

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
491 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



Susana Martinez
Governor

Karen Courtney Peterson
Interim Director

Susan O. Gray
Chairperson

January 2015

Dear Honorable Governor Martinez:

On behalf of the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability, it is my privilege to submit our 2014 annual report on the work of the Commission and Staff.

The Commission continues its efforts to help educate and inform New Mexico residents and visitors on issues important to people with disabilities. With over 311,000 individuals with disabilities living in our state, we work daily to provide technical assistance and training in areas of physical, communication, technology and services accessibility to citizens of all ages.

In Fiscal Year 2014, we performed over 150 physical accessibility plan reviews and site inspections, responded to over 4,000 inquiries for disability information and technical assistance, distributed over 2,500 bicycle helmets and helmet safety activity books to children and teachers, provided over 40 trainings state-wide, and distributed 115 assistive technology devices for use by persons with disabilities through our federal Technology Assistance Program.

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to serve our citizens with disabilities and look forward to an even better 2015!

Sincerely,

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

Karen Peterson

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Governor's Commission on Disability

Commission Members

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

Appointed

Susan O. Gray (Santa Fe) Chair
James Hay (Rio Rancho) Immediate Past Chair
Curtiss Wilson (Albuquerque) Vice Chair
Doris Cherry (Capitan)
Doris Dennison (Yah Ta Hey)
Trudy Luken (Las Cruces)
Leslie Bledsoe (Albuquerque)
Lawrence Sanchez (Albuquerque)
VACANT– Appointed Member

Statutory

Aging and Long Term Services - Gino Rinaldi ,
Cabinet Secretary
(Carlos Moya, proxy)

Children Youth and Family - Yolanda Deines,
Cabinet Secretary
(Helen Quintana, 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 - Veronica
DeLeonDowd, Interim Division Director

Human Services Department - Sidonie Squier,
Cabinet Secretary
(Kimberly Reibsoemer, proxy)

Staff

Jim Parker, Director

Karen Peterson, Deputy Director

Anthony Alarid, Access Specialist

Hope Reed, Access Specialist

Tracy Agiovlasis, Program Manager

Elizabeth Peterson, Program Coordinator

Crystal Benavidez, Financial Specialist

Dee Martinez, Disability Specialist

Guy Surdi, Disability Specialist

Lisa McNiven, Disability Specialist

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Governor's Commission on Disability Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

Mission

The New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability 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 New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) 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
- GCD is the only State agency that focuses 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. In FY 2014, the New Mexico Technology Assistance Program and the Brain Injury Advisory Council were moved to The New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability.



Accessibility

Accessibility is more than physical access such as adding a ramp where steps exist allowing right of use. An expanded definition of accessibility requires GCD to look at how programs, services, and activities are delivered.

- **New Mexico Building Code – 2015, statewide accessibility**

GCD Staff is chairing the Subcommittee for review and amendment to Accessibility and Means-of-Egress chapters, with research into the requirements of the 2010 ADA, Fair Housing Act, Section 504 and NM State Statutes.

- **Help America Vote Act**

GCD continues to work with the New Mexico Secretary of State's office and County Clerks to fully implement the Help America Vote Act's mandate that all voting sites be accessible to all eligible voters.

- **State Government Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Council**

GCD initiated the ADA Council in response to the Governor's 'Initiative on Employment of People with Disabilities'

- **Accessible Housing**

GCD works with housing organizations and committees to promote Accessible Design in single and multi-family housing construction.

- **Accessible Public Transportation**

GCD provides training to transportation systems providers in New Mexico, includes awareness training of working with people with disabilities.

- **Santa Fe Opera (SFO) Renovation, Santa Fe**

The SFO is currently undertaking a major renovation of public and staffing areas. The major public renovation will be expanded and improved accessibility for the audience to restrooms, concessions, and plaza areas.

- **American National Standards Institute A117.1**

ANSI is a national standard design and code writing committee for construction of accessible. GCD was the first state agency to become a voting member of ANSI.



Technical Assistance

Governor's Commission on Disability provides disability-related technical assistance to individuals, private businesses and governments in New Mexico.

In FY14, GCD staff developed and presented trainings to:

New Mexico Building Code Officials; New Mexico Construction Specifications Institute (CSI); Legislative Council Services Subcommittee; NM Public Health Association regarding Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment; City of Santa Fe Recreation Center Staff on Disability Awareness and others.

