NEW MEXICO
Department of Health
Division of Health Improvement

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Governor

PATRICK M. ALLEN
Cabinet Secretary

Date:	March 6, 2024
To:	Erin White-Canales, Executive Director
Provider: Address: State/Zip:	LSG and Associates Inc. 10320 Cottonwood Park NW, Suite A Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114
E-mail Address:	lsg4schools@lsg4schools.org
Region: Survey Date:	Metro February 5 – 14, 2024
Program Surveyed:	Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service Surveyed:	Community Integrated Employment Services
Survey Type:	Initial
Team Leader:	Ashley Gueths, BACJ, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau
Team Members:	Kaitlyn Taylor, BSW, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau; Jessica Maestas, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau; Armida Medina, Healthcare Surveyor, Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management.

Dear Ms. Erin White-Canales;

The Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau has completed a compliance survey of the services identified above. The purpose of the survey was to determine compliance with federal and state standards; to assure the health, safety, and welfare of individuals receiving services through the Developmental Disabilities Waiver; and to identify opportunities for improvement. This Report of Findings will be shared with the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division for their use in determining your current and future provider agreements. Upon receipt of this letter and Report of Findings your agency must immediately correct all deficiencies which place Individuals served at risk of harm.

Determination of Compliance:

The Division of Health Improvement, Quality Management Bureau has determined your agency is in:

Partial Compliance with Standard Level Tags and Conditions of Participation Level Tags: This determination is based on noncompliance with one to five (1 – 5) Condition of Participation Level Tags *(refer to Attachment D for details)*. The attached QMB Report of Findings indicates Standard Level and Condition of Participation Level deficiencies identified and requires completion and implementation of a Plan of Correction.

The following tags are identified as Condition of Participation Level:

- Tag # 1A20 Direct Support Professional Training
- Tag # 1A25.1 Caregiver Criminal History Screening
- Tag # 1A26.1 Employee Abuse Registry

The following tags are identified as Standard Level:

- Tag # 1A31.2 Human Right Committee Composition

Plan of Correction:

The attached Report of Findings identifies the deficiencies found during your agency's on-site compliance review. You are required to complete and implement a Plan of Correction. Your agency has a total of 45 business days (10 business days to submit your POC for approval and 35 days to implement your *approved* Plan of Correction) from the receipt of this letter.

You were provided information during the exit meeting portion of your on-site survey. Please refer to this information (Attachment A) for specific instructions on completing your Plan of Correction. At a minimum your Plan of Correction should address the following for each Tag cited:

Corrective Action for Current Citation:

- How is the deficiency going to be corrected? (i.e. obtained documents, retrain staff, individuals and/or staff no longer in service, void/adjusts completed, etc.) This can be specific to each deficiency cited or if possible an overall correction, i.e. all documents will be requested and filed as appropriate.

On-going Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Processes:

- What is going to be done on an ongoing basis? (i.e. file reviews, etc.)
- How many individuals is this going to effect? (i.e. percentage of individuals reviewed, number of files reviewed, etc.)
- How often will this be completed? (i.e. weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.)
- Who is responsible? (responsible position within your agency)
- What steps will be taken if issues are found? (i.e. retraining, requesting documents, filing RORA, etc.)
- How is this integrated in your agency's QIS, QI Committee reviews and annual report?

Submission of your Plan of Correction:

Please submit your agency's Plan of Correction in the available space on the two right-hand columns of the Report of Findings. *(See attachment "A" for additional guidance in completing the Plan of Correction)*.

Within 10 business days of receipt of this letter your agency Plan of Correction must be submitted to the parties below:

1. **Quality Management Bureau, Marie Passaglia, Plan of Correction Coordinator** at Marie.Passaglia@doh.nm.gov

2. **Developmental Disabilities Supports Division Regional Office for region of service surveyed**

Upon notification from QMB that your *Plan of Correction has been approved*, you must implement all remedies and corrective actions to come into compliance. If your Plan of Correction is denied, you must resubmit a revised plan as soon as possible for approval, as your POC approval and all remedies must be completed within 45 business days of the receipt of this letter.

Failure to submit your POC within the allotted 10 business days or complete and implement your Plan of Correction within the total 45 business days allowed may result in the imposition of a $200 per day Civil Monetary Penalty until it is received, completed and/or implemented.

Billing Deficiencies:

If you have deficiencies noted in this report of findings under the *Service Domain: Medicaid Billing/Reimbursement*, you must complete a "Void/Adjust" claim or remit the identified overpayment via a check within 30 calendar days of

the date of this letter to HSD/OIG/PIU, *though this is not the preferred method of payment*. If you choose to pay via check, please include a copy of this letter with the payment. Make the check payable to the New Mexico Human Services Department and mail to:

Attention: *Lisa Medina-Lujan*
HSD/OIG/Program Integrity Unit
PO Box 2348
1474 Rodeo Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

If you have questions and would like to speak with someone at HSD/OIG/PIU, please contact:

Lisa Medina-Lujan (Lisa.Medina-Lujan@hsd.nm.gov)

Please be advised that there is a one-week lag period for applying payments received by check to Void/Adjust claims. During this lag period, your other claim payments may be applied to the amount you owe even though you have sent a refund, reducing your payment amount. For this reason, we recommend that you allow the system to recover the overpayment instead of sending in a check.

Request for Informal Reconsideration of Findings (IRF):
If you disagree with a finding of deficient practice, you have 10 business days upon receipt of this notice to request an IRF. Submit your request for an IRF in writing to:

ATTN: QMB Bureau Chief
Request for Informal Reconsideration of Findings
5300 Homestead Rd NE, Suite 300-331
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Attention: IRF request/QMB

See Attachment "C" for additional guidance in completing the request for Informal Reconsideration of Findings. The request for an IRF will not delay the implementation of your Plan of Correction which must be completed within 45 total business days (10 business days to submit your POC for approval and 35 days to implement your *approved* Plan of Correction). Providers may not appeal to the nature or interpretation of the standard or regulation, the team composition or sampling methodology. If the IRF approves the modification or removal of a finding, you will be advised of any changes.

