

WELCOME
February

Medically Fragile
Newsletter



February 2023 | Medically Fragile Case Management Program |

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Upcoming Workshops



We want to invite you to come to the workshops we are having this month. We offer a variety of workshops to meet the needs of families and professionals across the state at no cost. If you are in need of sign language interpretation or any other assistance accessing the workshops, please call us at least a week prior to the workshop at (505) 247-0192.

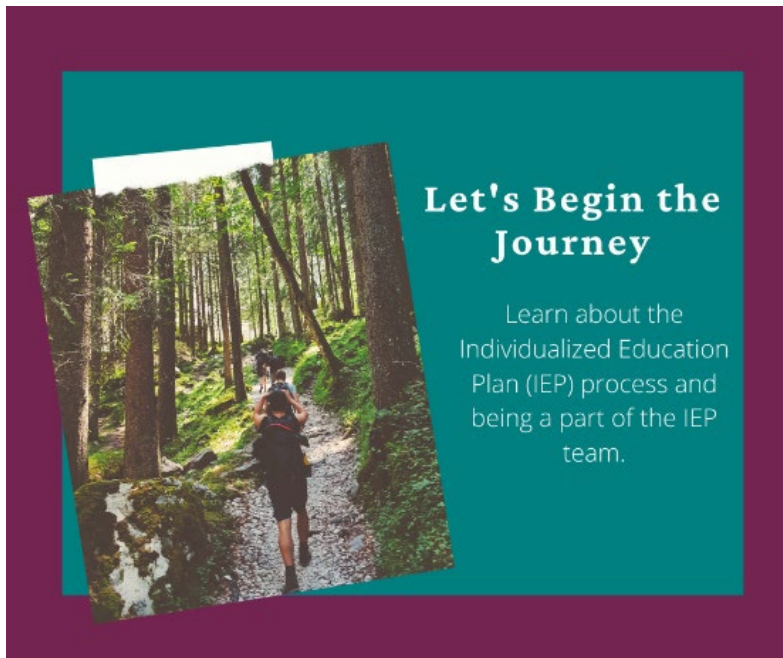
Let's Begin the Journey

Wednesday, January 25th

10:00am-12:00pm

Learn about the basics of the Individual Education Program (IEP) for your child and ways to build relationships through good communication.

[Register Here](#)

A graphic for the 'Let's Begin the Journey' workshop. It features a photograph of a person hiking on a trail through a forest. The text 'Let's Begin the Journey' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'Learn about the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process and being a part of the IEP team.' The background is a teal color with a dark purple border.

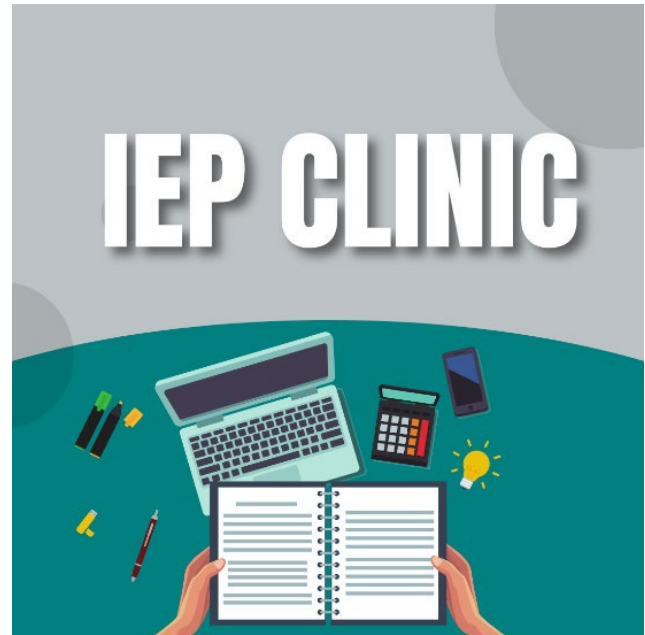
IEP Clinic

Tuesday, January 31st

7:00pm-8:00pm

Come join us for an interactive session to learn about different aspects of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This month's focus will be on goals. You will learn the different types, what SMART goals are, and how many are too many goals, so you can ensure your child's needs are being addressed.

