



2019-2020

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Support Person Awards

In recognition of individuals who have demonstrated the highest quality of services we would like to present the Support Person of the Month Awards.

September: Velvet Kalleco—Velvet cares for a close relative as a family living provider, and she has been doing a remarkable job of providing assistance through some nagging and long-term health issues. She has been serving as the life-line for the individual she supports for a long, long time, and she deserves a hearty thank you for continual devotion and a job well-done.

October: Maria Castillo—During the month of October, one of the house managers at our supported living homes had to resign suddenly for personal reasons. Maria stepped up and took on the bulk of the hours in addition to the hours she already worked. She was amazing. Gracias, María, por trabajar tan duro.

November: Marilyn Sanchez—Like Maria, above, Marilyn stepped up remarkably during a really stressful time at our supported living homes. She did so despite some health struggles, and we really, really appreciate the dedication.

December: Jan Cullen—Jan has been serving as the office manager for Su Vida, and this past year Jan has helped Bill keep his wits about him in many, many ways — too numerous to count. A big thank you to Jan for all of the hard work.

We welcome a number of people to the Su Vida Services family:

New Staff and Contractors

Isabel Baumeister, Casey Dahozy, Corey Jones, Paul Moran, Jessica Nunez, Andrew Perea, Iliana Roger, Amanda Sisneros, and Marrian Weed

New Individuals

Wyatt Anchondo

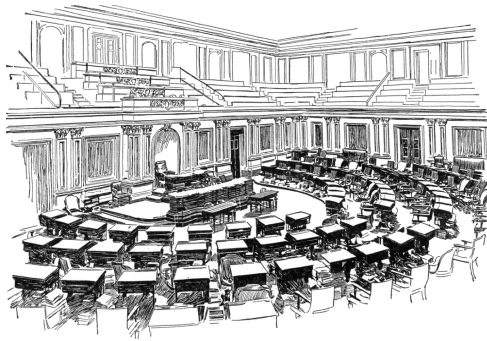
WELCOME

Thank you for a GREAT job, and a GREAT year!!!

Legislation Update—Waiver Fact Sheet

As reported last quarter, the State completed the Rate Study which agreed with our position that people in this industry (including Family Living Providers, Supported Living Home staff and CCS providers) are significantly underpaid for the services that they are being asked to provide. This legislation will be introduced and debated in the upcoming January-February 2020 legislative session.

We encourage everyone to contact their legislators for their districts and let them know how important it is for the rate increases to be put in place. You work hard, and we would love to be able to pay you more for the excellent work you do.



We have attached to this email a sheet produced by the Association of Developmental Disability Community Providers (ADDCP) which sets forth important facts which you can share with your legislators or anyone else you may want to speak to about the needs of the people we support.

Did you notice our new logo? It is slowly being phased in to our letters, forms and other documents.

Our Board of Directors has decided to give us a fresh look that identifies us more with the greater New Mexico community by including the Zia sign as part of the logo.

While the logo has changed, it is our commitment to continue to work to provide the most person-centered services we can. We hope you like the new logo.

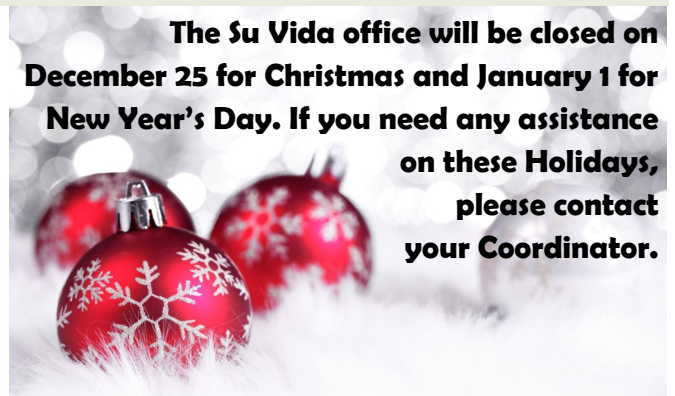


Have you visited our webpage lately? Another effort to give us a fresh look involves providing a new, more functional webpage. One good thing about the new webpage is that it includes

- a calendar that will allow you to copy training dates and other events directly to your google calendar,
- an employment page that lists openings, a brief job description, and downloadable copies of Su Vida's employment applications, and
- A resources page that includes an electronic copy of our latest newsletter, NM Department of Health and other resources related to developmental disabilities.