Albuquerque Metropolitan Area Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) Trails: GCD has been assisting a person with disabilities to use these trails which are under control of both the AMAFCA and the City of Albuquerque Trails. These trails pass through residential areas, park areas, and commercial strips. There are many concerns to balance. GCD has provided guidance on accessibility requirements and the shared responsibilities for each entity.



Common Issues Include:

- Building Code Interpretation
- Accessible Parking
- Disability Laws and Regulations
- Americans with Disabilities Act Issues
- Employment/Reasonable Accommodation (s)
- Accessible Transportation– life/ramp use / maintenance; proper tie down
- Housing - Affordable Accessible Design
- Affordable loans
- Technology/Device assistance
- Brain Injury awareness
- Emergency Preparedness
- Education Accommodation
- Service Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act Council (ADA Council)

The New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability established the ADA Coordinator's Council in 2006. It is comprised of individual state agency ADA Coordinators. The Council serves as a forum for agency ADA Coordinators to provide education, technical assistance, policies and procedures development and implementation to state agencies.

New Mexico Technology Assistive Program (NMTAP)



NMTAP's mission is to help persons with disabilities enhance their quality of life through the use of assistive technology. To fulfill this mission, the NMTAP staff provides the following services to persons with disabilities their family members:

ABLE Device Loan Program - the device loan program offers teachers, therapists, case managers and DVR counselors the opportunity to try out assistive devices/software with students/clients prior to purchase. NMTAP works with schools, agencies, and counselors to



both identify and try out the most practical and efficient technology solutions that match user needs;

Financial Loan Programs - Securing loans to purchase devices can be difficult. NMTAP works closely with local banks to prepare an affordable loan solution that will enable you to purchase the equipment you need to succeed in business or in a home-based business;

The **Equipment Re-Use** program, where equipment is donated, then refurbished and distributed back into the community;

The **NMTAP Advisory Council** advises the Governor's Commission on Disability and its staff on issues regarding assistive technology program improvements.

New Mexico Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)



The Council 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 agencies professionals.

The BIAC's mission is to advocate for the development of a statewide system of comprehensive, community based resources that will maximize the personal choices and functional independence of persons with brain injuries.

Additionally the BIAC promotes prevention and increased public awareness to decrease the incidence of preventable brain injuries.

The BIAC meets regularly to identify and address needs of the brain injury community. Legislative action, increasing public awareness and prevention efforts, advocacy, training, grass roots development and collaboration with local, state and private agencies to increase and improve existing services are just a few of the activities in which the council is actively involved.



Special Projects

- **Southwest Conference on Disability**

New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability is co-sponsor and co-organizer of the annual Southwest Conference on Disability with UNM's Center for Development and Disability

The SWCD is a major Regional conference that annually attracts over 1,000 participants. The conference brings together attendees and presenters from New Mexico as well as from 30 states across the country and internationally.

- **Youth Leadership Development**

In collaboration with UNM's Center for Development and Disability, the Commission worked with young New Mexicans to develop the skills to create the next generation of leaders for the disability movement of the future.



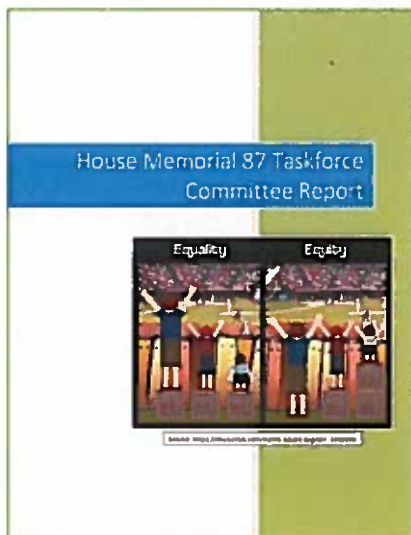
- **Adaptive Driving**

Adaptive Driving (AD) assists people with disabilities and seniors to become or remain independent in driving. It involves evaluating, training, equipment consultation, on-the-road evaluation and certification of driving skills and deficits. GCD contracted with Driving To Independence (DTI) to provide AD services in New Mexico so people with disabilities will not have to travel out of State. New, potential drivers, previously-licensed drivers with a disability and older drivers with age-related concerns may benefit.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