Please contact the Plan of Correction Coordinator, Marie Passaglia at 505-819-7344 or email at: Marie.Passaglia@doh.nm.gov if you have questions about the Report of Findings or Plan of Correction. Thank you for your cooperation and for the work you perform.

Sincerely,

Ashley Gueths, BACJ

Ashley Gueths, BACJ
Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor
Division of Health Improvement
Quality Management Bureau

Survey Process Employed:

Administrative Review Start Date:	February 5, 2024
Contact:	**LSG and Associates Inc.** Erin White-Canales, Executive Director **DOH/DHI/QMB** Ashley Gueths, BACJ, Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor
Entrance Conference Date:	February 5, 2024
Present:	**LSG and Associates Inc.** Erin White-Canales, Executive Director **DOH/DHI/QMB** Kaitlyn Taylor, BSW, Healthcare Surveyor Jessica Maestas, Healthcare Surveyor Armida Medina, Healthcare Surveyor
Exit Conference Date:	February 5, 2024
Present:	**LSG and Associates Inc.** Erin White-Canales, Executive Director Nathan Winham, LSG Business Development / Untapped Lead **DOH/DHI/QMB** Ashley Gueths, BACJ, Team Lead/Healthcare Surveyor Wolf Krusemark, BFA, Healthcare Surveyor Supervisor Kaitlyn Taylor, BSW, Healthcare Surveyor Jessica Maestas, Healthcare Surveyor Armida Medina, Healthcare Surveyor
Administrative Locations Visited:	0 (*Administrative portion of survey completed remotely)*
Total Survey Sample Size:	3 3 - Community Integrated Employment
Persons Served Records Reviewed	3
Persons Served Interviewed	3
Direct Support Professional Records Reviewed	1
Direct Support Professional Interviewed	1
Administrative Interview	1

Administrative Processes and Records Reviewed:

- Medicaid Billing/Reimbursement Records for all Services Provided
- Oversight of Individual Funds
- Individual Agency / Residential / Site Case Files, including, but not limited to:
    - Individual Service Plans
    - Progress on Identified Outcomes
    - Healthcare Plans

    - Medication Administration Records
    - Physician Orders
    - Therapy Plans
    - Healthcare Documentation Regarding Appointments and Required Follow-Up
    - Other Required Health Information / Therap Required Documents
- Internal Incident Management Reports and System Process / General Events Reports
- Personnel Files:
    - Training Records
    - Caregiver Criminal History Screening Records
    - Consolidated Online Registry/Employee Abuse Registry
- Interviews with the Individuals and Agency Personnel
- Human Rights Committee Notes and Meeting Minutes
- Quality Assurance / Improvement Plan
- Agency Policy and Procedure Manual

CC: Distribution List: DOH - Division of Health Improvement
DOH - Developmental Disabilities Supports Division
HSD - Medical Assistance Division

Attachment A

Provider Instructions for Completing the QMB Plan of Correction (POC) Process

Introduction:
After a QMB Compliance Survey, your QMB Report of Findings will be sent to you via e-mail.

Each provider must develop and implement a Plan of Correction (POC) that identifies specific quality assurance and quality improvement activities the agency will implement to correct deficiencies and prevent continued deficiencies and non-compliance.

Agencies must submit their Plan of Correction within ten (10) business days from the date you receive the QMB Report of Findings. (Providers who do not submit a POC within 10 business days may be referred to the DDSD Regional Office for purposes of contract management or the Internal Review Committee [IRC] for possible actions or sanctions).

Agencies must fully implement their approved Plan of Correction within 45 business days (10 business days to submit your POC for approval and 35 days to implement your approved Plan of Correction) from the date they receive the QMB Report of Findings. Providers who fail to complete a POC within the 45-business days allowed will be referred to the IRC for possible actions or sanctions.

If you have questions about the Plan of Correction process, call the Plan of Correction Coordinator at 505-819-7344 or email at Marie.Passaglia@doh.nm.gov Requests for technical assistance must be requested through your Regional DDSD Office.

The POC process cannot resolve disputes regarding findings. If you wish to dispute a finding on the official Report of Findings, you must file an Informal Reconsideration of Findings (IRF) request within ten (10) business days of receiving your report. Please note that you must still submit a POC for findings that are in question (see Attachment C).

Instructions for Completing Agency POC:

Required Content
Your Plan of Correction should provide a step-by-step description of the methods to correct each deficient practice cited to prevent recurrence and information that ensures the regulation cited comes into and remains in compliance. The remedies noted in your POC are expected to be added to your Agency's required, annual Quality Assurance (QA) Plan.

If a deficiency has already been corrected since the on-site survey, the plan should state how it was corrected, the completion date (date the correction was accomplished), and how possible recurrence of the deficiency will be prevented.

The following details should be considered when developing your Plan of Correction:

The Plan of Correction must address each deficiency cited in the Report of Findings unless otherwise noted with a "No Plan of Correction Required statement." The Plan of Correction must address the five (5) areas listed below:

1. How the specific and realistic corrective action will be accomplished for individuals found to have been affected by the deficient practice.
2. How the agency will identify other individuals who have the potential to be affected by the same deficient practice, and how the agency will act to protect those individuals in similar situations.
3. What Quality Assurance measures will be put into place and what systemic changes made to ensure the deficient practice will not recur.
4. Indicate how the agency plans to monitor its performance to make certain solutions are sustained. The agency must develop a QA plan for ensuring correction is achieved and sustained. This QA plan must be implemented, and the corrective action is evaluated for its effectiveness. The plan of correction is integrated into the agency quality assurance system; and

5. Include dates when corrective actions will be completed. The corrective action completion dates must be acceptable to the State.