The Su Vida office will be closed on December 25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's Day. If you need any assistance on these Holidays, please contact your Coordinator.



Su Vida is looking for Supported Living Home Staff.



We are in need of permanent staff for our three supported living homes in the NE area of Albuquerque. If you know someone who has a caring heart, who is interested in working with people with disabilities and who you believe would do an excellent job of helping those in need, please have them contact us about our

openings. We have both full and part-time direct support positions available.

In addition to permanent staff, we are also in need of people to fill in at the Supported Living Homes on a temporary basis. Perhaps someone quit suddenly, or perhaps someone called in sick. Perhaps someone just needs some time off. In such situations, we would like to have a list of contractors willing to step in and help out. We already have a few, but we could definitely use more.

If you are interested in being put on to the temporary help list or know someone who desires a full or part-time job in our supported living homes, please contact your coordinator, Latryce Calton or Bill Kesatie. We would welcome your help.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19

2:00pm — 4:30pm

We would be honored if you would join us at the Su Vida Services office for our annual Christmas Open House Celebration.

We are pleased to let you know that, as in years past, we will have T-shirts for those we support and their support staff.

Giving Back

AS WE DO EACH YEAR, WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF A SMALL WRAPPED GIFT FOR A CHILD, AS WE PLAN ON COLLECTING THESE GIFTS FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE A GIFT ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Our target is 100 gifts this year, please help us make this happen!

Please mark your gift with information if the present is for a boy or a girl and the approximate age of the child who will enjoy it. Unwrapped gifts will be accepted as well.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR AMAZING GENEROSITY



Individual Happenings

Lora Jaramillo recently made a trip to the Big Apple, New York City. When she got back, she had the opportunity to go to a concert where she met one of her favorite singers, Lorenzo Antonio.

Way to go, Lora!!



Blas Hernandez is one of the funniest people you will ever meet. Lately, he has been getting out into the community with 2 new CCS providers. He appears to be enjoying himself and is doing more things out in the community.

Halloween can be such a great time to show off your costuming creativity. Here, **David Castillo** shows off his outstanding Genie costume that he wore to celebrate the holiday. Amazing costume, David.



Daniel Lopez is quite the adventurer. He loves going to movies and keeping up with the local events in Albuquerque. He was able to meet our local Balloon Fiesta pin collector Steve Stucker!!



Daniel Padilla loves to party! Daniel saved up to go to the last KISS concert, he worked very hard to earn his money. He is also looking forward to attending his first Dallas Cowboy game in Dallas, Texas.



Training— Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation On-Line Refresher Course

It seems like a long time ago — but it was only the summer of 2017 — that everyone in the State was required to sit through the six-hour **Recognizing and Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation** (ANE Face-to-Face) training. We thank you all for your willingness to attend an all-day class, but we are even happier that we all learned more about what constitutes Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation and how to report it.

As you may recall, for a time the State considered requiring everyone to take the ANE Face-to-Face course annually. The state considered this step because it was apparently part of the efforts to settle the Jackson Class lawsuit which required everyone providing Waiver services to complete an annual review of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation. However, the State of New Mexico also recognized that requiring the class to be taken annually could be overly burdensome. So, instead, it requires only an online ANE Refresher course to be completed annually by all staff working under any of the Waivers.

Overall, the people at our agency have been great at complying. We are at 93.9% compliance with the requirement at this moment. But if we want to avoid giving the State reasons to require all staff to take the ANE Face-to-Face annually, we need to be at 100% every year.

If you have received a letter saying you are out-of compliance, please, please take the time to complete the online ANE Refresher course. It only takes two hours. You can access the course at the following address:

<http://cdd.unm.edu/dhpd/programs/learnportal/courses/ane-refresher.html>

As you receive your reminder through the year, please take the time to stay up-to-date with your ANE Refresher trainings. We thank you for taking the time, and helping stave off even longer classes.



