


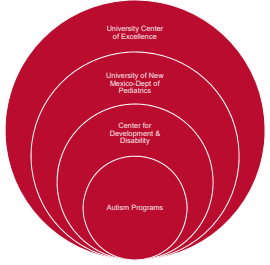

NM CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT & DISABILITY

Review of Current Activities of the Autism Programs

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Autism Programs


University Centers of Excellence

- 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) throughout the country
- Part of a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs
- Meant to serve as a bridge between the University and the community, bringing together the resources of both to achieve meaningful change through:
 - Exemplary services for children, adults and families
 - Academic training
 - Basic and applied research
 - Training and technical assistance to schools, communities and all levels of government
 - Policy advocacy
 - Program evaluation
 - Dissemination of best practices and new information



Autism Programs


- Collection of Programs with various funding streams including:
 - NM Department of Health, DDSD
 - NM Public Education Department
 - Developmental Disabilities Counsel
 - Individual school district contracts
 - NM Human Services Department – Medicaid Assistance Division



Autism Programs

Staffed By Faculty & Staff with Specific ASD Expertise:


- Faculty Psychologists
- Speech-language pathologists
- Occupational/physical therapists
- Physicians
- Social Workers
- BCBA's
- Education Consultants
- Health Educators
- Family Specialists
- Special Educators
- Persons with Lived Experience (personally or family member)



Autism Programs -- 2021

Core Programs/Functions

- Training
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Family Support
- Clinical Services
- Research



Autism Programs: Training

- A wide variety of training for multiple audiences, including:
 - Brief One Time Training, upon request
 - Webinar Series
 - Autism Portal Training
 - Curriculum Based Training

Autism Programs: Brief Training

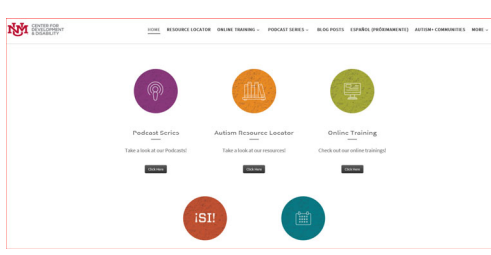
- Training provided to 4 university classrooms upon request
 - Approximately 46 students trained
- Training provided to 10 community settings upon request
 - Approximately 413 community members attended community trainings

Autism Programs: Training

- Webinar Training (on-going)
- Imagine Training Series
 - 36 training sessions, 3384 participants
 - Series held twice monthly in webinar format with themes:
 - Behavioral Health & ASD
 - Early Intervention & ASD
 - Employment & Transition into Adulthood
 - ABA/Behavioral Intervention
 - Healthcare & access
 - A future that is flourishing

Autism Programs Training: Autism Portal

<https://cdd.health.unm.edu/autismportal/>



Autism Programs Training: Autism Portal

Developed, recorded, and posted podcasts and webinar

- During 2021, 15 podcasts were added to Autism Portal
- 10 Spanish webinar added

Autism Programs Training: Autism Portal

New Podcasts (featuring individuals with ASD)

- Navigating the COVID 19 Chaos
- Employment Perspectives
- Using Creativity as Expression
- Later Autism Spectrum Diagnosis
- A Journey to Self Love
- Perspective of Living with ASD-Invisible Disability
- Power of Your Voice


Podcasts requested by Community

- Staying connected through technology
- Understanding guilt in parents of children with ASD (English & Spanish)
- Siblings, COVID & ASD, Balance
- Family disaster planning for families & ASD (English & Spanish)
- Importance of exercise as an evidenced based practice
- Increased computer use during Covid-how is affecting families with ASD

Autism Program Training: Autism Portal


Webinars created for families in Spanish

- Advocating for yourself as a parent
- Visual supports
- Communication
- Sensory Supports
- Challenging Behaviors
- Supporting social skill development
- Anxiety
- Employment perspectives
- Resource access and ASD
- Movement strategies




