

New Mexico Attorney General

HECTOR BALDERAS

PRESENTS

In Conjunction with Our Partners

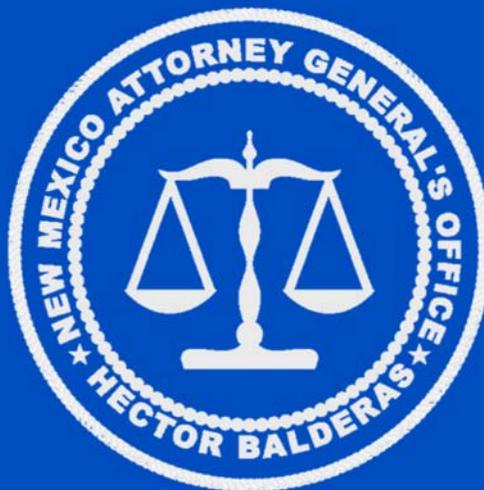


New Mexico State Auditor & New Mexico State Treasurer

DREAM BIGGER SUMMIT

Creating a More Inclusive New Mexico

October 28, 2019



8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

800 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM



OAG Mission: It is the mission of the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General to protect New Mexicans in order to make our communities safe and prosperous. We prosecute criminal and civil offenses, advocate for consumers and those without a voice, empower the public by proactively educating it and connecting the public with beneficial resources. We serve as legal counsel for the State and its agents.

OAG Mission and Summit: To create a more inclusive New Mexico we must ensure that all New Mexicans are safe, healthy and able to thrive. The OAG supports and protects all New Mexicans but we are mindful of vulnerable populations, including individuals with disabilities. When individuals with disabilities are properly informed, supported and protected, they can self-advocate and thrive in an inclusive environment.

Registration - 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Morning Plenary Session

Alvarado DE

9:00 am to 11:45 am

Opening Remarks

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Attorney General Hector Balderas (20 minutes)

State Auditor Brian Colón (20 minutes)

1st Plenary Session - Alvarado DE

9:45 am to 11:00 am

Human Trafficking Training by the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General

Special Agent Deanna Young

Roslynn L. Gallegos

Human Trafficking Training by the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General (45 minutes)

Ms. Gallegos' presentation will focus on the manner in which Human Trafficking affects the lives of individuals with disabilities. Speaker will discuss working in Juvenile Justice and with the New Mexico Dream Center to combat Human Trafficking in New Mexico. The speaker will also share a personal story about young women with disabilities who have succeeded in spite of their circumstances. (30 minutes)

Roslynn L. Gallegos

Roslynn Gallegos received her MSW from New Mexico Highlands University School of Social Work. She is a licensed clinical social worker currently working at MAS Charter School serving first generation college students. She also works with the New Mexico Dream Center providing services to Victims of Human Trafficking. Roslynn is the mother to a 10-year-old named Eliza who was diagnosed with Autism at age 2. Roslynn is passionate about social justice and quality of life. She aspires to one-day aid in opening a multipurpose center for those affected by Human Trafficking.

2nd Plenary Session - Alvarado DE

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Medicaid Fraud Control Division

Special Agent Santiago Baca

Michelle Varela R.N.

The presentation will explore the composition, authority, and resources of the Medicaid Fraud Control Division for the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Further, we will discuss some of the criminal and civil statutes employed by the Division and review some common case types.

Santiago Baca

Mr. Baca is a Special Agent in Charge with the Medicaid Fraud Control Division of the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. He has served as an investigator with the Division for over 15 years and has conducted over 700 investigations, including both civil and criminal investigations. His case experience has ranged from investigating home healthcare fraud to national qui tam whistleblower actions. He is experienced in the implementation of information technology solutions to conduct investigations, including the analysis of vast amounts of billing data using relational databases, design and implementation of information technology divisional resources, and examination of digital media in a forensically sound manner in order to identify, preserve, recover, analyze, and present items of evidentiary value. He has conducted joint investigations with multiple private insurance carriers as well as state and federal government agencies, including Managed Care Entities, State OIG, HHS-OIG, DEA, and FBI. Lastly he is an advanced course instructor with the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

Michelle Varela R.N.

Michelle Varela is a Medical Care Investigator with the Medicaid Fraud Control Division of the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. Where she actively investigates allegations of patient abuse, neglect, and exploitation in facilities receiving payments under the Medicaid program, such as nursing homes, facilities for the mentally and physically disabled, and assisted living facilities within the Medicaid Program. For almost 29 years, Michelle worked in health as a nurse. Before for her investigator job Michelle was a Unit Director at the University of New Mexico Hospital, where she successfully secured funding and advocacy to all patients. Michelle knows the importance of safeguarding the limited resources available to vulnerable New Mexicans. She is an RN and holds a Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of New Mexico and certified case manager.