Paying attention to Social Security and Medicaid Deadlines

In the past few months, we have seen a trend developing where individuals are being kicked off Social Security and/or Medicaid (and therefore being deprived of Waiver services) by not timely submitting paperwork to the Social Security Administration or by having too much money in the person's bank account. This has been especially a problem for people who are living independently and do not receive a residential service.

This is a reminder to all people providing CIHS or CCS services for individuals who are not in Family or Supported Living that it is your responsibility as the provider when working with someone who lives independently to assure that she or he is doing what is necessary to remain in compliance with the program requirements.

- You are the person best situated to ask about the amount of money in the bank account and to inquire about any paperwork that has come in the mail from the State or Federal Government that may affect his/her eligibility to receive services.
- That means one of your contract responsibilities is to ask how he/she is doing on money in her/his accounts and get accurate figures.
- You also need to ask if he/she has received any paperwork from the State or Federal government because that paperwork may cause him to fall out of compliance if not received.

The individual has the right not to disclose that information to you, but if he/she refuses, notify your coordinator as it will alert the coordinator to inquire, too. If you have any questions, please contact your coordinator or Bill Kesatie.

STABLE CARDS and ABLE ACCOUNTS

In the last few newsletters, we have been getting the word out about ABLE Accounts. As a reminder:

“ABLE accounts are available to those who were disabled before age 26 years. Funds that are deposited in these accounts can be used for a wide variety expenses of qualified disability expenses, such as those related to education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, and assistive technology. The funds in an ABLE account do not affect eligibility for government benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid.

Nor are these funds subject to tax if used for qualified disability expenses. ABLE accounts can give disabled persons more independence as they are not limited to a bank account with under \$2,000, and distributions are not as limited as they can be from a Supplemental Needs Trust.

“The maximum yearly contribution to an ABLE account is \$15,000, and the account cannot hold more than \$100,000 in total.”

Now, if the individual is struggling month-to-month to make ends meet, the ABLE Account is not useful to that person. However, if you find you have to “spend down” a person’s account to keep them Waiver eligible, an ABLE Account may be very, very helpful. Likewise, if the individual is trying to save up for a vacation or an expensive item (like a new bedroom set), an ABLE Account is a way to save more than \$2,000 without making the person fall out of eligibility.

The ABLE Accounts can be used with a STABLE Card which is a type of Debit Card that is specific to ABLE Accounts. It allows the person to access funds in the account more freely, and can be set up to track purchases.

If any of this applies to the individual you support, consider an ABLE Account with a STABLE

Recognizing Great Work

WANT TO GIVE SOMEONE AN EXTRA PAT ON THE BACK?

Besides saying, “Thank you, good job!” there are a couple of ways you can be sure someone gets a special pat on the back for going above-and-beyond the usual duties they perform.

First, you can complete a “**Complimentary Action Form**” which will get the person a bit of special recognition and have a positive entry into their contractor and employee file.

Second, for those really special times when someone gives an extraordinary effort to assure that an individual receiving supports has the highest level of support and care — or if you have someone who, through years and years of consistently outstanding care, you believe should be recognized as an outstanding caregiver — you can nominate that person for the **Support Person of the Month**. The award is open to anyone at Su Vida — Family Living Providers, SubCare Providers, Customized Community Supports or Customized In-Home Support Providers, Nurses, Coordinators, Front-Desk Staff, and anyone else who is associated with Su Vida.

So many of you are doing great work that rarely gets recognized. We’d like to recognize the people you believe are doing a great job. Please help us by letting us know who needs to be recognized.

CMS Final Rule

As you all know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published a Final Rule addressing several sections of the Social Security Act. The final rule amends the regulations for 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs, which includes both the DD and Mi Via Waivers.

