

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



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SANTA FE, NM 87501





STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



Susana Martinez
Governor

Karen Courtney Peterson
Agency Director

Susan O. Gray
Chairperson

January 2017

Dear Honorable Governor Martinez:

On behalf of the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability, it is my privilege to submit our 2016 annual report on the work of the Commission and the staff.

The Commission continues its efforts to help educate and inform New Mexico residents and visitors on issues important to people with disabilities. With approximately fifteen percent of our state's population living with disabilities, we work daily to provide technical assistance and training in areas of physical, communication, technology and services accessibility to citizens of all ages.

The Commission is divided into four units: Accessibility, Information/Referral, Assistive Technology and The Brain Injury Advisory Council. In Fiscal Year 2016, we performed 135 physical accessibility plan reviews and site inspections, responded to over 6,000 inquiries for disability information and technical assistance, distributed over 4,600 bicycle helmets and helmet safety activity books to children and teachers, conducted concussion studies, provided over 270 disability trainings state-wide, and distributed 460 assistive technology devices for use by persons with disabilities.

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to serve our citizens with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Peterson".

Karen Peterson

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New Mexico

Governor's Commission on Disability

Commission Members

By statute, the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is comprised of fifteen members: nine Governor-appointed members and six statutory members.

Appointed

Susan O. Gray (Santa Fe) Chair
Curtiss Wilson (Albuquerque) Vice Chair
James Hay (Los Alamos)
Doris Cherry (Capitan)
Doris Dennison (Yah Ta Hey)
Trudy Luken (Las Cruces)
Trinidad de Jesus Arguello (Taos)
Lawrence Sanchez (Albuquerque)
VACANT– Appointed Member

Statutory

Aging and Long Term Services - Myles Copeland,
Cabinet Secretary (Carlos Moya, proxy)
Children Youth and Family – Monique Jacobson,
Cabinet Secretary (Rosella McCaffrey, proxy)
Department of Health – Retta Ward,
Cabinet Secretary (Marc Kolman, proxy)
Department of Workforce Solutions - Celina Bussey,
Cabinet Secretary (Chris Zafra, proxy)
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Paul Aguilar,
Division Director (Adrian Apodaca, proxy)
Human Services Department – Brent Earnest,
Cabinet Secretary (Melanie Buenviaje, proxy)

Staff

Karen Peterson, Director

Anthony Alarid, Deputy Director

Hope Reed, Access Specialist

Daniel Fernandez, Access Specialist

Vince Barrera, Access Specialist

Crystal Benavidez, Financial Specialist

Dee Martinez, Disability Specialist

Guy Surdi, Disability Specialist

Lisa McNiven, Disability Specialist

Monica Montoya, BIAC Program Coordinator

Tracy Agiovlasis, Program Manager – NMTAP

Samuel Castillo, Technology Coordinator – NMTAP

Jesse Armijo, Technology Specialist – NMTAP

Yvonne Abeyta, Administrative Assistant – NMTAP

Louise Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant – NMTAP

Mona Archuleta, Administrative Assistant

New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability

MISSION

The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is committed to improving the quality of life for all New Mexicans with disabilities by addressing social integration, economic self-sufficiency, political resolve, physical and program accessibility, and full participation in the benefits of life and rights of all individuals.

I refuse to allow a disability to determine how I live my life. There is only one way to go in life and that is forward.

- Christopher Reeve -

OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness and knowledge of disability issues among policy-makers and the general public
- Promote access to physical, sensory, programmatic, attitudinal and communication barriers
- Increase opportunities for New Mexicans with disabilities to live successfully in the community, with services and supports as needed
- Increase collaboration and cooperation among disability related organizations in New Mexico

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governor's Commission on Disability was created in 1978 under Section 28-10-1 NMSA 1978. Its continuing mandate is to:



- Promote public awareness of disability from a social, political and cultural perspective that focuses on improving the quality of life of people with disabilities.
- Educate and encourage public and private action related to community living for people with disabilities on accessibility issues such as employment, housing, transportation, voting, building codes and recreation.
- Provide advice and testimony to the Governor and Legislature regarding disability issues.
- Focus on disability issues over the life span. GCD advocates for policies and programs that promote inclusion of all people with disabilities into community living in New Mexico.

ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

Physical Accessibility Unit

Physical access is a key factor in providing an equal opportunity for people with disabilities to fully participate in services and programs.

New Mexico Building Code – 2015

GCD Chairs the New Mexico Building Code Change Subcommittee for Accessibility which completed its work for the current cycle earlier in 2015. The New Mexico Construction Industries Division (CID) will soon begin training throughout the state. GCD staff will be assisting CID with Accessibility training at numerous locations statewide.

Residential Accessibility Modification Program

RAMP is a state funded program that will help improve the quality of life for individuals with physical disabilities by making improvements to their current housing situation. This includes but is not limited to restroom modifications, widening of doorways, installation of grab bars and installation of exterior ramps. This program is available to individuals with a disability who are residents of the state of New Mexico.



Technical Training

GCD accessibility staff develops and presents technical trainings related to various disability topics on a statewide basis. Topics include ADA Title II and III, and physical accessibility. Experts at the federal level, involved in code development, present detailed training on current accessibility codes.



Technical Assistance

GCD provides disability-related technical assistance to individuals, private businesses and governments in New Mexico. GCD staff provides information and referrals regarding all disabilities across the lifespan. In addition, staff also reviews architectural plans for accessibility and performs site inspections.



DISABILITY UNIT

Disability Awareness Training

GCD provides information about Disability culture, effective communication, and etiquette when interacting with the different populations within the disability community. The inclusion of people with disabilities in facilities, programs and services is also addressed. The trainings support a paradigm shift in how people with disabilities are viewed with the use of “People First” language.

Outreach, Information and Referral

Information and referral are provided over the phone, in person, by email and through GCD’s website to New Mexicans all over our state. Presentations and written material are provided by GCD’s staff connecting New Mexicans to resources to improve the quality of their lives.



Special Projects

Service Animals

GCD provides trainings to businesses, government agencies and the general public on the Service Animal Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Outreach and education efforts focus on the use of qualified service animals and the reduction of complaints and conflicts between public entries and service animal owners.



Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response. GCD performs outreach and is preparing educational training for emergency response personnel as well as for the disability community. GCD is coordinating with the Independent Living Centers and Emergency Response Personnel to make certain there is adequate preparation to address the needs of the disability community in the event of a disaster.



Adaptive Sports

GCD continues to develop an integrated network of support with government agencies, program providers and public/private organizations to sustain, develop and expand adaptive sports and recreation in New Mexico. New Mexicans with disabilities have an opportunity to participate in physical and social activities statewide improving their health, well-being and quality of life.



Quality of Life Grants

This small grant program provides limited financial assistance to schools, non-profit (501-c-3) organizations, religious and Tribal-based organizations. The grant's purpose is to expand and enhance services that will improve the quality of community living for New Mexicans with disabilities.

Fiscal year 2016 recipients include:

- ENMRSH: Arts for Everyone, exposed students with disabilities to formal art instruction. This project developed new interests and skills, broadened cultural understanding and built self-esteem of the participants.
- The Ability Center: This project provided eight educational seminars in underserved areas to increase knowledge of independent living enhanced service. Thirty individuals in need were provided transportation passes and five individuals were transitioned back into the community from nursing homes.
- Life Quest: Renovated restroom to comply with accessibility requirements.
- Zia Therapy: Installed an ADA accessible parking lot and sidewalk closest to the building entrance.
- Disability Rights New Mexico: Increased awareness and knowledge with a focus on rural areas regarding changes related to Centennial Care and access to Medicaid and commercial health insurance. The main goal of this project was to improve policies and practices in disability services by obtaining feedback from consumers and families and using it to educate policy-makers.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Council

GCD administers the ADA Coordinators' Council. The Council provides ADA Coordinators with education, technical assistance and policy/procedure development assistance.