Lunch (on your own)

11:45 am to 1:00 pm

Afternoon Breakouts

Session 1 - Alvarado DE

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Website and Document Accessibility

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

Jessie Armijo

This educational session will provide participants the opportunity to learn what it takes to create and maintain accessible websites and documents. Laws such as the ADA, Section 508, and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) will be covered along with how to successfully evaluate your own website. The second part of this presentation will show participants the steps needed to create accessible Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Adobe PDF documents. By the end of this training session, participants will walk away with better knowledge about what it takes to create accessible content for its use on the internet.

Jessie Armijo

Jessie Armijo is an AT Specialist with the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP). He is a Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP). Jesse has worked for NMTAP for over 4 years, where he oversees all AT activities including device demonstrations, device loans, training and technical assistance across the state of New Mexico. He has years of technological experience working with all types of devices, systems, and programs. Jesse holds two Bachelor's Degrees from the University of New Mexico; a BA in English with a Psychology minor and a BA in Media Arts.

Session 2 - Alvarado DE

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Why We Think What We Do About Children and Adults with Disabilities

Southwest ADA Center

Julie Ballinger, M.A.

This presentation uncovers the taken for granted beliefs that society tends to have regarding what disability is and how those with disabilities should be perceived and treated, which can often lead to intentional or unintentional discrimination. You will gain disability awareness and sensitivity concerning how typical stereotypes and macroaggressions towards people with disabilities can marginalize and rob that person of their own unique individualism and access to mainstream society. The presentation will conclude with general helpful disability etiquette tips on how to interact with people with disabilities resulting in both parties feeling respected, empowered, and acknowledged for who they truly are as individuals.

Julie Ballinger, M.A.

For over 32 years, Julie Ballinger has worked in the Disability Rights field providing leadership, technical assistance and training on disability rights and other disability related issues. Before starting her consulting business in 1998 and becoming a Regional Affiliate for the Southwest ADA Center, Ms. Ballinger was an Executive Director of a nonprofit that provided empowering services to people with all types of disabilities, which also required that the majority of staff and governing board be professionals with various disabilities. She successfully assured that the requirements of all Titles of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act were fully and continually satisfied, since the organization acted as an instrumentality of state and city governments, received federal funding, was an ADA covered employer and public accommodation entity. As a Regional Affiliate for the Southwest ADA Center her work includes free ADA in-depth training, technical assistance, ADA best practice approaches, and disability awareness/issues concerning employment, state/local government obligations and business/nonprofit access requirements. As part of the federally funded ADA National Network, SWADAC provides free training, publications and technical assistance. To learn more go to www.southwestada.org.

Breakout:

Session 1 - Alvarado F

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Centennial Care Community Benefit, Human Services Department

Tallie Tolen

Tallie Tolen

Tallie Tolen has been the Chief of the HSD/MAD Centennial Care Long-Term Services and Supports Bureau since December 2015. She has worked in various areas of the NM Medicaid program beginning in 2003, including School Health, DD Waiver, Mi Via, and the Medicaid Expansion.

Afternoon Break 2:00 pm - 2:10 pm

Session 2 - Alvarado F

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Conservatorship Review

Natalie Cordova

Elise M. Mignardot

The Office of the State Auditor will give an overview of their current efforts to review Corporate Guardianship and Conservatorship which is intended to provide protections to persons under these entity's care. The presentation will also cover current reporting protocols for corporate and family guardians.

Natalie Cordova, CPA

Natalie Cordova proudly serves New Mexicans at the Office of the State Auditor, for the second time, as its Deputy State Auditor. Previously serving as its Audit Director for the Financial Audit Division. She received her Bachelor of Science Degrees in Accounting and Economics from New Mexico State University, where she was awarded the Outstanding Senior of the Year Award in the Major of Economics. In 2012, Natalie earned her license as a Certified Public Accountant. Recently, Natalie was honored by the New Mexico Society of CPAs as the recipient of the 2019 NMSCPA Outstanding Member in Government Award. Happily married and mother to three young children living in Truchas, NM, Natalie Cordova is a veteran accountant with a strong background in internal and external auditing and overall financial analysis. Prior to returning to the Office of the State Auditor, Natalie served as Chief Financial Officer for the New Mexico Attorney General.

Elise M. Mignardot, CPA

Elise M. Mignardot is a CPA and Financial Audit Manager at the Office of the State Auditor (OSA). Originally from Tacoma, Washington, Elsie moved to New Mexico in 1986 – effectively earning her Native New Mexican status – especially as a lover of green chile and biscochitos! A skilled governmental financial statement auditor, Elise regularly performs special investigation audits of governmental entities to effectively promote accountability, responsibility, and transparency. Elise has been with the OSA for nearly four years, after previous service with DFA and many years in the private sector, serving first as an audit supervisor and currently as an audit manager within the Financial Audit Division. She has thorough and comprehensive experience with New Mexico insurance premium tax distribution and led a team for the Special Insurance Premium Tax audit identifying \$64 million of underpaid insurance premium taxes. Elise has been happily married to her husband, Henry, for 33 years and together they have two adult boys. In her free time she enjoys working in her yard, working out, and spending time with her family. She is greatly appreciative of her colleagues at both DFA and OSA and the individuals she works with in the IPA community.

