

Developmental Disabilities Supports Division



(DDSD)

JUNE 2019

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NEW DDSD DIRECTOR—JASON CORNWELL

Jason Cornwell comes back to DDSD from his position as Chief Operations Officer of the Los Lunas Community program. Prior to that position he was the Assistant Regional Director for Metro for nearly two years. He joined Metro DDSD from DHI where he was a healthcare surveyor in QMB. Prior to DHI, Jason worked as the Director of Operations for a Community Based DD Waiver Provider in the NE region. Jason brings HCBS experience to New Mexico from NY, Texas, Indiana and Illinois where he has worked in all levels of community based providers from DSP to Executive. He is very happy to return to work with the dedicated professionals of DDSD whose work impacts the lives of thousands of New Mexicans.



COMPREHENSIVE RATE STUDY WRAPPING UP

On May 14-16, 2019, DDSD's contractor, Public Consulting Group (PCG), hosted a series of face-to-face meetings with DDSD, the ACQ Rate Study Subcommittee and the public. The purpose of the meetings was to review initial findings collected from the Cost Tool, Personnel Roster and Time Study Tools completed by DD Waiver and Medically Fragile Waiver providers, along with Mi Via Waiver Consultants and In-Home Living Supports providers.

PCG will return to New Mexico to review Rate Recommendations with DDSD, the ACQ Rate Study Subcommittee and the public, June 18-20, 2019. The public meeting will be June 19, from 1:30-4:00 at the State Capitol Round House, 211 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501 in Room 307.

The Rate Study will be completed by June 30, 2019.

Visit the DDSD website to view PCG's May 2019 presentation and Market Salary information that will be used in the rate study.

Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

REVISED DD WAIVER & MEDICALLY FRAGILE WAIVER PROVIDER APPLICATION

Over the past year, the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) has been working on revisions to the current Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Medically Fragile (MF) Waiver Provider application.

The Provider Application was last revised in 2014. Many things have changed over the years, so it was time for some revisions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires each state to demonstrate that it has designed and implemented a system for assuring that all waiver services are provided by qualified providers. This starts with our Provider Application.

Reasons to revise the Provider Application:

- ◆ Include best practices for service provision
- ◆ Align with the current DD Waiver Service Standards
- ◆ Incorporate federal requirements (i.e. CMS Final Rule)
- ◆ Comply with the Jackson Settlement Agreement
- ◆ Increase the quality of providers

Some exciting features in the revised Provider Application include elements that will address professionalizing the work force, person-centered practice, accountability, financial responsibility and ultimately result in better outcomes for people within our system. Scoring criteria is also being developed to ensure transparency and consistency across reviews, and to set our providers up for success.

DDSD will be training providers on the Application in July 2019 and implementation will take place on August 1, 2019. Please be on the lookout for more information related to revising the Provider Application and the upcoming trainings.

Contributor: Tammy Barth, DDSD Provider Enrollment Unit Manager

QUALIS HEALTH CHANGES COMPANY NAME

Effective May 2, 2019, New Mexico Medicaid's Third Party Assessor and Utilization Review (TPA/UR) contractor, Qualis Health, began the process of changing their company name to **Comagine Health**.

The new name and logo below will appear on all correspondence letters and notifications sent by the TPA. The current website and email addresses will remain active and unchanged, however, in the near future, you may be redirected to the new Comagine website and email. The redirection will be in place for the remainder of the year to ensure a seamless transition.

The TPA's staff, phone numbers, fax numbers, and provider portal will not be impacted and will remain the same.

If you have questions about the name change, please contact Comagine Health New Mexico at 505-217-7689 or visit the <http://www.qualishealth.org/> for additional updates.



Contributor: Leah Manning, DDSD Statewide Case Management Coordinator

RESOURCE COLUMN

There are some wonderful resources for individuals with disabilities & their families in New Mexico. In this newsletter, we are highlighting access to information and resources regarding Guardianship, and Alternatives to Guardianship - such as Power of Attorney, or Health Care Decision-Maker, and Representative Payee.

Guardianship/ Guardianship Successor Planning

As the individuals we serve get older, as well as their parents/guardians- it is important that there be a plan in place regarding Guardianship/ Alternatives to Guardianship and/ or Guardian Successor. The issue of Guardianship Successor continues to become more critical as there have been several instances in the last couple years of individuals whose elderly parent/guardian pass away, and the individual (deemed not able to make decisions by the court), is left without a decision-maker, as there is no plan in place regarding a guardian successor.

Guardianship removes considerable rights and should only be considered after alternatives have proven ineffective or unavailable. The legal processes are complicated and can lead to overstepping and family fights, and families and individuals are strongly encouraged to get expert help.

