

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY





STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



Susana Martinez
Governor

Karen Courtney Peterson
Agency Director

Susan O. Gray
Chairperson

January 2018

Dear Honorable Governor Martinez:

On behalf of the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability, it is my privilege to submit our 2017 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 Program, and The Brain Injury Council. In Fiscal Year 2017, we performed 130 physical accessibility plan reviews and site inspections, responded to over 4200 inquiries for disability information and technical assistance, distributed 3191 bicycle helmets and helmet safety activity books to children and teachers, conducted concussion studies, provided over 175 disability trainings state-wide, and distributed 770 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

Table of Contents

Letter from the Director.....Page i

Table of Contents.....Page ii

Governor Appointed and Statutory Commissioners and NMGCD Staff.....Page 1

Mission, Objectives, and Statutory Responsibilities.....Page 2

Accessibility Programs.....Page 3-4

Disability Unit.....Page 5-6

New Mexico Technology Assistance Program.....Page 7

Brain Injury Advisory Council.....Page 8

Statement of Fiscal Activities.....Page 9

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds.....Page 10

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)

Erlinda Seymour (New Laguna)

Vacant

Statutory

Aging and Long Term Services – Miles 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,
Cabinet Secretary (Joe Cordova, proxy)

Human Services Department - Brent Earnest,
Cabinet Secretary (Melanie Buenviaje, proxy)

Staff

Karen Peterson, Director

Anthony Alarid, Deputy Director

Daniel Fernandez, Access Specialist

Dominic Gonzales, Access Specialist

Stan Ross, Access Specialist

Guy Surdi, Disability Specialist

Lisa McNiven, Disability Specialist

Crystal Benavidez, Financial Specialist

Mona Archuleta, Administrative Assistant

Monica Montoya, BIAC Program Coordinator

Tracy Agiovlasis, Program Manager - NMTAP

Samuel Castillo, Technology Coordinator – NMTAP

Jesse Armijo, Technology Specialist – NMTAP

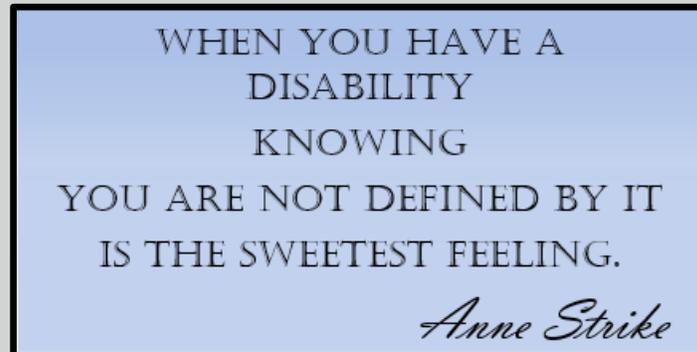
Yvonne Abeyta, Administrative Assistant – NMTAP

Louise Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant – NMTAP

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.



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.

Residential Accessibility Modification Program

Its first full Fiscal Year 2017, RAMP completed 15 home modifications throughout the state. These include seven restroom modifications, one widening of doorways, and seven installations of exterior ramps. This program is available to low income individuals with a disability who are residents of the state of New Mexico and do not qualify for other home modification programs.



Technical Training

GCD accessibility staff developed and presented a total of 151 technical trainings related to various disability topics including 106 ADA Title I, II and III, 18 Physical Accessibility, 12 Disability Awareness, 15 Service Animal and 9 Emergency Preparedness. Presentations were provided to municipalities, professional associations, state agencies, counties and business organizations.



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. Staff reviews architectural plans for accessibility on new construction projects as well as renovation projects for all commercial and public works projects submitted to GCD. A review of the plans verifies compliance with current accessibility codes and standards. This is accomplished by redlining preliminary drawings and working closely with the responsible Designer/Architect to correct non-compliant issues. Access Specialists conduct site inspections when requested, to identify existing access issues in commercial buildings and facilities. Upon completion of any plan review or site inspection, a report is generated documenting all non-compliance items and subsequently submitted to responsible parties.



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 rights and responsibilities of a service animal owner, public entities and businesses. GCD works with law enforcement agencies, businesses and the public to reduce complaints and conflicts with fake service animals or service animals that do not display appropriate behavior in public.



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 to improve their health, well-being and quality of life.

GCD and the University of New Mexico's Health, Exercise and Sports Services Department completed six adaptive sports clinics throughout the state of New Mexico. Community residents with disabilities were provided an opportunity to try out different adaptive

sports. The project also identified service providers and stakeholders around the state.

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 2017 recipients included:

- Guadalupe Montessori School: Built an ADA compliant playground and an integrated outdoor classroom.
- Independent Living Resource Center: Environmental modifications were made to provide greater physical accessibility and to accommodate a larger number of individuals with a disability.
- Roadrunner Food Bank: Installed an exterior accessible ramp at their food distribution center.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Council

GCD chairs the ADA Coordinators' Council. The Council provides state and local government with personnel education, technical assistance and policy/procedure development. GCD is in the process of setting up a Certification Program for ADA Coordinators together with the University of Missouri and the Great Plains ADA Center.

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 close to one 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 statewide. This support allows individuals access to education, employment, daily living and civic participation. Services include:

Device Loan Program

NMTAP 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.



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.

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.

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 disability agency partner provides this service through the Back-In-Use program.

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 disability agency partner, San Juan Independence Center, provides this service.

Technical Assistance

NMTAP can assist any agency to create a system change that improves inclusion for people with disabilities, including the assistive technology devices or digital accessibility.

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. In fiscal year 2017 a total of 3,191 bicycle helmets were distributed to children ages 3-14.

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. A veteran's study was completed. The study examined the incident rate of concussions and traumatic brain injuries of all veterans along with the services received related to the injuries. A NM high school concussion surveillance system has been established to understand the rate patterns and trend of concussions in New Mexico middle and high school athletes. A sports concussion management training curriculum for healthcare and school professionals was developed to improve care and outcomes for youth who have sustained sports-related concussions.

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. The BIAC held workgroup meetings about Health Insurance Coverage for Post-Acute Care Services for people with brain injury which entailed collaboration with insurance providers and brain injury groups in New Mexico.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

EXPENSES:	Governmental Activities
Current	
General government:	
Personal services and employee benefits	\$ 937,888
Contractual Services	259,180
Other costs	491,291
Depreciation	<u>15,508</u>
Total program expenses	<u>1,703,867</u>
REVENUE:	
Federal Grants	<u>509,094</u>
Total Program Revenue	<u>509,094</u>
Net Program Expenses	<u>(1,194,773)</u>
GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS:	
State general fund appropriation	1,223,400
Reversions to state general fund	(6,951)
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>2,495</u>
Total general revenues and transfers	<u>1,218,944</u>
Change in net position	<u>24,171</u>
Net position-beginning of year	<u>337,672</u>
Net position-ending of year	<u>\$ 361,843</u>

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
BALANCE SHEET-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2017

ASSETS	General Fund
Investment in SGFIP	\$ 450,511
Accounts receivable	<u>106,080</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$556,591</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
Liabilities	
Account payable	\$136,647
Accrued payroll	<u>36,818</u>
Total Liabilities	
Fund Balances	
Restricted for NMTAP	96,763
Unassigned	<u>286,363</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>383,126</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 556,591</u>



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www.gcd.state.nm.us

877-696-1470