DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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Allocations, Allocations, and More Allocations!

The Division is making great progress towards the goal of eliminating the Wait List for the DD and Mi Via Waivers. The Intake & Eligibility Bureau (IEB) has sent out over twelve hundred Letters of Interest (LOI) and Primary Freedom of Choice (PFOC) forms since November 2021. These letters go to the individuals on the wait list with the oldest registration dates who are awaiting an allocation. The next batch of 700 letters is scheduled to go out in mid-March. These will be sent to individuals on the Wait List with registration dates through December 31, 2013.

Obviously, this is an incredible amount of work for the Intake & Eligibility Bureau. Each Eligibility Worker is managing more allocations than the Division awarded most previous years. Any assistance we can get with encouraging

Submitted by Teresa Larson, IEB Bureau Chief

individuals and/or guardians to return their completed PFOC in a timely manner would be greatly appreciated. We also ask for your patience when you call or e-mail us as we are probably already on the phone or responding to other e-mails.

In addition to allocations, the Bureau continues to receive new registrations and applications for individuals to be added to the Wait List. On average, the Bureau receives about 90 new applications each month. About a third of those applications result in an individual being added to the Wait List. As long as we can keep allocating more individuals to the waiver than we add to the Wait List, we will continue to make progress towards the ultimate goal of eliminating the Wait List!

Mi Via Vendor Agency Meetings

Submitted by Melanie Buenviaje, HSD Bureau Chief

HSD has begun hosting Mi Via vendor agency meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to review and discuss program and system development and improvements as they relate to vendors who provide services to Mi Via participants. The meetings are held on the first Friday of every month. Vendor agencies from all services are welcome to join. If you would like to participate or receive additional information about the meetings, please contact Jennifer Romero, ESPB/HSD at: Jennifer.Romero3@state.nm.us.

Submitted by Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

The following data is current through February 28, 2022, and reflects individuals receiving Home and Community Based Waiver services.

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES	
DD Waiver	865
Mi Via Waiver	332
Medically Fragile Waiver	37
State General Funded	5
Supports Waiver Services	11
Total	1,250

COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS	Last death reported February 14, 2022
DD Waiver	25 (including 4 Jackson Class Members)
Mi Via Waiver	15
Medically Fragile Waiver	3
State General Fund Services	0
Supports Waiver Services	0
Total	43 (40 adults and 3 children)

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES BY MONTH (7/01/21-02/28/22)		
July 2021:	7	
August 2021:	29	
September 2021:	37	
October 2021:	34	
November 2021:	82	
December 2021:	85	
January 2022:	304	
(the highest recorded month of COVID-19 positive cases during the pandemic)		
February 2022	71	

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES BY YEAR		
2020		445
2021		429
2022	(through February 28, 2022)	376

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES BY YEAR		
Fully Vaccinated	4,437 of 5,684 or 78%	(Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines)
Booster Shot	3,059 of 5,684 or 53.8%	(Pfizer and Moderna only)

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS



COVID Policy Update: DDSD Mask Mandate Remains Unchanged

Submitted by Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

DDSD issued a memorandum on February 17, 2022, clarifying mask requirements for all Community Homes nd Congregate Care Facilities. The complete memo, including additional information, can be found at: COVID-19 Information for DD Providers (nmhealth.org).

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham lifted the public indoor mask mandate through a Public Health Order (PHO) also issued on February 17, 2022. The Public Health Order (PHO) updates the indoor mask-wearing requirements with some exceptions, including "Adult Day Cares", or Congregate Care Facilities.

The February 17th memo issued by DDSD states the following:

The PHO does not change the existing mask requirements issued by DDSD. The mask mandate remains in effect for all Community Homes and Congregate Care facilities regulated by DDSD.

Since the onset of the pandemic, DDSD has defined "Adult Day Cares" or Congregate Care Facilities as any facility based Day or Employment service offered within any of the DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, Supports Waiver, or State General Funded programs.

DDSD has defined Community Homes as any DD Waiver Supported Living, Intensive Medical Living, and State General Funded residential homes. DD Waiver Family Living, DD Waiver Customized In-Home Supports, and Mi Via Waiver In-Home Living Supports does not meet the definition of Community Home. If you have questions, please contact the following DDSD Staff:

- DD Waiver Program Manager, Marie Velasco (marie.velasco@state.nm.us)
- Mi Via Waiver Program Manager, Elaine Hill (elaine.hill@state.nm.us)
- Medically Fragile Waiver Program Manager, Iris Clevenger (iris.clevenger@state.nm.us)
- Supports Waiver Program Manager, Jennifer Roth (jennifer.roth@state.nm.us)
- State General Fund Program Manager, Juanita Salas (juanita.salas@state.nm.us)

o NWRO: Michele Groblebe (michele.groblebe@state.nm.us)

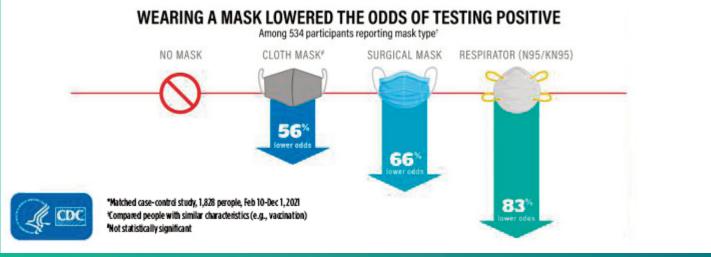
o NERO: Angela Pacheco (angela.pacheco@state.nm.us)

o SERO: Michelle Lyon (michelle.lyon@state.nm.us)

o SWRO: Isabel Casaus (isabel.casaus@state.nm.us)

 Regional Office Bureau Chief: Angie Brooks (angie.brooks@state.nm.us)

People who reported always wearing a mask in indoor public settings were less likely to test positive for COVID-19 than people who didn't



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 23, 2022

NMDOH highlights guidance for immunocompromised patients and booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine for special populations

SANTA FE - The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) today announced an enhanced COVID-19 tool kit for a subset of immunocompromised New Mexicans. Among the updated recommendations are increased access to treatments, continued mask wearing, and an additional booster vaccine for severely immunocompromised individuals, transplant recipients, and those in active cancer treatment.

"Hospitalizations and case counts are down, but we need to be mindful of those in our communities at higher risk for severe outcomes associated with COVID-19, including the immunocompromised and those with chronic illnesses," said Acting NMDOH Cabinet Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D. "We demonstrate our support by recommending additional boosters to those eligible, increasing access to treatments, and calling on all New Mexicans to respect that many will continue to wear masks indoors."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially suggested an additional dose for the more vulnerable population earlier this year, after determining the protective value of the vaccine against emerging variants. The recommendation that moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals receive a COVID-19 booster dose is further specified by the CDC here.

To protect yourself, a "toolkit" of extra layers of protection against COVID-19 is recommended:

Vaccination Prevents hospitalization and death from COVID-19



Long-Acting Antibodies

Used for the prevention of COVID-19 in addition to vaccine



Mask Wearing Decrease exposure to COVID-19 droplets



Getting tested early if you have symptoms of COVID will help you get access to COVID treatment more rapidly

Early Treatment Early treatment with either oral or IV COVID medications will help prevent hospitalization and death



Social Distancing & Avoiding Large Gatherings

If you are immunocompromised, practicing social distancing and avoiding large gatherings can also help protect you

Individuals are considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised if one or more of the following is true:

- They are receiving active chemotherapy or radiation for tumors or blood cancers
- They have received an organ transplant and are taking anti-rejection medication
- They have received a stem cell transplant within the last two years
- They have a primary immunodeficiency syndrome such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
- They have advanced or untreated HIV
- They are taking high dose corticosteroids, e.g., more than 20 mg of prednisone each day or medicines like methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis
- Some other immune-suppressing medications may qualify; individuals should talk to their doctor or call the COVID-19 hotline at 1-855-600-3453 (press option 3) to determine if their medications qualify them for a fourth dose

In addition to boosters, there are COVID-19 treatments which can offer substitute antibodies to restore, enhance or mimic the immune system's attack on pathogens. Evusheld is a new, long-acting monoclonal antibody therapy that is widely available for immunocompromised individuals such as cancer patients and transplant recipients. More information on Evusheld can be found here.

NMDOH also encourages all New Mexicans to order free at-home COVID-19 tests to have on hand in case of exposure. Getting a fast COVID-19 diagnosis offers individuals the opportunity to seek immediate treatment, such as at-home oral treatments, within a critical 5-day window. To locate tests for delivery or pick up, visit: FindaTestNM.org.

Another critical tool to offer protection to vulnerable New Mexicans is the continued use of well-fitting, high quality masks. NMDOH recommends and supports the use of masks for all those who are immunocompromised, have chronic health illnesses, and their caregivers. KN95 and N95 masks will provide the most protection, and are available at retail pharmacies and community health centers across New Mexico, for free while supplies last.

For more details on NMDOH recommendations for very vulnerable and/or severely immunocompromised New Mexicans, please visit: https://cv.nmhealth.org/extra-protection/

For more information about CDC vaccine guidance for these individuals, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html

Human Rights Committee and Human Rights Committee Super Committee

Submitted by Susan Seefeldt, BBS Bureau Chief

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.

At times, deciding about a proposed rights restriction is difficult and causes significant differences of opinion among HRC members as well as between the HRC and the agency or team. The HRC Super Committee (HRCSC) is an oversight committee that reviews proposed rights restrictions based on a documented health and safety concern by referral from Provider Agency HRCs. The responsibility of the HRC Super Committee is to assist teams in making difficult decisions, resolving disputes, and reviewing restrictions ordinarily prohibited in the DD Waiver Standards. Complex ethical, medical and/or behavioral concerns, use of live or recorded video monitoring/observational systems, and resolution of plans contested on the individual team or provider agency level may be reviewed by the HRCSC.

- The membership requirements for the HRC SC are double that of the standard HRC and must include at least 2 individuals with a diagnosis of I/DD, 2 guardians of individuals with I/DD, 2 medical professionals, and 2 community members with no past or present association with the DD Waiver.
- Completion of a RORA and the HRC SC referral form are required. Send the completed HRC SC referral form to your regional office. It will then be routed to the Regional Crisis Specialist or the Statewide Crisis Coordinator/Administrator for review and consideration.
- For the success of the committee, we feel we need added members in the event others are not available; we would like to have 2 additional community members and 2 additional individuals with I/DD.
- Please contact Sabrina James (SabrinaA.James@state.nm.us) for any questions or additional information.

We are excited to announce that 12 members of the Human Rights Committee Super Committee took the Human Rights training and the 2021 Standards updated training the beginning of February! The 2021 updated training was recorded and will be posted to the CDD website for future convenience.



Submitted by Jason L. Rodriguez, SE & SW Training Coordinator

The DDSD training unit consists of Teresa Tomashot, David Espinosa, Jacob Archuleta, Christy Pina and Jason L. Rodriguez. The unit has been integral in creating trainings to help develop skills needed for a variety of DDSD positions that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During COVID-19, the team developed several online trainings that have been used to ensure that direct support professionals, nurses, therapists, behavior support consultants, case managers, and service coordinators are trained to provide person-centered services to people across all waivers. These trainings include Communication Supports Training (CST), Positive Supports Training (PST), Keys to Health, Advocacy in Action, HIPAA, Standard Precautions, and ANE Awareness.

The training unit along with the Center for Development and Disabilities (CDD) developed, reviewed, and updated training modules to meet the needs of stakeholders and of

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Online-Assistance with Medication Delivery (AWMD)
- ✓ ANE Awareness in Spanish
- ✓ HIPAA (3,539 people completed)
- Standard Precautions (3,353 people completed)
- ✓ Subtle Signs & Symptoms of Illness & Injury-Webinar
- ✓ Healthcare Planning-Webinar

the waiver standards. The training unit also collaborated with other partners in DDSD including the Clinical Services Bureau and the Bureau of Behavioral Supports to develop trainings. DDSD has been successful in collaborating with ARCA, ENMRSH, and Adelante to assist in providing vital and succinct training modules.

Throughout the years, trainings were developed from a perspective of "longer hours mean more retention." Today we are developing new trainings with the understanding that providing succinct information leads to higher rates of retention. Also providing these trainings online ensures learners an opportunity to go back and review information at any time and allows for additional flexibility. The training unit has re-envisioned our training philosophy to ensure courses are cohesive, provide retention while properly training a strong work force that will provide superior services to the people we support.

Coming Soon!

- Employer of Record
- Intro to Waivers in Spanish
- HIPPA in Spanish
- Intro to PCP in Spanish

Looking Forward to Exploration

Looking forward to a change of scenery or to Spring? Getting outside can bring an opportunity to explore and enjoy the beautiful Land of Enchantment. Friends and family can enjoy a number of outdoor experiences with a little planning and an adventurous spirit.

Please watch this short video from Heros Path featuring children with disabilities enjoying the outdoors: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8HmL9pjJII

Submitted by Iris Clevenger, RN, Clinical Services Bureau



Here are a few links for your consideration. We hope you will discover or rediscover a special place new to you.

- A Park Above: https://rrnm.gov/2710/A-Park-Above
- New Mexico Accessible, Easy Nature Trails: https://www.accessiblenature.info/
- Rio Grande Nature Center: https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/rio-grande-nature-center-state-park/
- Hyde Memorial State Park: https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/hyde-memorial-state-park/
- Wheelchair Accessible Trails: https://www.traillink.com/stateactivity/nm-wheelchair-accessible-trails/

Support for Mi Via Employer of Records

Submitted by Jennifer Rodriguez, Deputy Director

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) has been researching ways to provide additional support for participants on the Mi Via Waiver, specifically supporting the role of the Employer of Record. The Employer of Record, or EOR, is integral in the success of self-direction.

An Employer of Record (EOR) is the individual responsible for directing the work of Mi Via employees and vendors for Mi Via participants. The EOR is not paid. An EOR is the common law employer of workers who provide waiver services. The EOR is responsible for:

- Finding Qualified Employees
- Finding Qualified Vendors. A Vendor can be a DOH approved provider or another agency that provides the service that you are looking for
- Hiring Employees
- Setting Employee Pay Rates
- Training Employees and Vendors in accordance with Mi Via Service Standards
- Setting Employee Work Schedules
- Approving Employee Timesheets and Vendor Payments



What if all people in New Mexico were fully included in every day life?



We're looking for your group's perspective to narrate a new podcast series exploring this question!

The project is sponsored by Divergent Labs, Inc, and funded by the Kellogg Foundation through the City of Albuquerque

CONTACT JEN LUCERO FOR INFORMATION JMLUCERO@GMAIL.COM

This Spring, DDSD will begin assessing EORs. This includes participants who are their own EORs, as well as EORs who are not waiver participants. DDSD staff will meet with EORs and talk to them to see where things are going well. and identify opportunities for more support. This is not an audit. Information collected during this process will inform us on how to improve this critical role and aid in determining the need/scope for a future waiver service of an Employer of Record.

Reaching New Heights in Supported Employment Annual Conference

Submitted by Frank Gaona, Statewide Supported Employment Lead

Please join us for the Third Annual Reaching New Heights in Supported Employment Virtual Conference!

The Partners for Employment program at The University of New Mexico's Center for Development and Disability is excited to host an assortment of dynamic speakers from both the National and State levels on a variety of topics May 4 - 6, 2022!

The Conference themes for this year are:

- Wednesday, May 4, 2022 New Mexico Proud Thursday, May 5, 2022 - Let's Taco 'Bout
- Supported Employment
- Friday, May 6, 2022 Advocacy for All!

This conference will be brought to you at no cost in thanks to our funding partners: the New Mexico Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) and the New Mexico Public Education Department/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

For more information and to register for individual conference sessions, please visit the PFE event calendar at:

https://reg.abcsignup.com/view/cal2a.aspx?ek=& ref=&aa=&sid1=&sid2=&as=33&wp=137&tz=&ms= 5&nav=&cc=&cat1=&cat2=&cat3=&aid=UNMCDD& rf=&pn=

DD Waiver ISP Tune-Up: Making Sure Your Individual Service Plan Is Carried Out and in Tune with Your Life

Submitted by Christina Hill, CPB Deputy Director

The person-centered plan for the DD Waiver program is called the Individual Service Plan (ISP). The ISP revolves around YOU and reflects your Vision for your life and your Desired Outcomes or Goals.

The ISP has a lot of detail about your health and safety and information to help you achieve your Desired Outcomes. Each Desired Outcome requires an Action Plan that includes actions your service providers will take to help you achieve your goals. Carrying out your ISP needs to be documented to help evaluate whether it is working and whether you are getting the supports you need. DD Waiver providers document how your ISP is carried out during services. The case manager monitors this and reviews the documentation. The case manager should also be checking with you about your satisfaction with your ISP throughout the year.

Your ISP must be updated at least one time every year. However, it can change several times during the year. Your ISP should be revised when your desires, circumstances, or needs change. That could mean several revisions a year!

If you have any questions about the DD Waiver ISP, please contact DD Waiver Program Manager Marie Velasco at Marie.Velasco@state.nm.us or 505-660-0766

Some signs an ISP should be revised are:

- 1. Your Desired Outcomes turn out to be unimportant to you.
- You do not like your services, providers, or the kind of support you are getting.
- 3. You have a life change, for example, a move, new job, change in health condition.
- 4. Even when following the ISP, you are not getting to your Desired Outcomes.
- You are not motivated by your Desired Outcomes and feel bored and un-interested.
- Your provider documentation repeats the same thing over and over without showing any progress.



Notation: Each waiver program has their own version of the person-centered plan. For questions specific to other waivers, please contact: Supports Waiver Program Manager Jennifer Roth at Jennifer.roth@state.nm.us or 505-629-7476 Mi Via Waiver Program Manager Elaine Hill at Elaine.Hill@state.nm.us or 505-506-6103 Medically Fragile Waiver Program Manager Iris Clevenger at Iris.Clevenger@state.nm.us or 505-231-2304

E-Blasts

Mask Requirement still in effect for SL, IMLS and Congregate CIE and CCS Sites -Executed PHO – February 17, 2022

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 2.16.2022 – February 16, 2022

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 2.9.2022 – February 10, 2022

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 2.2.2022 – February 2, 2022

DDSD Document Distribution - January 31, 2022

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 1.26.22 – January 26, 2022

Revised HSD 100 Application - January 24, 2022

Resuming In Person Monitoring Visits - January 21, 2022

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 1.19.22 – January 19, 2022

DDSD Document Distribution - January 14, 2022

Housing for People with Disabilities (Part 1) Learn From The Experts 1/19th @ 10:30am - January 14, 2022

Licensure and Insurance Annual Reminder – January 12, 2022

Reminder: SAVE THE DATE! - Jan 13,2022- Policy Dialogues for Racial Justice & Health Equity – January 10, 2022

Forward@14 February workshops - January 10, 2022

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 1.5.2022 – January 5, 2022

Flyer for the Advocate Leadership Academy – January 5, 2022

DDSD Document Distribution - December 30, 2021

Resumption of In Person Monitoring Visits and In Person Training delayed until February 1, 2022 – December 22, 2021 DDSD Document Distribution - December 15, 2021

