



# *Policy and Legislative Action Network*

## *January 2014*

Happy New Year from the Staff at Disability Rights New Mexico!

### Join us for the Pre-Legislative Session Forum in Albuquerque

An exciting new year is already underway for the Policy & Legislative Action Network (PLAN). The annual Pre-Legislative Session Forum will take place on January 11, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the UNM Continuing Education Building in Albuquerque. Sponsored by the Disability Coalition and DRNM, this event provides a preview of disability-related issues that are expected to be addressed in New Mexico's 30-day legislative session starting on January 21. Issues include: the state budget and proposed funding levels for programs serving persons with disabilities, Centennial Care (Medicaid redesign), the Developmental Disabilities Waiver program, guardianship, special education, and more.

Our luncheon speaker will be Senator Bill O'Neill of Albuquerque, who is currently vice chair of the Senate Public Affairs Committee and an advisory member of the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. [Click here](#) for detailed information about how to register, request accommodations, and get directions. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Spread the Word:

### Tell Your Legislators About the SM 20 Taskforce Report

Help your legislators learn about the Developmental Disabilities waiver program and how they can help reduce the wait time for individuals seeking services. During the 2013 legislative session, Sen. William Soules introduced Senate Memorial 20, which formed a Taskforce to address the many challenges associated with the administration of the DD waiver: an 11-year waitlist, geographic disparities in the distribution of funds, provider capacity, and many more concerns. The Taskforce issued a report in October 2013, which recommended that the Legislature allocate \$84 million towards improving the DD waiver program over a three year period. (You can read the full report [here](#)).

During the 2014 Legislative Session, Sen. Soules will introduce Senate Bill 55, which would allocate \$25 million towards the DD waiver program. We need to educate as many legislators as possible about the importance of this program and its direct impact on individuals and families. Contact your state senator and representative (see how [here](#)), and tell them about the SM 20 Taskforce report. Share with them your story of how the DD waiver waitlist has affected you and others. The time has come to reduce the wait for all in need of DD waiver funding!

### About the PLAN

The Policy & Legislative Action Network (PLAN) is a group of individuals concerned with disability-related issues in New Mexico. The PLAN, administered by Disability Rights New Mexico, strives to positively influence policy that impacts individuals with disabilities across the state.

### Upcoming Events:

#### **January 11, 2014**

Pre-Legislative Forum  
Albuquerque, NM  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

#### **January 21, 2014**

NM Legislative Session  
begins.

#### **February 17, 2014**

Disability Rights  
Awareness Day @ Courtyard  
Marriot, Santa Fe

#### **February 18, 2014**

Disability Rights  
Awareness Day @  
The Roundhouse, Santa Fe

#### **February 20, 2014**

NM Legislative Session  
ends.

### **Watch your e-mail**

for Action Alerts from the PLAN. Through January and February, we will send you updates on legislative activity that impacts the disability community. Help us influence our NM legislators! Need help finding your legislators? (Click [here](#)).

Mark Your Calendar:  
Disability Rights Awareness Days, Feb. 17-18, 2014

Join us and partnering agencies for Disability Rights Awareness Days in Santa Fe on February 17-18, 2014. This year's theme is "Access to Healthcare for All." On Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, you can attend training and advocacy sessions at the Courtyard Marriot, 3346 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe, 87507. (Click [here](#) for registration info). Join us at the Roundhouse on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, where there will be exhibits and guest speakers. For more information, contact the Arc of New Mexico at 1-800-358-6493.

*The Policy and Legislative Action Network (PLAN) is administered by Disability Rights New Mexico  
1720 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Suite 204, Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Tel/TTY: (505) 256-3100 State-wide toll-free: 1-800-432-4682 Fax: (505) 256-3184*