Under New Mexico Law, if a person is incapacitated and has not given power in writing to an agent, a court can appoint a guardian over the person and a conservator over financial matters. This can be a family member or corporate guardian. A guardian can then make residential placement and health care decisions and a conservator can make financial decisions. A court can also appoint a temporary guardian or conservator if needed to prevent immediate and irrevocable serious harm. A court can also limit the powers of the guardian and conservator depending on the person's capacity and needs.

Alternatives to Guardianship include Power of Attorney, while the individual is still capable and understands what they are signing, Representative Payee- managing Social Security/SSI payments, Surrogate Decision-maker for healthcare, and informal arrangements with family members.

(source: DDPC-OOG)

For Information on Guardianship, and Alternatives to Guardianship, the following resources are some excellent sources of information and support. Individuals, Families, and current Guardians are urged to look into these resources, and develop solid plans to ensure proper support, and/or succession of guardianship, as applicable.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING COUNSEL- OFFICE OF GUARDIANSHIP

625 Silver Av. SW, Suite 100

Albuquerque, NM 87102

(505) 841-4519 www.nmddpc.com

THE NEW MEXICO GUARDIANSHIP ALLIANCE

info@GuardianshipAllianceNM.org

THE NEW MEXICO GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

www.nmguardianassoc.org

MI VIA WAIVER RENEWAL

The Department of Health (DOH) and the Human Services Department (HSD) collaboratively engage stakeholders through the waiver renewal process to collect input regarding program and policy recommendations. To date the departments have hosted meetings with the Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC) Renewal Steering Committee, Mi Via Consultant Agencies and with vendors in the system. Renewal meetings with stakeholders will continue to take place over the summer months. During the months of May through July 2019, DDSD and HSD will be hosting statewide Town Hall meetings to engage with the public. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information and to receive comment on the proposed Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Mi Via Waiver.

Please provide us with your ideas and input to improve our programs!

The following locations and times are opportunities for you to hear the presentation from DDSD and HSD and to provide comment/feedback on the self-directed waiver.

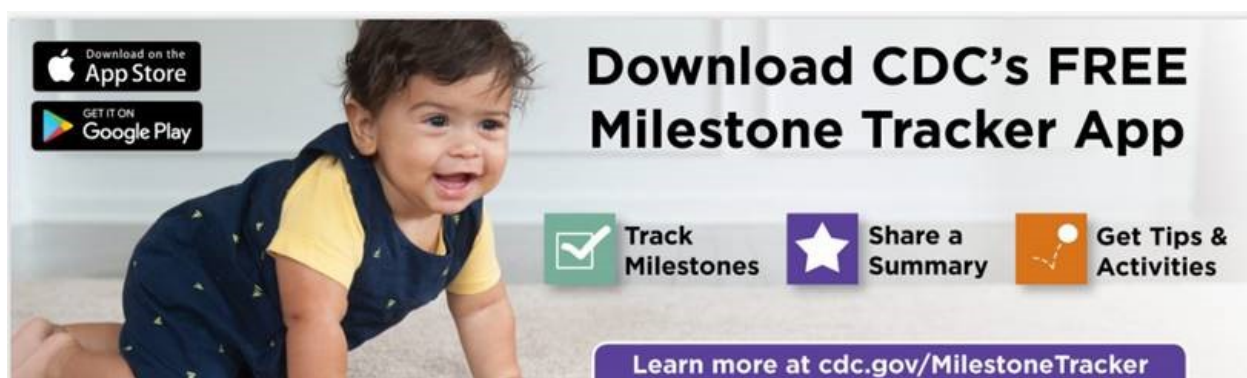
Date	Time	City	Location
5/29/19	1:30 pm -3:30 pm	Santa Fe	Harold Runnels Building Auditorium 1190 S. Saint Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505
5/30/19	1:30 pm -3:30 pm	Albuquerque	University of New Mexico Continuum of Care 2350 Alamo Ave. SE Albuquerque, NM 87106
6/4/19	1:30 pm -3:30 pm	Las Cruces	Branigan Library 200 E. Picacho Las Cruces, NM 88001
6/12/19	1:30 pm -3:30 pm	Roswell	New Mexico Transportation Dept. 132 Earl Cummings Loop Roswell, NM 88203
6/24/19	1:30 pm -3:30 pm	Gallup	Octavia Fellin Public Library 115 W. Hill Avenue Gallup, New Mexico 87301
7/1/19	1:00 pm-3:30 pm	Farmington	San Juan Center for Independence 1204 San Juan Blvd. Farmington, New Mexico 87401

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Milestones matter when it comes to early child development. DOH is working with the CDC to get word out of their Milestone Tracker app for New Mexico parents to use to track their children's development from birth to age 5.

Here are a couple of great links to check out and maybe pass on to clients, friends, or even share on your own social media if you want: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html> and www.facebook.com/milestonesmatter.

For more information, contact our teammate Gloria Bonner, Child Health Program Manager at gloria.bonner@state.nm.us.