[Register Here](#)



We want to hear from you!

As we start the new year and plan our workshops, we would appreciate hearing from you! It will only take a minute to submit. Thank you!

[Click to Provide your input](#)



Parents Reaching Out

Weaving Colors: AUTISM & THE NATIVE COMMUNITY

A presentation series for families dedicated to discussing important topics on autism and how they are viewed and addressed in the native culture.

Join us Wed. February 15th 2023

1 - 2:30pm MST

The Evolution of Autism Culture

This training will review how autism has been viewed throughout modern history and how Native communities view disabilities today.

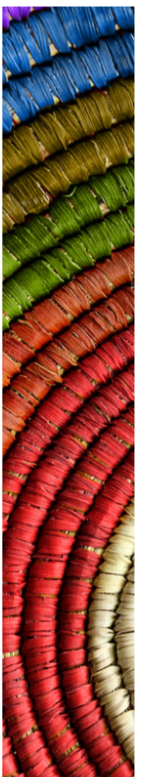
Presenters



Gay Finlayson, CFPSW



Lynette Torivio, CFPSW



To register, please scan the QR code or [Click Here](#)



CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENT
& DISABILITY

HSC-AutismPrograms@salud.unm.edu



Happy Retirement Christy!

The Medically Fragile Case Management Program with very mixed emotions, announces the retirement of Christy Barden, the Program Operations Director since 1992.

Christy began as a nurse case manager for the program in 1986.

Her passion and dedication to children who are medically fragile and their families across New Mexico was evident throughout the years in her tireless advocacy and hard work.

Much of what the Medically Fragile Case Management Program is today, is as a result of Christy's brainstorming and collaboration with stakeholders throughout our state.

Christy adored the individuals the program serves and never forgot those she met either personally or through discussion with their nurse case manager.

Christy's unending dedication to this population will continue on in all who Christy poured into just how vitally important this unique program is to the state of New Mexico.

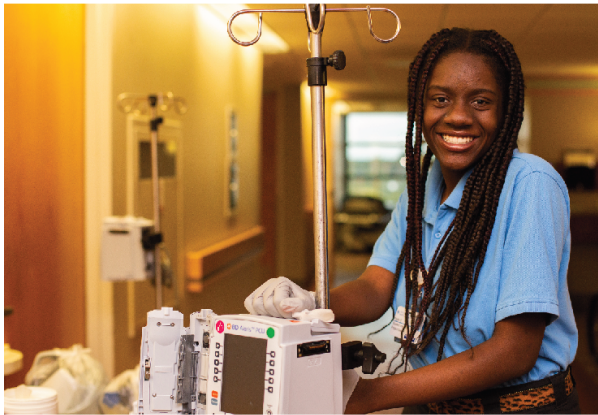
With Christy's retirement, Ann Marie Parmenter is the Interim Director. Feel free to contact Ann Marie at 505-362-6932



Med Fragile Nurse Case Management Program building – then



Med Fragile Nurse Case Management Program building – Now



Project SEARCH in New Mexico

An Internship Program Preparing Students with Disabilities for Competitive, Integrated Employment



What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is an internship program for students with disabilities, ages 18 – 22, that prepares them for integrated, competitively-paid work. Project SEARCH interns spend their final year of high school transition services fully immersed inside a business such as a hospital or large hotel. Here, they complete three 10-week internships where they gain practical employability skills. At a hospital, for example, students might rotate through internships in departments like Outpatient Rehab, Patient Transport and Linens. At a hotel, students might rotate through internships in Housekeeping, Banquet Serving, Maintenance and Customer Service. Through these internships, students achieve the task-related skills and people skills that prepare them for competitive jobs in their community when the Project SEARCH internship is done.



Throughout New Mexico, roughly 70% of Project SEARCH interns obtain competitive, integrated, employment at the end of the internship year.

Goals of Project SEARCH:

- Competitive, Integrated, Employment at End of Internship
- Total Workplace Immersion
- Internship Rotations for Career Exploration and Job Skills Acquisition
- Life Skill Development
- Customized Job Search Assistance

“UNM Hospital employees and patients have both benefited from this program. These interns have become great assets to our hospital and other businesses and organizations throughout Albuquerque.”

Steve McKernan
past CEO UNM Hospital

unmhealth.org/cdd **PARTNERS FOR EMPLOYMENT**

How Does Project SEARCH Work?

Cohorts of 8-12 interns are supported on-site at a host business by a teacher from their school district and a skills trainer from a local supported employment agency. The Project SEARCH year follows the school district calendar in terms of start dates, graduation dates, and holidays.

Students spend the first hour of the day in a classroom at the business learning employability skills. Then, each intern reports to their job rotation for four hours of hands-on job training. At the end of the day, students report back to the classroom to review what they've learned.

All interns are enrolled in New Mexico Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) services. DVR supports each intern's success with transportation training, uniforms, shoes, and a monetary stipend to cover internship-related expenses and to develop saving/budgeting skills. DVR works closely with the supported employment agency on job leads and job development for interns once they graduate from Project SEARCH and assists with Social Security Benefits training so that interns' benefits aren't negatively affected by employment.

Where are the Project SEARCH Programs in New Mexico?

Alamogordo

Holloman Air Force Base
Steve Starkovich
steven.starkovich@alamogordoschools.org

Albuquerque

The Nene & Jamie Koch Project SEARCH Training Program at UNM Hospital
Brian Love
brian.Love@aps.edu

Embassy Suites Hotel

Terry Casey
teresa.casey@aps.edu
www.transitionsservices.aps.edu

Farmington

Farmington Municipal Services
Chelsea Chairion
cchairion@fms.k12.nm.us

Gallup

Hilton Garden Inn
David Palenschat
dpalensc@gmcs.k12.nm.us

Rio Rancho

Presbyterian Rust Medical Center
Theresa Griffin-Golden
theresa.Golden@rrps.net

Las Cruces

Gadsden Independent Schools
Larry Melendez
hmelendez@gisd.k12.nm.us

What Might a Typical Intern Day Look Like?

7-8am	Travel to Internship Site
8-9am	Classroom Training: employability skills, team building, workplace safety, and problem solving
9am-2pm	Internship Rotations (Interns follow department's designated break and lunch times)
2-2:30pm	Classroom Debrief and Departure

What Past Project SEARCH Interns Have to Say



"Project SEARCH has helped me learn new skills to obtain work. I have learned how to communicate, help others, and how to set life goals. Project SEARCH will also show you how managing finances affects lifestyle."

Alyssa, Holloman AFB PS Intern, 2021-22



"Project SEARCH has helped me learn what type of work I like & do not like. It has given me experiences to know what to expect mentally & physically to prepare yourself for transitioning into a job."

Adrian, Holloman AFB PS Intern, 2021-22



"Project SEARCH has helped me a lot. They showed me that I can do things even with a disability. My disability does not define who I am!"

Destiny, Holloman AFB PS Intern, 2021-22

Project SEARCH New Mexico is a joint collaboration of the University of New Mexico Center for Development & Disability Partners for Employment, the New Mexico Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the New Mexico Department of Health/Disability Services, local school districts, and local supported employment agencies.

unmhealth.org/cdd

PARTNERS FOR EMPLOYMENT

THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

A Guide for Parents of Young People with Disabilities

In Brief: When you transition from high school to college, the accommodations and services you may have received through an IEP in high school are not automatically carried forward. As a college student, you will be responsible for identifying and documenting your disability to the college, and for identifying and requesting the accommodations that you need.

High School – Oversight: IDEA Law. Individual ages 3-21 with a documented disability. Accommodations are requested during IEP process with the help of an IEP team.

College – Oversight: ADA Law. Any individual with a documented disability. Student is required to request accommodations via the college’s DRC office.

In high school, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides for students with disabilities to have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This plan includes supports and accommodations needed by the student in the classroom, and may include therapies.

In college, students are no longer covered by IDEA. Instead, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act provide you with the accommodations you will need.

There are some big differences between being covered by IDEA and being covered by ADA.

When you are getting ready to start college, keep in mind that you will need to:

- Contact the college’s Disability Resource Center (DRC) and tell them about your disability
- Provide all documentation of disability that the DRC requires
- Understand the kinds of accommodations that may be provided at your college
- Identify and request needed accommodations

Don't Forget:

- IEP records do not automatically transfer to your college. Keeping your own copies is a good idea.
- It will be up to you to make sure that the accommodations you and the DRC have set up are being used.
- There are no special education teachers at college. Unless a legal guardian has been appointed, parents/guardians will need the student's permission to access school information, including anything about accommodations, once the student turns 18.

Questions to Ask the Disability Resource Center Staff:

- What documentation of disability is required?
- What kinds of accommodations can be made?
- I need an accommodation right away. How long does it take your office to approve my request?
- Will DRC staff help figure out what accommodations are needed, or do I do that by myself?
- Who provides the list of accommodations to the professors?
- How often will I need to check in with the DRC about my accommodations?

KEY POINTS:

Before Starting College:

- Identify and request the accommodations that you require (Note: During your senior year transition IEP process, ask your IEP team to help you list accommodations that will help you meet your post-high school goals).
- Be able to document your disability in order to request those accommodations
- Understand your college's Disability Resource Center's policies and procedures for requesting accommodations.
- Advocate for yourself! Once in college, you will no longer have an IEP team requesting accommodations on your behalf.

Examples of accommodations you might request in college are:

- Audiobooks and other kinds of assistive technology
- Note-taking assistance
- Un-timed and/or alternative formats for tests
- And more, depending on your identified needs

Useful Website: Think College "Rethinking College" www.thinkcollege.net

Partners for Employment (PFE), a program at The University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability, provides training and resources to advance inclusive employment practices in New Mexico. Visit our website: <https://unmhealth.org/services/development-disabilities/programs/other-disability-programs/partners-for-employment/>



*A University Center for Excellence
In Developmental Disabilities
Education, Research and Service*

University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability
2300 Menaul Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87107
Phone: (505) 272-3000 Website: <https://hsc.unm.edu/cdd/>



Disability Rights Awareness Day at the Roundhouse is happening on Wednesday, February 8! For the first time in three years, the disability community will be able to come together in person at the Capitol, and we invite you to be part of it.

We'll have a **gathering in the Capitol Rotunda from 11:00 to noon**, and we're pleased to announce that we'll be joined by the lieutenant governor and legislators from around New Mexico. Those planning to attend include:

- Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales
- Rep. John Block of Alamogordo
- Rep. Kathleen Cates of Rio Rancho
- Rep. Joanne Ferrary of Las Cruces
- Rep. Tara Jaramillo of Socorro
- Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero of Albuquerque
- Rep. Liz Thomson of Albuquerque
- Rep. Christine Trujillo of Albuquerque
- Senator Siah Correa Hemphill of Silver City
- Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino of Albuquerque
- Senator Nancy Rodriguez of Santa Fe

In addition to the Rotunda gathering, a variety of disability-related organizations will have exhibit tables in the wings off the Rotunda from 8:00 to 2:00. You'll also have time to visit the Capitol building, meet your legislators, watch the Legislature in action, and network with other members of New Mexico's disability community.

There is no charge to attend DRAD at the Roundhouse and pre-registration is not required. We hope to see you there!

<https://www.arcnm.org/drad-2023/>

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The Disability Coalition is funded in part by the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council through Federal Program funding.

Additional funding is provided by

The Arc of New Mexico, Disability Rights New Mexico, the Independent Living Resource Center, and New Vistas.

Remember to report any suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation!

 A flowchart titled "ABUSE NEGLECT EXPLOITATION REPORT IT! In Case of an Emergency call 911". It lists three categories of individuals and the corresponding reporting agencies:

- Individuals 0-18 years of age: Call Statewide Central Intake/CYFD 1-855-333-SAFE (7233) Cell phone - #SAFE
- Individuals on the Medically Fragile, Mi Via, or DD Waivers: Call NM Dept of Health – DHI 1-800-445-6242
- Individuals over 18 years of age: Call Adult Protective Services 1-866-654-3219

 A note at the bottom states: "Lines are open 24/7. When you call the numbers above, you can remain anonymous and all information is kept confidential."