Completed Employment Supports Survey Due TODAY! – December 13, 2021

Revised Mi Via Waiver Service Standards – December 10, 2021

REVISED: Public Consulting Group (PCG) Information Session related to our Minimum Wage Rate Study for Mi Via and the Supports Waiver – December 10, 2021

Public Consulting Group (PCG) Information Session related to our Minimum Wage Rate Study for Mi Via and the Supports Waiver – December 9, 2021

Supports Waiver Employment Supports Time Study – December 9, 2021

Project Firstline - We Need Your Help With This Program – December 9, 2021

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 12.8.2021 – December 8, 2021

Supports Waiver Annual Report---Revised - December 1, 2021

DDSD Document Distribution for 12.1.2021 – December 1, 2021

FYI ONLY - Employment Information - November 30, 2021

DD Waiver Service Standard Workshop Videos and Documents - November 29, 2021

EVV Weekly and Transition Weekly Newsletter 11.24.2021 – November 29, 2021

Human Rights Committee Super Committee Memo – November 29, 2021

Smartsheet Annual Report Template for Supports Waiver/ DDW Provider/DDW Case Management – November 24, 2021

Mi Via Waiver Trainings Coming Soon!

Submitted by Jennifer Rodriguez, Deputy Director

With a new waiver cycle in place for the next 5 years, the Mi Via Waiver has a new training curriculum that will be rolled out this summer, with revised Mi Via Waiver Service Standards.

Here is what trainings you can look forward to:

- Introduction to Person-Centered Planning
- Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation (ANE)
 Awareness Online
- Keys to Health
- Introduction to the Waivers
- Service and Support Plan (SSP)
- Consultant Training, to include FMA and TPA Training
- Employer of Record Training

Training requirements, outlining who needs to take the trainings and by when, will be announced once an implementation date is secured. Trainings are geared towards Mi Via participants, Direct Support Professionals, Consultants and Employer of Records; however, anyone who wishes to become further educated on the Mi Via Waiver is welcome to take them.

Parents Reaching Out 17th Annual Family Leadership Conference

Submitted by Steve Scarton, Statewide Transition Lead

May 13-14, 2022 Embassy Suites Albuquerque NM

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division School to Work Transition Program is providing support for the 2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Family Leadership Conference at Embassy Suites in Albuquerque. The annual 2-day Family Leadership Conference provides sessions to meet the needs of families who have children ages Birth - Age 26 with a wide range of disabilities. The entire family, including children and youth, are welcome to attend the conference. There will be sessions geared towards youth and young adults. Select sessions are offered in Spanish. This conference is one of a kind in the State of New Mexico providing emotional and informational support to families.

For more information and to register contact: Parents Reaching Out (505) 247-01982 https://parentsreachingout.org/familyleadership/family-leadership-conference/

New Hires, Promotions & Retirements

Submitted by Joseph Anaya, Human Resources

New Hires:

Cynthia Amador, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Taos NERO, start 12/11/21

Susan Seefeldt, BBS Bureau Chief, Albuquerque, start 12/11/21

Alyssa Romero, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Taos NERO, start 12/11/21

Jacqueline Marquez, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Las Cruces SWRO, start 12/11/21

Julie Pierce, Healthcare Surveyor-O, Albuquerque, start 12/11/21

Crystal Vigil, Legal Support Worker AO-S, Litigation Management Bureau, Albuquerque, start 2/19/22

Felicia Griego, Registered Nurse Level III, Albuquerque, start 2/19/22

Promotions:

Elaine Hill, Mi Via Waiver Program Manager, Albuquerque, start 2/19/22

Isabel Casaus, SWRO Regional Director, Las Cruces SWRO, start 2/5/22

Retirements:

Cathy Saxton, Retired 2/1/2022

About Us

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is located at 810 San Mateo PO Box 26110 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Our website: www.nmhealth.org

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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 Marc Kolman, DDSD Newsletter Editor-in-Chief at 505-476-8839 or Marc.Kolman@state.nm.us.