Session 3 - Alvarado F

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

The Know Your Rights Campaign: Building the Future Together

Wendy Corry

Daniel Ekman

Lindsay Sloan

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Are you living the life you choose? Do you know what your rights are if you are receiving DD waiver services? Do you want to learn how to advocate more effectively for yourself and other people? Come join us for this presentation to hear from and talk to advocate experts on how they have learned to speak up for themselves to create the life they want. Learn about the important laws that strengthen the rights of people receiving Waiver services while also learning about the responsibilities each of us has as an important member of our community.

Wendy Corry

Wendy Corry has been an advocate with and for people with disabilities for over 30 years in a variety of settings.

Daniel Ekman

Daniel Ekman is the Program Manager for the Center for Self-Advocacy at the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

Lindsay Sloan

Through Lindsay Sloan's work as the Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Self-Advocacy, she strives to help people with disabilities find and believe in their own worth and use their voices to reach their goals. All three of these presenters are honored to be on the Executive team of the nonprofit agency NM Allies for Advocacy, Inc.

Breakout:

Session 1 - Alvarado G

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Service Animals, Emotional Support Animals, Therapy Animals, Comfort Animals, Companion Animals and Pets...Oh My

Nat Dean

Karen Cushnyr

What is the difference between a service animal, emotional support animal (ESA), therapy animal, comfort animal, companion animal and a pet... are we living in a zoo? This session will discuss the distinctions of each including when and where they are allowed with an emphasis on how animals can assist people with disabilities. From the processes and responsibilities of being matched with a working service animal, all of the way up to what laws and policies are in place to accommodate trainers, placement agencies, recipients/handlers, public spaces and private property... there's quite a lot to learn about! Both speakers use service animals and are nationwide advocates on the subject.

Nat Dean

Nat Dean lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a survivor of traumatic brain injury (TBI) experienced in 1984. She has been partnered with five service animals (dogs) since 1988. An elongated 25-year recovery from TBI provided a rich personal history of hard lessons she's chosen to use in her current work of helping lead policymakers, agencies, families and individuals toward discovering fresh avenues and creative solutions that can facilitate systemic change to the present and future 'disability experience' as a Disability-Focused Advocate.

Karen Cushnyr

Ms. Karen Cushnyr lives with Spina Bifida (SB) and has had two mobility service animals. She resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her husband, has three grown children and one grandchild. She holds a Master's Degree in Business with an emphasis in Project Management and worked for over 25 years in healthcare, primarily as a Healthcare Administrator. She is a keen advocate for service animal access that is equal and safe for those who use this specialized assistive technology. Karen works to improve the lives of every person living with SB and is a member of the City of Albuquerque's ADA Advisory Council.

Session 2 - Alvarado G

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Understanding ABLE New Mexico - ABLENewMexico.com

Denise Balderas

Heather Benavidez

State Treasurer's Office

Amira Rasheed

Brad Hill

New Mexico Office of the Attorney General

The New Mexico State Treasurer's Office is very proud to have the opportunity to offer savings and investment accounts to individuals living with disabilities. These online accounts enable New Mexicans to save and invest their money without risking eligibility for public needs-based benefits such as Medicaid or SSI.

Denise V. Balderas

Denise V. Balderas has served as a highly qualified educator, professional trainer, and children's advocate for 23 years. She served as an Assistant Principal for Rio Rancho Public Schools and as a Principal for Albuquerque Public Schools the last 4 years. Her classroom experience ranges from K-8 grades and she has taught in rural and urban school districts throughout the state of New Mexico. Denise served as an effective Education Program Manager with Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD), focusing on efforts to improve graduation rates and success strategies for at risk youth. For the past 8 years, Denise has served as an instructional coach for educators to improve student performance and expand teacher's knowledge on best teaching practices while utilizing data in order to assist teachers with instructional decisions in the classroom. As a professional trainer, Denise has delivered effective strategies to various school districts focused on improving curriculum, meeting federal and state compliance standards, and expanding cultural competency awareness. Denise trains and advises clients on the importance of cultural competence in 21st century education, and strategies to build trust when integrating with Hispanic and rural communities.

Heather R. Benavidez

Heather Benavidez is the Liaison Officer for the State Treasurer's Office, and she administers the ABLE New Mexico program. She has sixteen years of experience with state government, fourteen of which was with the Thirteenth Judicial District. Her tenure with the judiciary was a consistent upward trajectory, beginning in the clerk's office, moving into jury management, advancing to Trial Court Administrative Assistant, and finally, project manager. She was fortunate to have the opportunity to assist in the creation and implementation of the Foreclosure Settlement Facilitation Project, a pilot alternative dispute resolution program assisting individuals facing foreclosure. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Spanish) and Master of Public Administration from the University of New Mexico. In her spare time, she presides over the Municipal Court of Rio Communities. She and her husband split their time between Albuquerque and Rio Communities and together are raising a lovely teenaged daughter.

Amira Rasheed

Ms. Rasheed has worked as an Advocate at the New Mexico Attorney General's Office since the early existence of the Advocacy Division in 2016. She has specialized in advocating, serving and informing individuals about civil rights issues. The work that she performs involves assisting individuals with specific complaint issues submitted to the Attorney General. She is also engaged at the state policy level. She approaches these issues as being both a person with a disability and as a highly experienced professional advocate. She was involved in creating the Attorney General's Intergovernmental Summit Regarding Disability Concerns and The Attorney General's Annual Disability Summit. She is also a participant in the Traditional DD Waiver. She has served as actively with The Developmental Disability Planning Council as a board member for 8 years and as the chair for the last 3 years. She also serves on the New Mexico Allies for Advocacy as a board member/ officer. She is involved in the Mí Via Renewal Taskforce and the Traditional DD Waiver Renewal. Amira is certified as an ADA Coordinator for The New Mexico Attorney General's Office. She also performs duties in The Consumer and Environmental Protection Division for the Attorney General. Prior to working for the Office of the Attorney General, Ms. Rasheed worked for a non-profit organization as a Program Coordinator and handled five different contracts which included the formation of the Self-Advocacy Movement. Ms. Rasheed also served on many national and state boards affecting policy changes. She has completed The Policy and Partners and the Lend Programs from CDD UNM. She was also a member of The New Mexico Youth Disability Leaders.

Brad Hill

Brad Hill has worked as an Advocate with the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General since the formation of the Advocacy Division in 2016. He has specialized in working to provide better life outcomes for persons with disabilities. This work involves assisting individuals with specific complaint issues submitted to the Attorney General and through engagement at the state policy level. He is a parent of a waiver participant and is the chair of the Mí Via Advisory Committee. He serves on the Allies for Advocacy government and policy committee, the Mí Via Renewal Taskforce and the ACQ Bylaws Subcommittee. He was involved in creating the Attorney General's Intergovernmental Summit Regarding Disabilities Concerns and the Attorney General's Annual Disability Summit. Prior to working with the New Mexico Attorney General Mr. Hill had a long career working in State and Federal affordable housing programs with various agencies. Mr. Hill has also served in local government as Town Councilman and Mayor for the Town of Edgewood.

Session 3 - Alvarado G

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR)

Reyes Gonzales

The NMDVR presentation will focus on the agency's vision, mission, and structure. Eligibility requirements and services provided will be highlighted. The agency's statistics and performance outcomes will be reported. Changes brought on by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will be emphasized (i.e.- Pre-employment transition services, Limitation on the use of subminimum wage, Competitive Integrated Employment, and Employer Engagement). Finally, the agency's accomplishments, challenges, and success stories will be shared.

Reyes Gonzales

Reyes Gonzales has worked in vocational rehabilitation for the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) for over 21 years. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Webster University and is a graduate of the National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute. He is also nationally Certified as a Rehabilitation Counselor. He started his career in vocational rehabilitation as a counselor working in the South Valley of Albuquerque. There he served participants living in both urban and rural settings. A significant portion of these participants struggled with substance abuse and employment issues. He helped a significant percentage of these participants achieve employment. He eventually went into program management where he continued to work for over a decade on vocational rehabilitation domains such as school-to-work transition, self-employment, and supported employment. He has served as a Field Operation Director for NMDVR for the last five years. His focuses included State Plan development and transition to new requirements under WIOA, including Section 511, maximizing information to people with disabilities about services toward competitive integrated employment.



Attorney General Hector Balderas would like to thank the following Agencies/Individuals for making the Dream Bigger Summit possible:

NM State Auditor Brian Colón	NM State Treasurer Tim Eichenberg
NM Governor's Commission on Disabilities	Southwest ADA Center
NM Human Services Department	State of New Mexico
Developmental Disabilities Planning Council	Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Jessie Armijo
Roslynn L. Gallegos	Tallie Tolen
Julie Ballinger, M.A.	Wendy Corry
Natalie Cordova	Lindsay Sloan
Daniel Ekman	Heather Benavidez
Denise Balderas	Brad Hill
Amira Rasheed	Santiago Baca
AAI Director Jennifer Saavedra	