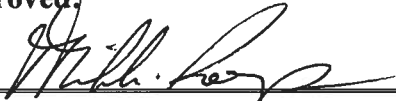
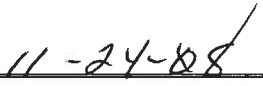


<b>New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)</b>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICY</b></p>	<b>Policy Number: S-004</b>  <b>Supersedes: New</b>
<b>Policy Title:</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friends and Relationships Course Teacher Certification Policy</b></p>	
<b>Effective Date: November 24, 2008</b>	
<b>Approved:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that qualified individuals teach and that self-advocates assist in *Friends and Relationship Course* (FRC) classes as part of a comprehensive integrated system of sexuality services.

**II. POLICY STATEMENTS**

It is the policy of DDSDD to assure that FRC classes are taught by qualified individuals who have demonstrated competency through training, teaching under supervision and fulfilling specific certification criteria.

It is the policy of DDSDD that self-advocates be supported and trained to assist the FRC teachers and students by acting as role models and mentoring students.

**III. APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members, DDSDD staff, and Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD Waiver) and State General Fund (SGF) provider agency staff supporting adults with Developmental Disabilities participating in SGF or DD Waiver services on the DD Waiver or SGF programs.

**IV. DEFINITIONS**

*Behavior Support Consultant (BSC):* Means a licensed professional approved by DDSDD Office of Behavioral Services to provide Behavioral Support Consultation services.

*Certification/Certified:* Means a specified set of activities and competencies gained in a specialization.

*Comprehensive Integrated System of Sexuality Services:* Means a multi-component system that provides services to address the socialization and sexuality skills and supports needed for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to

live safely in the community and to obtain and keep jobs and form relationships, including intimate ones.

*Friends and Relationship Course (FRC):* Means the OBS approved curriculum for socialization and sexuality education and training regarding relationship and sexual matters, including (but not limited to) socialization and relationship-building skills, making friends, values clarification, support to couples about dating and intimate relationships, personal boundaries and stranger safety, sexually transmitted disease, birth control, pregnancy, childbirth, and sexual choice.

*Friends and Relationships Course Teacher:* Means Behavior Support Consultants and other individuals who have become certified to use the OBS-approved curricula to teach *Friends and Relationships Course* classes.

*Qualifications/Qualified:* Means education, specialized training, supervised practice, and/or other activities that demonstrate professional competency as defined by the OBS.

*Self-Advocates:* Means people with developmental disabilities who have learned or are learning to make their own decisions, speak up for themselves and others, take control of their own lives, create awareness about disability issues and achieve maximum independence and quality of life.

*Socialization:* Means the process whereby individuals are made aware of what is expected of them in social situations from their family, culture, tribe, school, friends, church, and other social or environmental settings.

## V. REFERENCES

Code of Conduct and Ethics of Professional Licensing Boards for Behavior Support Consultants

*Friends and Relationships Course* curriculum

Introduction to Sexuality for People with I/DD Training Manual

Policies or Guidelines of DDS:

- Aversive Intervention Policy
- Behavior Support Consultation Practice Guidelines
- Crisis Prevention/Intervention Policy and Procedure
- The Guidelines Concerning Sexual Contact and Consent 6-30-97
- S-002 & SP-002: Promoting Healthy Relationships for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Policy and Procedure
- S-003 & SP-003: Socialization and Sexuality Education for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Policy and Procedure
- S-004 & SP-004: *Friends and Relationships Course* Teacher Certification Policy and Procedure

Regulations:

- Developmental Disability Act [28 –16A-13 (C) (2)]
- 7 NMAC 26.2 - 6;
- 42 CFR 483.400-483.480;
- 7 NMAC 8.2

**Standards:**

- **Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards**
- **State General Fund Service Definitions and Standards**