The CMS Final Rule is designed to expand and enhance rights of people by improving HCBS programs by providing protections to participants, allowing participants to have the same opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate and to have full access to community living opportunities. **We are all required to make certain that the services we are providing are in compliance with the CMS Final Rule.**

To make certain that we are in compliance with the requirements of the Final Rule, Su Vida is asking providers to ask themselves the following questions about the services being provided. If, following fair consideration of the facts, you can answer yes to all of these questions, you are well on your way to being in compliance with the new rules.

- Does the individual have opportunities to seek employment if desired?
- Does the individual have opportunities to engage in community life?
- Does the individual have opportunities to control personal resources?
- Has the individual's living situation been selected or approved by the individual?
- Does the individual have privacy, dignity and respect in the home?
- Can the individual exercise initiative and autonomy in the home?
- Is the individual free from coercion/restraint?
- Is individual choice promoted in the home?
- Is individual choice promoted in the services received?
- If leased – does the individual have legal protections from eviction?
- Is the individual supported to control his/her own schedule?
- Does the individual have access to food at any time (subject to restrictions)?



A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT DOING PAPER-WORK TIMELY

As some of you are aware, we were audited this past July. During the audit, it was discovered that some of our staff is not doing their paper-work daily.

Please remember that the Standards require that progress notes are required to be completed every day, and data collection sheets (tracking action steps and outcomes) need to be completed the same day that the outcome/actions steps are worked on.

Also, if you are providing a CCS Service, you are required to submit the Weekly Planning Calendar with your monthly paperwork.

We thank you for your willingness to stay in compliance with the State Standards!



ADDACP supports an appropriation of an additional \$35 Million for the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program and NM Waivers to address the waiting list and gaps in reimbursement rates to provide critical services for New Mexico's children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) of DOH is charged with serving New Mexico's most vulnerable population through:

- Family Infant Toddler (FIT)
- Medically Fragile Waiver
- Mi Via Self Directed Waiver
- Traditional Developmental Disabilities Waiver

New Mexico is a deinstitutionalized state. All supports are provided by community based providers.

Community based programs provide statewide services, ensuring safety and quality of life for individuals with IDD and children age birth to three who have or who are at risk for developmental delay.

Funding will support the disengagement of the 32 year Jackson Lawsuit between the federal government and New Mexico.

- **ADDACP supports the NM DOH budget request to fund FIT and the DD Waivers, including:**
 - \$3.548M for serving additional children and families on FIT
 - \$2.5M to fully fund the 2017 FIT rate study
 - \$15.2M to fully fund the 2019 DD Waiver rate study
 - \$7.5M for serving additional people on DD Waiver
 - \$5.0M to create a Supports Waiver to serve individuals on the waiting list
 - \$1.4 to implement a standardized assessment
- **\$27.7M in State General Fund investment toward Waiver Services will generate an FMAP match of an additional \$78.8M for New Mexico**
- **Currently, 4,767 New Mexicans receive services through Waiver programs**
- **6,411 New Mexicans are on the DD Waiver Central Registry for services**
- **Each year, FIT Part C entitlement services are provided to nearly 16,000 eligible New Mexico infants, toddlers and families**
- **Sustainable reimbursement rates will help stabilize critical staffing shortages**
- **Sustainable reimbursement rates must reflect annual cost of living increases**

Over 10,000 New Mexicans are employed by more than 80 community based providers across the state to provide stellar supports for children and adults with IDD through Waiver and FIT programs.



SU VIDA SERVICES
YOUR LIFE. YOUR CHOICES.

FIRE DRILL FORM

INDIVIDUAL: _____

Date of Drill: _____ **Location:** _____

Person conducting drill: _____

Time drill started: _____ **Time drill ended:** _____ **Length:** _____

Number of Persons Evacuated: _____

Drill Checklist (Check all items present):

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ___ Evacuation routes in home | ___ Fire Extinguisher Charged |
| ___ Smoke Detectors working | ___ First Aid Kit present and full |
| ___ Carbon Monoxide Detector working | |
| ___ Drill Completion (meeting site used, 911 simulation, head count) | |

Performance Codes	0 = Total Assistance	1 = Some Assistance	2 = Independence
Individual Evacuating	Responded to Alarm	Left Building	Went to Safe Site
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Problems Noted:

Recommendations/Assignments for Improvement: