regional Office-Albq. 5301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 1700	17th Floor AM PM 2nd Exec., 9th Floor	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP
Aspiration Risk Management	Friday, Nov. 4, 2016	Metro Regional Office-Albq. 5301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 1700	17th Floor AM PM 2nd, 8th, 9th, 11th Floors	8:30—5:00 pm	OT, PT, SLP, Nursing, CSM, BSC's

## DDSD'S Client Data Management System (CDMS)

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) oversees New Mexico's DD Medicaid Waiver Programs supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live independently in their communities. The DD Waiver Programs are administered through the NM Human Services Department (HSD) and authorized through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DDSD also administers the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers birth to 3 who have or are at risk for developmental delays and maintains a Central Registry (Waiting List) of individuals waiting for waiver services as well as administering a number of additional services and programs.

An integrated Client Data Management System (CDMS) to track and manage client demographics and services, improve policy and program management, and improve reporting capabilities has been many years in the making. DDSD currently manages and tracks client service and provider information using several distinct and non-integrated software applications. DDSD is now embarking on a critical and exciting new phase of this project and is currently developing requirements for a CDMS and expects to enter into a contract with a vendor during Fiscal Year 2017. A list of needs and requirements is too extensive to describe here. However, DDSD will be seeking input about interests, needs, and wants at various points throughout the process. Full development and implementation will take several years and currently projected to be completed in 2020.

Funding for DDSD's CDMS Project was approved through the NM Department of Information Technology's (DoIT) Fund for Computer Technology Enhancement and was subsequently approved in the FY17 State Appropriations Act. This is especially significant during this time of restraint in the State's budget. On May 25, the CDMS was approved for initiation by DoIT's Project Certification Committee (PCC) which means that funding will be released for use in FY17 and we are able to formally initiate CDMS as a DoIT-approved project.

### Why a Client Data Management System (CDMS)?

DDSD's current systems are disparate, non-modular, and non-integrated. DDSD has several systems developed in-house and three key commercially-provided systems. The disparate nature of tracking systems challenges DDSD to maintain consistent business continuity. Redundant data entry and storage and the absence of logical system integration presents technical challenges that prevents DDSD from providing an effective approach to client care management, program management, policy development, and legislative and legal reporting. Several critical business functions continue to be done manually. DOH sees this as an opportunity to consolidate systems and build interfaces to other applications where consolidation is not an option.

### Collaboration with HSD-2020

DDSD is collaborating closely with the NM Human Services Department's HSD-2020 MMIS-Replacement Project. The MMIS-R is being developed to comply with the Federal MITA (Medicaid Information Technology Architecture) framework. MITA is a national initiative to support systems development and health care management with the goal of better serving consumers. MITA has several goals, including development of seamless and integrated systems that communicate effectively through interoperability and common standards. MITA also provides for 90% federal matching funds. See [www.medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov) for MITA Version 3.0.

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## Autism Programs at UNM CDD and DOH Launch an Autism Portal

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The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) along with the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program has been working with the Autism Programs at the UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD) to launch a new Autism Web Portal. With collaborative funding from the Department of Health and the Public Education Department, the web portal became a reality this year! This was collaboration at its best.

For the first time a parent, an individual with Autism, or a professional needing resources can go to one place with a click of a button to find information on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and how to access services in New Mexico. The portal houses a variety of information about ASD diagnosis, treatments, education, support programs, insurance, and a variety of other resources. "Information Briefs" cover a variety of topics and were developed with families and professionals in mind. The topics range from "Strategies for Effective Teaming for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)", "Supporting Students with ASD in Higher Education", "Supporting Social Development for Individuals with ASD", as well as many more topics. Another available resource has information on available ASD training. There is a list of many trainings that can be taken at no cost. There are currently five online electronic courses on ASD! Training with no travel required.

Please see this website at <http://cdd.unm.edu/autism/portal/index.html> and remember there is information being added as the resources grow in our state.

*Contributor:* Sbicca Brodeur, LCSW, DDSD FIT Regional Manager

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## Health Equity Workgroup (HEWG)

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The Health Equity Workgroup (HEWG) is a group of NM Department of Health folk who are passionate about eliminating health equity issues throughout our state. They volunteer their time to assist the Office of Health Equity (OHE) in improving the health of all diverse communities in New Mexico and raising awareness of health disparities through collaboration, education and advocacy. Currently, there are approximately 20 members representing a variety of divisions (including DDSD) and bureaus throughout the state.

Since reconvening in the fall of 2015, the group supported the Office of Health Equity in producing the 2015 Health Equity Report and updated an old toolkit originally created in 2009- with new resources and cultural factsheets. The website for community partners is: [www.nmdohcc.org](http://www.nmdohcc.org).