The following details should be considered when developing your Plan of Correction:

- Details about how and when Individual Served, agency personnel and administrative and service delivery site files are audited by agency personnel to ensure they contain required documents;
- Information about how medication administration records are reviewed to verify they contain all required information before they are distributed to service sites, as they are being used, and after they are completed;
- Your processes for ensuring that all required agency personnel are trained on required DDSD required trainings;
- How accuracy in billing/reimbursement documentation is assured;
- How health, safety is assured;
- For Case Management providers, how Individual Service Plans are reviewed to verify they meet requirements, how the timeliness of level of care (LOC) packet submissions and consumer visits are tracked;
- Your process for gathering, analyzing and responding to quality data indicators; and,
- Details about Quality Targets in various areas, current status, analyses about why targets were not met, and remedies implemented.

Note: **Instruction or in-service of staff alone may not be a sufficient plan of correction.** This is a good first step toward correction, but additional steps must be taken to ensure the deficiency is corrected and will not recur.

Completion Dates

- The plan of correction must include a **completion date** (entered in the far right-hand column) for each finding. Be sure the date is **realistic** in the amount of time your Agency will need to correct the deficiency; not to exceed 45 total business days.
- Direct care issues should be corrected immediately and monitored appropriately.
- Some deficiencies may require a staged plan to accomplish total correction.
- Deficiencies requiring replacement of equipment, etc., may require more time to accomplish correction but should show reasonable time frames.

Initial Submission of the Plan of Correction Requirements

1. The Plan of Correction must be completed on the official QMB Survey Report of Findings/Plan of Correction Form and received by QMB within ten (10) business days from the date you received the report of findings.
2. For questions about the POC process, call the POC Coordinator, Marie Passaglia at 505-819-7344 or email at Marie.Passaglia@doh.nm.gov for assistance.
3. For Technical Assistance (TA) in developing or implementing your POC, contact your Regional DDSD Office.
4. Submit your POC to Marie Passaglia, POC Coordinator via email at Marie.Passaglia@doh.nm.gov. Please also submit your POC to your Developmental Disabilities Supports Division Regional Office for region of service surveyed.
5. *Do not submit supporting documentation* (evidence of compliance) to QMB *until after* your POC has been approved by the QMB.
6. QMB will notify you when your POC has been "approved" or "denied."
    a. During this time, whether your POC is "approved," or "denied," you will have a maximum of 45-business days from the date of receipt of your Report of Findings to correct all survey deficiencies.
    b. If your POC is denied, it must be revised and resubmitted as soon as possible, as the 45-business day limit is in effect.
    c. If your POC is denied a second time your agency may be referred to the Internal Review Committee.
    d. You will receive written confirmation when your POC has been approved by QMB and a final deadline for completion of your POC.
    e. Please note that all POC correspondence will be sent electronically unless otherwise requested.
7. Failure to submit your POC within 10 business days without prior approval of an extension by QMB will result in a referral to the Internal Review Committee and the possible implementation of monetary penalties and/or sanctions.

POC Document Submission Requirements

Once your POC has been approved by the QMB Plan of Correction Coordinator, you must submit copies of documents as evidence that all deficiencies have been corrected. You must also submit evidence of the ongoing Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement processes.

1. Your internal documents are due within a *maximum* of 45-business days of receipt of your Report of Findings.
2. Please submit your documents electronically according to the following: If documents do not contain protected Health information (PHI) then you may submit your documents electronically scanned and attached to the State email account. If documents contain PHI **do not** submit PHI directly to the State email account. *You may submit PHI **only** when **replying** to a **secure** email received from the State email account*. When possible, please submit requested documentation using a "zipped/compressed" file to reduce file size. You may also submit documents via S-Comm (Therap), or another electronic format, i.e., flash drive.
3. All submitted documents *must be annotated*; please be sure the tag numbers and Identification numbers are indicated on each document submitted. Documents which are not annotated with the Tag number and Identification number may not be accepted.
4. Do not submit original documents; Please provide copies or scanned electronic files for evidence. Originals must be maintained in the agency file(s) per DDSD Standards.
5. In lieu of some documents, you may submit copies of file or home audit forms that clearly indicate cited deficiencies have been corrected, other attestations of correction must be approved by the Plan of Correction Coordinator prior to their submission.
6. When billing deficiencies are cited, you must provide documentation to justify billing and/or void and adjust forms submitted to Xerox State Healthcare, LLC for the deficiencies cited in the Report of Findings.

Revisions, Modifications or Extensions to your Plan of Correction (post QMB approval) must be made in writing and submitted to the Plan of Correction Coordinator, prior to the due date and are approved on a case-by-case basis. No changes may be made to your POC or the timeframes for implementation without written approval of the POC Coordinator.

Attachment B

Department of Health, Division of Health Improvement
QMB Determination of Compliance Process

The Division of Health Improvement, Quality Management Bureau (QMB) surveys compliance of the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW) standards and other state and federal regulations. For the purpose of the LCA / CI survey the CMS waiver assurances have been grouped into four (4) Service Domains: Plan of Care (ISP Implementation); Qualified Providers; Health, Welfare and Safety; and Administrative Oversight (note that Administrative Oversight listed in this document is not the same as the CMS assurance of Administrative Authority. Used in this context it is related to the agency's operational policies and procedures, Quality Assurance system and Medicaid billing and reimbursement processes.)

The QMB Determination of Compliance process is based on provider compliance or non-compliance with standards and regulations identified during the on-site survey process and as reported in the QMB Report of Findings. All areas reviewed by QMB have been agreed to by DDSD and DHI/QMB and are reflective of CMS requirements. All deficiencies (non-compliance with standards and regulations) are identified and cited as either a Standard level deficiency or a Condition of Participation level deficiency in the QMB Reports of Findings. All deficiencies require corrective action when non-compliance is identified.

