

THE DISABILITY COALITION

**Pre-Legislative-Session Forum**  
and  
**Legislative Advocacy Training**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, January 13, 2018 – 8:45 to 3:30 – **Registration opens at 8:15**

**Location:** Jewish Community Center  
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE in Albuquerque

**Registration/Cost:** \$20 per person, which includes lunch and the afternoon workshop if you choose to stay for it. **Please register in advance so we can have adequate supplies of the materials, lunch and refreshments.** See registration form and information below.

**About the Forum:** The annual Forum provides a review of significant disability issues in New Mexico as well as a preview of what will be addressed in the 30-day state legislative session, which starts Jan. 16. If you want to know what's happening and what you can do about it, the Forum is for you! We'll be covering:

- the state's budget situation – it looks rosier now; how will it affect persons with disabilities?
- what changes are expected in the new version of Medicaid Centennial Care, and what's happening with Medicaid-funded long term services?
- the federal outlook: what's going on in Washington and how will it affect New Mexico?
- guardianship reform – recommendations from the commission appointed by the Supreme Court and proposed legislation to implement reforms
- other bills and memorials likely to be considered in the 2018 session, including: new funding for the DD waiver program and to reduce the waiting list; limiting disclosure of recordings of police encounters with persons with mental illness; limiting “fail-first” step therapy for prescriptions and medical treatment; meeting the needs of adults with autism; transferring DVR to the Workforce Solutions Department; and more!

**A Legislator's View – Lunch with Rep. Liz Thomson:** Get an insider's view of the upcoming legislative session from Rep. Thomson, who is the parent of an adult son with a disability, former chair of the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and a long-time advocate on disability issues. She was first elected to the House in 2012 and returned to the Legislature in 2016. During legislative sessions, Rep. Thomson is vice chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee and a member of the powerful House Appropriations and Finance Committee. She also sits on several interim committees that cover health and disability issues, including the Health and Human Services Committee and its Disabilities Concerns and Behavioral Health Subcommittees, and the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee, of which she is co-chair.

**Legislative Advocacy Workshop:** How does a bill become law, and how does the legislative process *really* work in New Mexico? In our afternoon session, find out how you can have an impact on what the Legislature does, and why it's important for you to do so. Ellen Pinnes from The Disability Coalition and Jim Jackson from Disability Rights New Mexico, who both have years of experience as public interest “lobbyists”, will explain how the Legislature works and share tips for communicating with legislators. All workshop participants will receive a “Legislative Tool Kit” full of information and resource materials. And you'll have an opportunity to sign up for DRNM's

Policy and Legislative Action Network. As part of the PLAN, you can join with others to become an active advocate on issues affecting the disability community and have an impact on important public policy decisions.

***To register for these events:***

- *By mail or email:* Print and fill out the registration form below, or go to DRNM's web page [www.drnmm.org](http://www.drnmm.org) and click on the "more information about the Forum" link for information on how to fill out and save an electronic copy of the form. Then you can either -
  - mail a printed copy of the completed form to Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM), 3916 Juan Tabo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Enclose your check for \$20, or mark the box showing that you will pay at the door and bring your check or cash on January 13. **Mailed registrations must be postmarked by Friday, January 5, 2018. Or -**
  - send an email to [info@drnm.org](mailto:info@drnm.org). Put "Forum Registration" in the subject line and attach the electronic copy of the completed form. You can then mail in a check, or you can indicate on the form that you will pay at the door. Remember to bring your payment when you come to the Forum on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- *By phone:* Call the DRNM office (505-256-3100 or toll-free at 1-800-432-4682). Indicate that you are calling to register for the forum and provide your name and contact information. Be aware that the DRNM office will be closed from December 25 through January 1, but you can leave a voice mail message that week.
- *By fax:* Send the completed registration form to DRNM at 505-256-3184.

**If you are registering by phone, fax or e-mail, please do so by 5:00 on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Although we will be accepting registrations at the door, we cannot guarantee copies of the materials or a lunch for you unless you have registered in advance.**

**The \$20 registration fee must be paid in cash or by check. We do not accept payment by credit/debit card.**

***Disability accommodations.*** Sign language interpreters will be provided throughout the day. If you need any other disability-related accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, contact the DRNM office at 505-256-3100 or 1-800-432-4682, or email us at [info@drnm.org](mailto:info@drnm.org). **Please let us know of any such needs by 5:00 on Tuesday, January 9** so we'll have time to make the arrangements.

***Driving Directions to the Jewish Community Center:*** The Center is located at 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, a few blocks south of Academy and a few blocks north of Spain. The building is on the east side of the street and sits back a little bit from the street. There is plenty of parking in front of the building, including a significant number of accessible spaces close to the entrance.

***From the far north:*** Take Paseo del Norte or San Antonio to Wyoming and head south.

***From the south:*** Take I-25 north to Montgomery, then go east to Wyoming and head north, or take I-40 east to Wyoming and head north.

***From the west side:*** Go east on Paseo del Norte to Wyoming, and head south.

***City bus service:*** The Jewish Community Center is served by Wyoming Blvd Route 31.

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*The forum is sponsored by The Disability Coalition and Disability Rights New Mexico.*

- The Disability Coalition is a statewide cross-disability coalition representing persons with disabilities, family members and advocates. The Coalition is supported by a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and funding from the other members of the Coalition's Steering Committee, which includes The Arc of New Mexico, Independent Living Resource Center, New Vistas, and DRNM. The Coalition is administered as a project of DRNM.
- DRNM is a non-profit organization founded in 1979 whose mission is to protect, promote, and expand the legal and civil rights of persons with disabilities. The forum's legislative advocacy workshop is presented as part of DRNM's Policy and Legislative Action Network (PLAN), which encourages members of the disability community to be involved in policy-making in New Mexico.

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2018 Pre-Legislative-Session Forum and  
Legislative Advocacy Workshop**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Your City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee (\$20):**

Enclosed is my check for \$20, made out to Disability Rights New Mexico.

I will pay at the door (**cash or check only; no credit or debit cards, please**).

**Please let us know which parts of the event you plan to attend:**

Morning issues forum

Lunch *Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions:*

Afternoon legislative advocacy workshop