One of the memorials passed in the 2014 regular legislative session was House Memorial 87 (HM 87), **Disability Compliance of Emergency Plan**. Among emerging national trends of finding emergency management programs in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and liable for damage, House Memorial 87 requests that the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) form a taskforce to ensure that New Mexico's 2014 all hazard emergency operations plan complies with Title II of the ADA

and to identify barriers to compliance or deficiencies in the plan. The taskforce met throughout the year and submitted the following recommendations: 1) The Emergency Operations Plan be revised to include clear and explicit language regarding compliance. The recommendation is to include an additional planning assumption that states, "It is assumed that the implementation of any and all emergency plans by Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and/or any affiliated government agencies will be in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act."; 2) Incorporate an accessible (to those with sensory impairments) statewide emergency mass notification system into the EOP and emergency management. A funded position within DHSEM is also necessary in order to adequately manage and utilize the mass notification system; 3) DHSEM, as the primary state agency, be given the regulatory authority through state law, as well as the appropriate number of funded positions, to provide an increased level of oversight for ADA compliance of all local jurisdictional emergency plans and to expand their repository to include the most current emergency plans of all jurisdictions.



Grant Partnerships - Quality of Life Grant Program – Fiscal Year 2014 Awardees

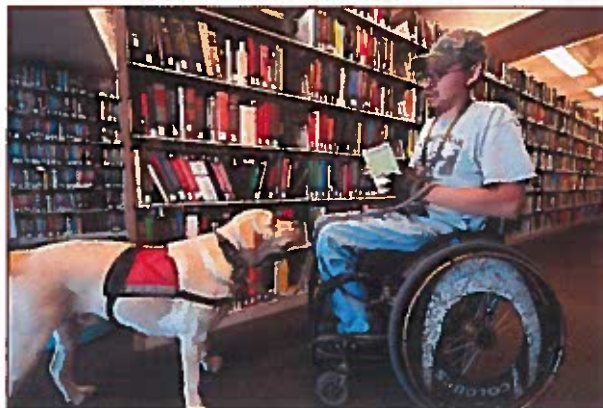
“Quality of Life” is a small grant program providing limited financial assistance to small, local non-profits in state organizations to expand and enhance services to improve the quality of community living for New Mexicans with disabilities.

Albuquerque Center for Hope and Recovery: To teach the skills needed to find and maintain employment.

Assistance Dogs of the West: To train assistance dogs and successfully match them with clients in need to help increase independence and enhance health and companionship.

Embrace, Inc.: To provide an updated 211 phone information for essential community phone service.

The Cody Unser First Step Foundation: To teach individuals adaptive scuba techniques and certifying them as open water divers through classroom and actual under water training, increasing the individual’s confidence, trust, and empowerment.



Global Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.: To provide outdoor recreation activities that individuals may not otherwise be able to experience.

Life Quest: To offer a facility anyone with disabilities in the county could use for therapies, self-advocacy presentations, community education, and a place to obtain information and resources.

Mental Health Association of New Mexico: To provide support to individuals who are facing issues/problems and need someone to listen and help problem solve in order for the individual to avert a crisis.

New Mexico Association of the Deaf: To provide communication access for deaf, hard of hearing, hearing, and deaf-blind citizens.

Presbyterian Ear Institute: To provide speech and language therapy to children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Puppet Theatre los Titititeros: To give people with developmental disabilities a voice and vehicle for creative expression through the performing arts, resulting in an increase of self-esteem and self-efficiency.

San Juan Center for Independence- (Navajo Nation):

To create an adult day care services to keep frail Navajo elders from being placed in nursing prematurely.

Progressive Residential Services: To engage the people PRS serves, the art community and the general public in collaborative art projects in order to create togetherness.

Disability Rights New Mexico: To promote health care coverage and services by educating the disability community through public forums in Roswell, Las Cruces, Silver City, Farmington, Las Vegas and Albuquerque.

Statement of Fiscal Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

EXPENSES

General government:	
Personal services and employee benefits	\$ 725,839
Contractual Services	1,254,741
Other costs	437,218
Depreciation	<u>10,721</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>2,428,519</u>
PROGRAM REVENUE	
Federal Grants	1,214,762
Charges for services	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE	<u>1,214,762</u>
NET PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>(1,213,757)</u>
GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS	
State general fund appropriation	1,091,200
Other financing uses	<u>-</u>
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS	<u>1,091,200</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(122,557)
NET POSITION, BEGINNING	<u>505,698</u>
NET POSITION, ENDING	<u>\$ 383,414</u>