Each deficiency in your Report of Findings has been predetermined to be a Standard Level Deficiency, a Condition of Participation Level Deficiency, if below 85% compliance or a non-negotiable Condition of Participation Level Deficiency. Your Agency's overall Compliance Determination is based on a Scope and Severity Scale which takes into account the number of Standard and Condition Level Tags cited as well as the percentage of Individuals affected in the sample.

Conditions of Participation (CoPs)

CoPs are based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Home and Community-Based Waiver required assurances, in addition to the New Mexico Developmental Disability Waiver (DDW) Service Standards. The Division of Health Improvement (DHI), in conjunction with the Developmental Disability Support Division (DDSD), has identified certain deficiencies that have the potential to be a Condition of Participation Level, if the tag falls below 85% compliance based on the number of people affected. Additionally, there are what are called non-negotiable Conditions of Participation, regardless if one person or multiple people are affected. In this context, a CoP is defined as an essential / fundamental regulation or standard, which when out of compliance directly affects the health and welfare of the Individuals served. If no deficiencies within a Tag are at the level of a CoP, it is cited as a Standard Level Deficiency.

Service Domains and CoPs for <u>Living Care Arrangements and Community Inclusion</u> are as follows:

<u>Service Domain: Service Plan: ISP Implementation -</u> *Services are delivered in accordance with the service plan, including type, scope, amount, duration and frequency specified in the service plan.*

Potential Condition of Participation Level Tags, if compliance is below 85%:

- **1A08.3 –** Administrative Case File: Individual Service Plan / ISP Components
- **1A32 –** Administrative Case File: Individual Service Plan Implementation
- **LS14 –** Residential Service Delivery Site Case File (ISP and Healthcare Requirements)
- **IS14 –** CCS / CIES Service Delivery Site Case File (ISP and Healthcare Requirements)

<u>Service Domain: Qualified Providers -</u> *The State monitors non-licensed/non-certified providers to assure adherence to waiver requirements. The State implements its policies and procedures for verifying that provider training is conducted in accordance with State requirements and the approved waiver.*

Potential Condition of Participation Level Tags, if compliance is below 85%:

- **1A20 -** Direct Support Professional Training
- **1A22 -** Agency Personnel Competency

- **1A37 –** Individual Specific Training

Non-Negotiable Condition of Participation Level Tags (one or more Individuals are cited):
- **1A25.1 –** Caregiver Criminal History Screening
- **1A26.1 –** Consolidated On-line Registry Employee Abuse Registry

Service Domain: Health, Welfare and Safety - *The State, on an ongoing basis, identifies, addresses and seeks to prevent occurrences of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Individuals shall be afforded their basic human rights. The provider supports individuals to access needed healthcare services in a timely manner.*

Potential Condition of Participation Level Tags, if compliance is below 85%:
- **1A08.2 –** Administrative Case File: Healthcare Requirements & Follow-up
- **1A09 –** Medication Delivery Routine Medication Administration
- **1A09.1 –** Medication Delivery PRN Medication Administration
- **1A15.2 –** Administrative Case File: Healthcare Documentation (Therap and Required Plans)

Non-Negotiable Condition of Participation Level Tags (one or more Individuals are cited):
- **1A05 –** General Requirements / Agency Policy and Procedure Requirements
- **1A07 –** Social Security Income (SSI) Payments
- **1A09.2 –** Medication Delivery Nurse Approval for PRN Medication
- **1A15 –** Healthcare Coordination - Nurse Availability / Knowledge
- **1A31 –** Client Rights/Human Rights
- **LS25.1 –** Residential Reqts. (Physical Environment - Supported Living / Family Living / Intensive Medical Living)

Attachment C

Guidelines for the Provider
Informal Reconsideration of Finding (IRF) Process

Introduction:
Throughout the QMB Survey process, surveyors are openly communicating with providers. Open communication means surveyors have clarified issues and/or requested missing information before completing the review through the use of the signed/dated "Document Request," or "Administrative Needs," etc. forms. Regardless, there may still be instances where the provider disagrees with a specific finding. Providers may use the following process to informally dispute a finding.

Instructions:
1. The Informal Reconsideration of the Finding (IRF) request must be received in writing to the QMB Bureau Chief **within 10 business days** of receipt of the final Report of Findings **(*Note: No extensions are granted for the IRF)*.**
2. The written request for an IRF *must* be completed on the QMB Request for Informal Reconsideration of Finding form available on the QMB website: Microsoft Word - IRF-QMB-Form.doc (nmhealth.org)
3. The written request for an IRF must specify in detail the request for reconsideration and why the finding is inaccurate.
4. The IRF request must include all supporting documentation or evidence.
5. If you have questions about the IRF process, email the IRF Chairperson, Valerie V. Valdez at valerie.valdez@doh.nm.gov for assistance.

The following limitations apply to the IRF process:
- The written request for an IRF and all supporting evidence must be received within 10 business days.
- Findings based on evidence requested during the survey and not provided may not be subject to reconsideration.
- The supporting documentation must be new evidence not previously reviewed or requested by the survey team.
- Providers must continue to complete their Plan of Correction during the IRF process
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the sampling methodology.
- Providers may not request an IRF based on disagreement with the nature of the standard or regulation.
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the team composition.
- Providers may not request an IRF to challenge the DHI/QMB determination of compliance or the length of their DDSD provider contract.

A Provider forfeits the right to an IRF if the request is not received within 10 business days of receiving the report and/or does not include all supporting documentation or evidence to show compliance with the standards and regulations.

The IRF Committee will review the request; the Provider will be notified in writing of the ruling; no face-to-face meeting will be conducted.

When a Provider requests that a finding be reconsidered, it does not stop or delay the Plan of Correction process. **Providers must continue to complete the Plan of Correction, including the finding in dispute regardless of the IRF status.** If a finding is removed or modified, it will be noted and removed or modified from the Report of Findings. It should be noted that in some cases a Plan of Correction may be completed prior to the IRF process being completed. The provider will be notified in writing on the decisions of the IRF committee.

Attachment D

QMB Determinations of Compliance

Compliance:

The QMB determination of *Compliance* indicates that a provider has either no deficiencies found during a survey or that no deficiencies at the Condition of Participation Level were found. The agency has obtained a level of compliance such that there is a minimal potential for harm to individuals' health and safety. To qualify for a determination of *Compliance*, the provider must have received no Conditions of Participation Level Deficiencies and have a minimal number of Individuals on the sample affected by the findings indicated in the Standards Level Tags.

Partial-Compliance with Standard Level Tags:

The QMB determination of *Partial-Compliance with Standard Level Tags* indicates that a provider is in compliance with all Condition of Participation Level deficiencies but is out of compliance with a certain percentage of Standard Level deficiencies. This partial-compliance, if not corrected, may result in a negative outcome or the potential for more than minimal harm to individuals' health and safety. There are two ways to receive a determination of Partial Compliance with Standard Level Tags:

1. Your Report of Findings includes 16 or fewer Standards Level Tags with between 75% and 100% of the survey sample affected in any tag.

2. Your Report of Findings includes 17 or more Standard Level Tags with between 50% to 74% of the survey sample affected in any tag.

Partial-Compliance with Standard Level Tags and Condition of Participation Level Tags:

The QMB determination of *Partial-Compliance with Standard Level Tags and Condition of Participation Level Tags* indicates that a provider is out of compliance with one to five (1 – 5) Condition of Participation Level Tags. This partial-compliance, if not corrected, may result in a serious negative outcome or the potential for more than minimal harm to individuals' health and safety.

Non-Compliance:

The QMB determination of *Non-Compliance* indicates a provider is significantly out of compliance with both Standard Level deficiencies and Conditions of Participation level deficiencies. This non-compliance, if not corrected, may result in a serious negative outcome or the potential for more than minimal harm to individuals' health and safety. There are three ways an agency can receive a determination of Non-Compliance:

1. Your Report of Findings includes 17 or more total Tags with 0 to 5 Condition of Participation Level Tags with 75% to 100% of the survey sample affected in any Condition of Participation Level tag.

2. Your Report of Findings includes any amount of Standard Level Tags with 6 or more Condition of Participation Level Tags.

Compliance Determination	Weighting						
	LOW		MEDIUM			HIGH	
Total Tags:	up to 16	17 or more	up to 16	17 or more	Any Amount	17 or more	Any Amount
	and	and	and	and	And/or	and	And/or
COP Level Tags:	0 COP	0 COP	0 COP	0 COP	1 to 5 COP	0 to 5 CoPs	6 or more COP
	and	and	and	and		and	
Sample Affected:	0 to 74%	0 to 49%	75 to 100%	50 to 74%		75 to 100%	
"Non-Compliance"						**17 or more** Total Tags with **75 to 100%** of the Individuals in the sample cited in any CoP Level tag.	**Any Amount** of Standard Level Tags and **6 or more** Conditions of Participation Level Tags.
"Partial Compliance with Standard Level tags and Condition of Participation Level Tags"					**Any Amount** Standard Level Tags, plus **1 to 5** Conditions of Participation Level tags.		
"Partial Compliance with Standard Level tags"			**up to 16** Standard Level Tags with **75 to 100%** of the individuals in the sample cited in any tag.	**17 or more** Standard Level Tags with **50 to 74%** of the individuals in the sample cited any tag.			
"Compliance"	**Up to 16** Standard Level Tags with **0 to 74%** of the individuals in the sample cited in any tag.	**17 or more** Standard Level Tags with **0 to 49%** of the individuals in the sample cited in any tag.					

Agency: **LSG and Associates Inc. - Metro Region**
Program: Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service: Community Integrated Employment Services
Survey Type: Initial
Survey Date: **February 5 - 14, 2024**

Standard of Care	Deficiencies	Agency Plan of Correction, On-going QA/QI and Responsible Party	Completion Date
Service Domain: Qualified Providers – *The State monitors non-licensed/non-certified providers to assure adherence to waiver requirements. The State implements its policies and procedures for verifying that provider training is conducted in accordance with State requirements and the approved waiver.*			
Tag # 1A20 Direct Support Professional Training	**Condition of Participation Level Deficiency**		
Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards Eff 11/1/2023 rev. 12/2023 **Chapter 17 Training Requirements: 17.1 Training Requirements for Direct Support Professional and Direct Support Supervisors:** Direct Support Professional (DSP) and Direct Support Supervisors (DSS) include staff and contractors from agencies providing the following services: Supported Living, Family Living, CIHS, IMLS, CCS, CIE and Crisis Supports… The training shall address at least the following: • Individual Specific Training • First Aid • CPR • Assisting With Medication Delivery (AWMD) Part 1 Session 1 & 2 **…** **17.1.13 Training Requirements for Service Coordinators (SC):** Service Coordinators (SCs) refer to staff at agencies providing the following services: Supported Living, Family Living, Customized In-home Supports, Intensive Medical Living, Customized Community Supports, Community Integrated Employment, and Crisis Supports…The training shall address at least the following: • Individual Specific Training • First Aid • CPR • Assisting With Medication Delivery (AWMD) Part 1 Session 1 & 2 …	After an analysis of the evidence it has been determined there is a significant potential for a negative outcome to occur. Based on record review, the Agency did not ensure Orientation and Training requirements were met for 1 of 1 Direct Support Professional, Direct Support Supervisory Personnel and / or Service Coordinators. Review of Agency training records found no evidence of the following required DOH/DDSD trainings being completed: **First Aid:** • Not Found (#500) **CPR:** • Not Found (#500)	**Provider:** **State your Plan of Correction for the deficiencies cited in this tag here** *(How is the deficiency going to be corrected? This can be specific to each deficiency cited or if possible an overall correction?)***:** → **Provider:** **Enter your ongoing Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement processes as it related to this tag number here** *(What is going to be done? How many individuals is this going to affect? How often will this be completed? Who is responsible? What steps will be taken if issues are found?)***:** →	

