



July 2, 2021

Jason Cornwell
Acting Deputy Secretary
New Mexico Department of Health
5301 Central Ave., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Dear Mr. Cornwell,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to request the New Mexico Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division, implement a study of the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce in New Mexico.

By way of background, the Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers, (ADDACP), the New Mexico Caregivers Coalition (NMCC) and eight other partner organizations convened a three-day roundtable discussion on June 16, 21 and 29 to explore opportunities to collaboratively pursue policy interventions that support New Mexico's DSP workforce.

These roundtable discussions were facilitated by Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino, Chairman of the New Mexico Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee. The attendees participated in this roundtable because of their shared commitment to supporting the DSP workforce so they may deliver the highest quality of care for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

During this three-day meeting, all participants recognized there is a paucity of data on the DSP workforce within New Mexico's state funded programs that serve people with IDD. DSPs do not have their own occupational classification in federal labor datasets and New Mexico does not currently collect this data.

The participants at these roundtable discussions agreed that accurate data on the size, stability and compensation for the DSP workforce would assist government leaders, administrators, employers, advocates, consumers and family members to better understand our workforce. For example, participants of the roundtable agreed that accurate data are needed in at least three areas: workforce volume (e.g., employment numbers by job type and full-time versus part-time staff); stability (e.g., recruitment, retention, turnover, and job vacancies); and compensation (e.g., hourly wages and availability of benefits).

We need a well-trained and appropriately compensated DSP workforce based on accurate data. Data can be leveraged to develop and evaluate targeted policy solutions to improve wages and working conditions for DSPs which would be critical in future efforts to study adjustments to provider reimbursement rates.

This request for DSP data is part of a larger initiative we would like to see undertaken to build a comprehensive system of care for all consumers and care recipients in New Mexico.

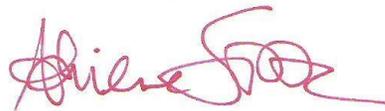
Furthermore, both our organizations believe and expect that comprehensive system of care will adequately finance a currently under-financed system.

In summary, we ask to meet with you as soon as possible to share more and to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to working with you and other state and public officials to develop a new data collection process. Together, we can continue to improve jobs for DSPs and services and supports for people with IDD.

Sincerely,



Mark Johnson
ADDCP



Adrienne R. Smith
New Mexico Caregivers Coalition