The Health Equity Workgroup has supported the OHE efforts to develop a 16 module Public Health Spanish course (currently there are 3 pilot classes underway in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces); and most recently the HEWG has revised and reissued the statewide Cultural and Linguistic Assessment and will be compiling a report to share with our DOH colleagues. The findings will dictate the direction the group takes in the upcoming months. For more information about this important work, contact Lisa Storti at DDSD at 505-476-8972, or Rosalie Nava at OHE at 505-827-2572.

*Contributor:* Lisa Storti, DDSD Constituent Supports Manager

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## Early Intervention Services and the New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

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New Mexico provides early intervention services through formula grants from the US Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which gives states the discretion to extend eligibility for Part C services to children with (or at risk of) developmental delays or disabilities. In New Mexico, those services are provided through the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program, which is located in the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD).

As federally mandated under IDEA Part C, New Mexico's Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) exists to address the needs of families of infants and toddlers with or at risk for developmental delay, and to advise and assist the Lead Agency (which is DDSD) in the implementation of a coordinated and family-centered early childhood service system.

ICC membership includes: parents of children receiving FIT services; providers of FIT services; state agencies; and other stakeholders. The federally mandated composition of the ICC membership helps assure critical stakeholders in the early intervention system are represented. Members are officially appointed by the Governor of New Mexico.

The ICC adheres to the NM Open Meetings Act and all meetings are announced and open to the public. The ICC meets quarterly to:

- Consider issues impacting the early childhood service system and provide guidance to DDSD/FIT
- Review work and recommendations of ICC committees
- Consider input from ICC Parent and Service Provider Panels
- Make recommendations to the Department of Health

For information, contact Suzanne Pope at [supope@msn.com](mailto:supope@msn.com) or Joyce Rodarte at [joyce.rodarte@state.nm.us](mailto:joyce.rodarte@state.nm.us).

Contributor: Peggy O'Neill, Co-Chair, FIT Interagency Coordinating Council, Zia Therapy, Alamogordo, NM

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## Mi Via Waiver Standards and Regulations

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Effective October 2015, the Mi Via Waiver was approved for another five (5) year waiver cycle through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As a result of this approval, the Mi Via Regulations and Standards have been revised and became effective March 1, 2016.

Training has been occurring statewide for Mi Via Consultants, Mi Via participants and other interested stakeholders during the months of March, April and May 2016. Notification of the training was provided through the DDSD Provider Enrollment Unit and through the Mi Via Newsletter. You can obtain a copy of the Standards and Regulations from the Mi Via website at: <http://archive.mivianm.org/MiViaServiceStandardsPage.htm>.

Please be advised that the Mi Via Newsletter is posted monthly on the Mi Via website at: [http://archive.mivianm.org/MiVia\\_Newsletter.htm](http://archive.mivianm.org/MiVia_Newsletter.htm). As Mi Via is a self-directed waiver, it is important that all stakeholders, which includes Mi Via participants and their circle of support, have an understanding of the Standards and Regulations that govern the Mi Via Self-Directed Waiver.

Contributor: Christine Wester and Regina Lewis, DDSD Mi Via Program



## DDSD Staff Appreciation Photo Contest

DDSD staff and regional offices submitted photos for a Staff Appreciation Contest in March. Kathy Kunkel, DDSD Deputy Director produced a presentation at the DDSD Quarterly Meeting held in April. Below are some of the photos and prizes that people won for their participation. A lot of fun was had and thank you to all that participated!!

The Southeast Regional Office won "Most Creative" for their Star Wars group photos, one of which is shown to the right. They were the recipients of a staff pizza party.



The Strikeforce won the award for "Most Participation" and each won a \$10 gift certificate.

Michelle Groblebe won "Funniest" photo



### Mission Statements:

The Mission of the New Mexico Department of Health is to promote health and wellness, improve health outcomes, and assure safety net services for all people in New Mexico.

The Mission of the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is to effectively administer a system of person-centered community supports and services that promotes positive outcomes for all stakeholders with a primary focus on assisting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to exercise their right to make choices, grow and contribute to their community.

### ABOUT US:

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is located at 810 San Mateo PO Box 26110 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110. Our website:

[www.nmhealth.org](http://www.nmhealth.org)

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### DDSD Newsletter Staff:

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If you would like to write an article for the next issue of the DDSD Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, please contact Chris Futey, DDSD Newsletter Assistant Editor at 505-841-5507 or [Christopher.Futey@state.nm.us](mailto:Christopher.Futey@state.nm.us).

## New Hires

### Peggy Taylor

Hello to Peggy, who joins the Metro office as a Registered Nurse.

### Kincie Bird

Let's welcome Kincie as the Administrative Assistant with the Clinical Services Bureau in Albuquerque.

### Felicia Gurule

Felicia is a new addition to the DDSD staff in the Santa Fe office, let's make her feel at home.

### Isabel Casaus

Congrats to Isabel as the new Social/Community Service Coordinator in Las Cruces.

### Daniel Lucero

Takes over as the Jackson Compliance Staff Manager located in Albuquerque.

### J. Steve Baca

Santa Fe's SIS Staff Manager position has been filled by Steve Baca - Glad to have you on board!