(see DDW Standards Chapter 17 Training Requirements for all training specifics)			

Tag # 1A25.1 Caregiver Criminal History Screening	Condition of Participation Level Deficiency		
NMAC 7.1.9.8 CAREGIVER AND HOSPITAL CAREGIVER EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS: **A. General:** The responsibility for compliance with the requirements of the act applies to both the care provider and to all applicants, caregivers and hospital caregivers. All applicants for employment to whom an offer of employment is made or caregivers and hospital caregivers employed by or contracted to a care provider must consent to a nationwide and statewide criminal history screening, as described in Subsections D, E and F of this section, upon offer of employment or at the time of entering into a contractual relationship with the care provider. Care providers shall submit all fees and pertinent application information for all applicants, caregivers or hospital caregivers as described in Subsections D, E and F of this section. Pursuant to Section 29-17-5 NMSA 1978 (Amended) of the act, a care provider's failure to comply is grounds for the state agency having enforcement authority with respect to the care provider] to impose appropriate administrative sanctions and penalties. **B. Exception:** A caregiver or hospital caregiver applying for employment or contracting services with a care provider within twelve (12) months of the caregiver's or hospital caregiver's most recent nationwide criminal history screening which list no disqualifying convictions shall only apply for a statewide criminal history screening upon offer of employment or at the time of entering into a contractual relationship with the care provider. At the discretion of the care provider a nationwide criminal history screening, additional to the required statewide criminal history screening, may be requested. **C. Conditional Employment:** Applicants, caregivers, and hospital caregivers who have	After an analysis of the evidence, it has been determined there is a significant potential for a negative outcome to occur. Based on record review, the Agency did not maintain documentation indicating Caregiver Criminal History Screening was completed as required for 1 of 1 Agency Personnel. **The following Agency Personnel Files contained no evidence of Caregiver Criminal History Screenings:** **Direct Support Professional (DSP):** • #500 – Date of hire 3/3/2023.	**Provider:** **State your Plan of Correction for the deficiencies cited in this tag here** *(How is the deficiency going to be corrected? This can be specific to each deficiency cited or if possible an overall correction?)*: → **Provider:** **Enter your ongoing Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement processes as it related to this tag number here** *(What is going to be done? How many individuals is this going to affect? How often will this be completed? Who is responsible? What steps will be taken if issues are found?)*: →	

submitted all completed documents and paid all applicable fees for a nationwide and statewide criminal history screening may be deemed to have conditional supervised employment pending receipt of written notice given by the department as to whether the applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver has a disqualifying conviction. **F. Timely Submission:** Care providers shall submit all fees and pertinent application information for all individuals who meet the definition of an applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver as described in Subsections B, D and K of 7.1.9.7 NMAC, no later than twenty (20) calendar days from the first day of employment or effective date of a contractual relationship with the care provider. **G. Maintenance of Records:** Care providers shall maintain documentation relating to all employees and contractors evidencing compliance with the act and these rules. (1) During the term of employment, care providers shall maintain evidence of each applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver's clearance, pending reconsideration, or disqualification. (2) Care providers shall maintain documented evidence showing the basis for any determination by the care provider that an employee or contractor performs job functions that do not fall within the scope of the requirement for nationwide or statewide criminal history screening. A memorandum in an employee's file stating "This employee does not provide direct care or have routine unsupervised physical or financial access to care recipients served by [name of care provider]," together with the employee's job description, shall suffice for record keeping purposes. **NMAC 7.1.9.9 CAREGIVERS OR HOSPITAL CAREGIVERS AND APPLICANTS WITH DISQUALIFYING CONVICTIONS:**			

A. Prohibition on Employment: A care provider shall not hire or continue the employment or contractual services of any applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver for whom the care provider has received notice of a disqualifying conviction, except as provided in Subsection B of this section. **NMAC 7.1.9.11 DISQUALIFYING CONVICTIONS.** The following felony convictions disqualify an applicant, caregiver or hospital caregiver from employment or contractual services with a care provider: **A.** homicide; **B.** trafficking, or trafficking in controlled substances; **C.** kidnapping, false imprisonment, aggravated assault or aggravated battery; **D.** rape, criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual contact, incest, indecent exposure, or other related felony sexual offenses; **E.** crimes involving adult abuse, neglect or financial exploitation; **F.** crimes involving child abuse or neglect; **G.** crimes involving robbery, larceny, extortion, burglary, fraud, forgery, embezzlement, credit card fraud, or receiving stolen property; or **H**. an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy involving any of the felonies in this subsection. Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards Eff 11/1/2023 rev. 12/2023 **Chapter 16 Qualified Provider Agencies:** **16.1 Caregivers Criminal History Screening Program:** The Caregivers Criminal History Screening Program (CCHSP) is essential to the enforcement of the DOH policy of "Zero Tolerance" of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (ANE) and to the DHI mission of enhancing the quality of health systems for all New Mexicans… 1. For the purposes of the DD Waiver, the CCHSP applies to any non-licensed person			

whose employment, contractual or volunteer service with a DD Waiver Provider Agency includes direct care or routine and unsupervised physical or financial access to any care recipient serviced by that Provider Agency including: a. DSP, Direct Support Supervisors and Service Coordinators for CCS, CIE, Respite, CIHS, and Living Supports (Family Living, Supported Living, and IMLS); b. any unlicensed CMs; c. administrators or operators of facilities who are routinely on site where support is provided; d. any unlicensed providers of SSE; and e. any compensated persons such as employees, contractors, volunteers, and employees of contractors. 2. All non-licensed personnel must obtain a caregiver criminal history screening background check within 20 calendar days of hire (NMAC7.1.9). Provider Agencies must also check the EAR prior to hiring or contracting with an employee (NMAC 7.1.12). 3. Individuals with a disqualifying criminal conviction or who have been placed on the EAR for a substantiation of ANE are not eligible to work as a caregiver or have access to patient/client/resident information or records.			

Tag # 1A26.1 Employee Abuse Registry	Condition of Participation Level Deficiency		
NMAC 7.1.12.8 - REGISTRY ESTABLISHED; PROVIDER INQUIRY REQUIRED: Upon the effective date of this rule, the department has established and maintains an accurate and complete electronic registry that contains the name, date of birth, address, social security number, and other appropriate identifying information of all persons who, while employed by a provider, have been determined by the department, as a result of an investigation of a complaint, to have engaged in a substantiated registry-referred incident of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a person receiving care or services from a provider. Additions and updates to the registry shall be posted no later than two (2) business days following receipt. Only department staff designated by the custodian may access, maintain and update the data in the registry. A. **Provider requirement to inquire of registry**. A provider, prior to employing or contracting with an employee, shall inquire of the registry whether the individual under consideration for employment or contracting is listed on the registry. B. **Prohibited employment.** A provider may not employ or contract with an individual to be an employee if the individual is listed on the registry as having a substantiated registry-referred incident of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a person receiving care or services from a provider. C. **Applicant's identifying information required**. In making the inquiry to the registry prior to employing or contracting with an employee, the provider shall use identifying information concerning the individual under consideration for employment or contracting sufficient to reasonably and completely search the registry, including the name, address, date of birth, social security number, and other	After an analysis of the evidence, it has been determined there is a significant potential for a negative outcome to occur. Based on record review, the Agency did not maintain documentation in the employee's personnel records that evidenced inquiry into the Employee Abuse Registry prior to employment for 1 of 1 Agency Personnel. **The following Agency personnel records contained no evidence of the Employee Abuse Registry check being completed:** **Direct Support Professional (DSP):** • #1 – Date of hire 3/3/2023.	**Provider:** **State your Plan of Correction for the deficiencies cited in this tag here** *(How is the deficiency going to be corrected? This can be specific to each deficiency cited or if possible an overall correction?)*: → **Provider:** **Enter your ongoing Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement processes as it related to this tag number here** *(What is going to be done? How many individuals is this going to affect? How often will this be completed? Who is responsible? What steps will be taken if issues are found?)*: →	

appropriate identifying information required by the registry. D. **Documentation of inquiry to registry**. The provider shall maintain documentation in the employee's personnel or employment records that evidences the fact that the provider made an inquiry to the registry concerning that employee prior to employment. Such documentation must include evidence, based on the response to such inquiry received from the custodian by the provider, that the employee was not listed on the registry as having a substantiated registry-referred incident of abuse, neglect or exploitation. E. **Documentation for other staff**. With respect to all employed or contracted individuals providing direct care who are licensed health care professionals or certified nurse aides, the provider shall maintain documentation reflecting the individual's current licensure as a health care professional or current certification as a nurse aide. F. **Consequences of noncompliance**. The department or other governmental agency having regulatory enforcement authority over a provider may sanction a provider in accordance with applicable law if the provider fails to make an appropriate and timely inquiry of the registry, or fails to maintain evidence of such inquiry, in connection with the hiring or contracting of an employee; or for employing or contracting any person to work as an employee who is listed on the registry. Such sanctions may include a directed plan of correction, civil monetary penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5000) per instance, or termination or non-renewal of any contract with the department or other governmental agency.			

Standard of Care	Deficiencies	Agency Plan of Correction, On-going QA/QI and Responsible Party	Completion Date
Service Domain: Health and Welfare – *The state, on an ongoing basis, identifies, addresses and seeks to prevent occurrences of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Individuals shall be afforded their basic human rights. The provider supports individuals to access needed healthcare services in a timely manner.*			
Tag # 1A31.2 Human Right Committee Composition	**Standard Level Deficiency**		
Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards Eff 11/1/2023 rev. 12/2023 **Chapter 3 Safeguards: 3.4 *Human Rights Committee:*** Human Rights Committees (HRC) exist to protect the rights and freedoms of all waiver participants through the review of proposed restrictions to a person's rights based on a documented health and safety concern of a severe nature (e.g., a serious, significant, credible threat or act of harm against self, others, or property). HRCs monitor the implementation of certain time-limited restrictive interventions designed to protect a waiver participant and/or the community from harm. An HRC may also serve other functions as appropriate, such as the review of agency policies on the use of emergency physical restraint or sexuality if desired. HRCs are required for all Living Supports (Supported Living, Family Living, Intensive Medical Living Services), Customized Community Supports (CCS) and Community Integrated Employment (CIE) Provider Agencies. 1. HRC membership must include: a. at least one member with a diagnosis of I/DD; b. a parent or guardian of a person with I/DD; c. a health care services professional (e.g., a physician or nurse); and d. a member from the community at large that is not directly associated (currently or within the past three (3) years) with DD Waiver services.	Based on record review and interview, the Agency did not ensure the correct composition of the human rights committee. **No evidence was found indicating the Agency had a HRC committee with the required members:** • *at least one member with a diagnosis of I/DD.* • *a parent or guardian of a person with I/DD* • *a health care services professional (e.g., a physician or nurse)* • *a member from the community at large that is not associated (past or present) with DD Waiver services.* **When asked if the Agency had a Human Rights Committee consisting of all required members, the following was reported:** • **#501** stated, "LSG has not been invited to an HRC meeting yet". Agency is currently not part of an HRC.	**Provider:** **State your Plan of Correction for the deficiencies cited in this tag here** *(How is the deficiency going to be corrected? This can be specific to each deficiency cited or if possible an overall correction?)***:** → **Provider:** **Enter your ongoing Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement processes as it related to this tag number here** *(What is going to be done? How many individuals is this going to affect? How often will this be completed? Who is responsible? What steps will be taken if issues are found?)***:** →	