Contributor: Hyacenth Sedillo, DDSD FIT NE Regional Coordinator

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

We have challenging times ahead of us. There is so much important work happening in so many different areas it can feel daunting.

But many hands make light work- that being said I would like to touch briefly on the following:

- Thank you to rate study subcommittee workgroup and all the agencies that participated in the rate study statewide. If we are to attract and retain the best talent to our field we must be competitive. Your information is vital in this effort.
- Thank you to everyone participating and providing meaningful feedback during this mi via renewal process. The self directed waiver needs your best ideas to for continuous improvement.
- The Jackson settlement agreement is upon us. We have a historic opportunity to end the litigation. The Division encourages dialogue and cooperation at this delicate time.
- The division has allocated 330 individuals statewide SFY20. While this is much better than previous years the waitlist is continuing to grow. We have our work cut out for us here.

As we move into the future, let us remember that we are interdependent partners. Our success depends on our ability to collaborate, actively listen, and seek to understand prior to being understood.

Contributor: Jason Cornwell, DDSD Division Director

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH—5 (PDG B-5) KICK-OFF MEETING

On May 01, 2019 we held a kickoff for New Mexico's Preschool Development Grant Birth - 5 (PDG B-5) work. We were excited to meet with close to 100 stakeholders (parents, early learning providers, advocates, funders, policy makers and others) in Albuquerque, who provided input into statewide early learning 'Needs Assessment' and 'Strategic plan' process that will be conducted this year. FIT Program helped facilitate and take notes during the small group work.



The meeting goals were:

- To share the overview, vision and process of the PDG B-5;
- To collect input that will help inform NM's early learning Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan activities of the PDG B-5;
- Explore ongoing ways that stakeholders can be involved in the success of New Mexico's early learning Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan.

Here is a link to find out more about the PDG B-5 work and the role of stakeholders in the success of this work to build a strong early learning system for young children and their families and inform the work of the new Early Childhood Education and Care Department; <https://www.earlylearningnm.org/pdg-b-5-stakeholder-engagement>.



Contributor: Andy Gomm, DDSD Child & Family Supports Bureau Chief

ABLE NEW MEXICO

New Mexicans living with disabilities can now save money and keep their public needs-based benefits! By opening an *ABLE New Mexico* online account, eligible individuals can save up to \$15,000 in a calendar year (\$468,000 lifetime limit) and invest, OR, spend their money on items that maintain or improve their health, independence, and quality of life. The ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act was passed federally in 2014, and here in New Mexico in 2016, and was largely the work of a man named Stephen Beck, Jr.

He had a daughter living with a disability and he was frustrated at the lack of options available to plan for her future without risking the loss of her benefits. Mr. Beck worked with other parents who had similar concerns, and, with leaders within the disability community to have Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service's Code of 1986 amended to allow for the creation of ABLE accounts which are similar to 529 college savings accounts.

The accounts are owned by individuals living with disabilities who were diagnosed before the age of 26, and can be opened and administered by the individual or their authorized legal representative (parent, guardian, or power of attorney). For more information, please explore <https://ablenuwemexico.com/> to discover how these accounts can positively impact the lives of New Mexicans with exceptionalities and their families.



Contributor: Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Community Programs Bureau Chief

NEW HIRES/PROMOTIONS/RETIREMENTS

New Hires/Promotions:

Destinie Jaramillo, Training & Development Specialist, Albuquerque, April 6, 2019

Ronald Scott Doan, Deputy Director, Las Cruces, April 6, 2019

Dianne Martinez, ASB Staff Manager, Santa Fe, April 22, 2019

Denise Romero, Dental Assistant, Albuquerque, May 18, 2019

Casilda Gallegos, SCSC – Community Inclusion, Santa Fe, May 4, 2019

Steve Scarton, Social & Community Service Coordinator, Albuquerque, May 18, 2019

Sally Karingada, Jackson Compliance Officer - Staff Manager, Albuquerque, May 4, 2019

Jason Cornwell, DDSD Director, Albuquerque, May 4, 2019

Sophia Gruskos, Statewide Behavioral Training Coordinator, Taos, June 29, 2019

Retirement:

Alma Mendez, Office and Admin. Support, Las Cruces, May 31, 2019

Joseph Anaya, DDSD HR & Labor Specialist

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

For Information Call: (505) 476-8973 or Toll Free: 1-877-696-1472 or email us at SANTAFEMAILBOX.ddsd@state.nm.us

DDSD Newsletter Staff:

Editor-in-Chief:
Marc Kolman
Assistant Editor:
Lisa Storti
Layout: Shannon Titla

If you would like to write an article for the next issue of the DDSD Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, please contact Lisa Storti, DDSD Newsletter Assistant Editor at 505-476-8972 or Lisa.Storti@state.nm.us.