Southwest Conference on Disability

GCD is co-sponsor and co-organizer of the annual Southwest Conference on Disability (SWCD) with the UNM's Center for Development and Disability. The SWCD is a major regional conference that brings together over a thousand attendees and presenters annually.



NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The New Mexico Technology Assistance Program's (NMTAP) mission is to assist individuals with disabilities achieve their life goals through the use of assistive technology. To fulfill this mission, the NMTAP staff provides many services to individuals with disabilities, their family members, and service providers. This support allows individuals equal access to education, work or community living statewide. Services offered include the following:



Device Loan Program

Assistive Bank of Loan Equipment (ABLE) Device Loan Program offers teachers, therapists, case managers, DVR counselors and persons with disabilities the opportunity to sample assistive devices/software prior to purchase. The short-term assistive technology device loan program provides trial of equipment for real life application by the user.

Demonstrations

NMTAP provides professionals and individuals with disabilities demonstrations of all types of assistive technology devices and software. This hands-on experience identifies the most practical and efficient technology solutions that match the user's needs.



Trainings

NMTAP provides professionals and individuals with disabilities training on assistive technology equipment, software and applicable services. A two-day conference and several one-day conferences are held annually, statewide.



Re-utilization

The Equipment Re-Use program refurbishes gently used durable medical equipment and computers that have been donated. These assistive technology devices are offered to individuals with disabilities who have no other options. NMTAP partners with a disability agency to provide this service.

Financial Loans

NMTAP offers low interest financial loans to individuals with disabilities statewide. The ACCESS loan program is for anyone that has no other options of obtaining needed assistive technology. The SEED loan program is for Self Employed Entrepreneurs with Disabilities and can provide equipment to either start or enhance their personal business. NMTAP works closely with a contractor and two banks to provide viable loans.

The NMTAP Advisory Council advises the Governor's Commission on Disability and its staff on issues regarding assistive technology program improvements and assists in services outreach across the state. The Advisory Council is made up mostly of individuals living with disabilities that use technology to meet a variety of challenges.

BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) is composed of between 18 and 24 individuals appointed by the Governor from all areas of the state. The BIAC advises the Governor's Commission on Disability regarding issues concerning individuals living with brain injuries. Members of the council include individuals with brain injuries, family members, healthcare professionals, and other agency professionals.



The council studies and makes recommendations to the Governor's Commission on Disability, and other entities concerning case management, community support systems, long-term services, employment, emergency medical services, rehabilitation, prevention and the improvement and coordination of state activities relative to the concerns of persons with brain injuries and their families or other caregivers.

Children's Helmet Safety Program

The Brain Injury Advisory Council is engaged with a children's bicycle helmet distribution program promoting safety, the law and brain injury prevention.



Brain Injury Studies

The Brain Injury Advisory Council engages in research needs assessments related to concussions and utilizes this information to make recommendations about the activities and services for people with brain injuries.

Brain Injury Prevention Outreach

The Brain Injury Advisory Council promotes prevention and increased public awareness for the purpose of decreasing the incidence of preventable brain injuries.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

Exhibit 2

EXPENSES

General government:

Personal services and employee benefits	\$ 974,946
Contractual Services	388,525
Other costs	568,533
Depreciation	<u>14,978</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES 1,946,982

PROGRAM REVENUE

Federal Grants	<u>621,332</u>
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TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE 621,332

NET PROGRAM EXPENSES (1,325,650)

GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS

State general fund appropriation	1,313,100
Reversions to state general fund	<u>(15,486)</u>
State dated warrants	<u>1,801</u>
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS	<u>1,299,415</u>

CHANGE IN NET POSITION (26,235)

NET POSITION, BEGINNING 363,907

NET POSITION, ENDING \$ 377,672



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www.gcd.state.nm.state.us

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