Standard of Care	Deficiencies	Agency Plan of Correction, On-going QA/QI and Responsible Party	Completion Date
Service Domain: Medicaid Billing/Reimbursement – *State financial oversight exists to assure that claims are coded and paid for in accordance with the reimbursement methodology specified in the approved waiver.*			
Tag #1A12 All Services Reimbursement	**No Deficient Practices Found**		
NMAC 8.302.2 Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards Eff 11/1/2023 rev. 12/2023 **Chapter 21: Billing Requirements; 23.1 Recording Keeping and Documentation Requirements:** DD Waiver Provider Agencies must maintain all records necessary to demonstrate proper provision of services for Medicaid billing. At a minimum, Provider Agencies must adhere to the following: 1. The level and type of service provided must be supported in the ISP and have an approved budget prior to service delivery and billing. 2. Comprehensive documentation of direct service delivery must include, at a minimum: a. the agency name; b. the name of the recipient of the service; c. the location of the service; d. the date of the service; e. the type of service; f. the start and end times of the service; g. the signature and title of each staff member who documents their time; and 3. Details of the services provided. A Provider Agency that receives payment for treatment, services, or goods must retain all medical and business records for a period of at least six years from the last payment date, until ongoing audits are settled, or until involvement of the state Attorney General is completed regarding settlement of any claim, whichever is longer… **21.4 Electronic Visit Verification:** Section 12006(a) of the 21st Century Cures Act (the Cures Act) requires that states implement Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for all Medicaid services under the umbrella of	Based on record review, the Agency maintained all the records necessary to fully disclose the nature, quality, amount and medical necessity of services furnished to an eligible recipient who is currently receiving DDW services for 3 of 3 individuals. *Progress notes and billing records supported billing activities for the months of October, November, and December 2023 for the following services:* • Community Integrated Employment Services		

personal care and home health care that require an in-home visit by a provider. The EVV system verifies the: a. **Type** of service performed. b. **Individual receiving** the service. c. **Date** of service. d. **Location** of service delivery. e. **Individual providing** the service. f. **Time** the service begins and ends. **21.7 Billable Activities**: Specific billable activities are defined in the scope of work and service requirements for each DD Waiver service. In addition, any billable activity must also be consistent with the person's approved ISP. **21.9 Billable Units**: The unit of billing depends on the service type. The unit may be a 15-minute interval, a daily unit, a monthly unit, or a dollar amount. The unit of billing is identified in the current DD Waiver Rate Table. Provider Agencies must correctly report service units. **21.9.1 Requirements for Daily Units:** For services billed in daily units, Provider Agencies must adhere to the following: 1. A day is considered 24 hours from midnight to midnight. 2. If 12 or fewer hours of service are provided, then one-half unit shall be billed. A whole unit can be billed if more than 12 hours of service is provided during a 24-hour period. 3. The maximum allowable billable units cannot exceed 340 calendar days per ISP year or 170 calendar days per six months. **21.9.2 Requirements for Monthly Units:** For services billed in monthly units, a Provider Agency must adhere to the following: 1. A month is considered a period of 30 calendar days.			

2. Face-to-face billable services shall be provided during a month where any portion of a monthly unit is billed. 3. Monthly units can be prorated by a half unit. **21.9.4 Requirements for 15-minute and hourly units:** For services billed in 15-minute or hourly intervals, Provider Agencies must adhere to the following: 1. When time spent providing the service is not exactly 15 minutes or one hour, Provider Agencies are responsible for reporting time correctly following NMAC 8.302.2. 2. Services that last in their entirety less than eight minutes cannot be billed.			

NEW MEXICO
Department of Health
Division of Health Improvement

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Governor

PATRICK M. ALLEN
Cabinet Secretary

Date:	May 6, 2024
To:	Erin White-Canales, Executive Director
Provider:	LSG and Associates Inc.
Address:	10320 Cottonwood Park NW, Suite A
State/Zip:	Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114
E-mail Address:	lsg4schools@lsg4schools.org
Region:	Metro
Survey Date:	February 5 – 14, 2024
Program Surveyed:	Developmental Disabilities Waiver
Service Surveyed:	Community Integrated Employment Services
Survey Type:	Initial

Dear Ms. Erin White-Canales:

The Division of Health Improvement/Quality Management Bureau has received, reviewed and approved the supporting documents you submitted for your Plan of Correction. The documents you provided verified that all previously cited survey Deficiencies have been corrected.

The Plan of Correction process is now complete.

Furthermore, your agency is now determined to be in Compliance with all Conditions of Participation.

To maintain ongoing compliance with standards and regulations, continue to use the Quality Assurance (self-auditing) processes you described in your Plan of Correction.

Consistent use of these Quality Assurance processes will enable you to identify and promptly respond to problems, enhance your service delivery, and result in fewer deficiencies cited in future QMB surveys.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Plan of Correction process, for striving to come into compliance with standards and regulations, and for helping to provide the health, safety and personal growth of the people you serve.

Sincerely,

Marie Passaglia, BA

Marie Passaglia, BA
Healthcare Surveyor Advanced/Plan of Correction Coordinator
Quality Management Bureau/DHI

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