Autism Programs Training: Autism Portal - School Based Webinars, Podcasts

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| <p>Preschool Interventions</p> <p>Preschool: Preparing and Understanding Behavior Needs</p> <p>#1 A Developmental Look At ASD</p> <p>#2 Behavior & Instruction</p> <p>#3 Educational Planning</p> <p>#4 Supporting Inclusion</p> <p>IEP Considerations for Students with Autism</p> <p>Considerations for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>Transitions</p> <p>When do Academics become Functional Skills?</p> <p>Community & Vocational Training</p> <p>Self-Monitoring & Self-Management</p> <p>Team Planning & Collaboration</p> | <p>Tools for Challenging Behavior</p> <p>Differential Reinforcement</p> <p>Developing and Maintaining Instructional Control</p> <p>Generalization and Maintenance</p> <p>Data collection for Busy Classrooms</p> <p>Parent Portal Trainings (2020-21)</p> <p>Building Motivation & Cooperation</p> <p>PreK Supports</p> <p>IFSP vs. IEP</p> <p>IEP Best Practices</p> <p>Tools for Teaching at Home</p> <p>Visual Supports</p> |
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Autism Programs Training: Autism Portal - School Based Webinars, Podcasts

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| <p><u>Parent Portal Training:</u></p> <p>Toilet Training</p> <p>Functions of Behavior</p> <p>Changing Behavior</p> <p>Self Management & Self Monitoring</p> <p>Functional Life Skills</p> <p>Personal Protection in Schools</p> <p>Functional Communication Training</p> <p>11 Considerations for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>Teaching New Skills</p> | <p>Educator Voices Podcasts:</p> <p>Educator Voices: Planning for Transition</p> <p>Educator Voices: 11 IEP Considerations for Students with ASD</p> <p>Educator Voices: Preference Assessment</p> <p>Educator Voices: Data Collection</p> <p>Educator Voices: Reinforcement</p> |
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Autism Programs Training: Curriculum Based Long Term Partners in Policymaking

- NM Partners in Policymaking – 11th cohort group graduated in 2021
- Participants included:
 - 11 Self advocates
 - 16 Family Members
 - 4 Professionals
- Participants from around state:
 - Albuquerque
 - Espanola
 - Gallup
 - Farmington
 - Aztec
 - Rio Rancho
 - Santa Fe
 - Las Vegas
 - Gallup
 - Las Cruces
 - Deming




Autism Programs Training: Curriculum Based Long Term Thrive

- Thrive: Life skills curriculum for adults on the autism spectrum, ages 18-32.
- Each course is 13 weeks in length
- Fall and Spring course was offered
- Taught by two individuals with ASD who have advanced degrees in Special Education and the sibling of a person with ASD
- Topics include:
 - Self Determination
 - Self advocacy
 - Self Awareness
 - Communication
 - Civil Rights
 - Planning & Organization
 - Money Management
 - Health and nutrition
 - Managing "hidden curriculum"
 - Career exploration
- Total participants: 19 from Bernalillo, Los Alamos, Chaves, Otero, Taos, Luna & Valencia



Autism Programs Training: Curriculum Based/Long Term Rural Family Training

- Rural Parent Training
- Designed specifically for families
- 4 weeks in length
- Delivered to Alamogordo, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, San Juan county and Gadsden (Spanish presentation)



Autism Programs: Training & Technical Assistance, Autism+

- Autism + Training: Aims to foster a greater sense of belonging and acceptance for those ASD and other developmental disabilities in NM.
 - Audience: Community business, early childhood care centers, community employers such as Sandia Labs, HR departments,
 - Total of 19 trainings in 2021 with 534 participants
- Autism+: Technical Assistance: Wide range of personalized, TA to include initial site consultations and specific site questions, issues, materials to support individuals with ASD
 - Audience: Variety of community based organizations such as Six Judicial District Court, Children's Grief Center, Santa Fe Children's Museum, Music on the West Side
 - Total of 11 organizations received intensive TA

Autism Programs: Training & Technical Assistance - School Based Services

- Provided training & technical assistance to 103 school districts within the state; 4254 teachers and other school staff
- Provided through a variety of online formats – zoom, google docs.
- Both Training & Technical Assistance is individualized to the needs and requests of school personnel

Autism Programs: Trainings & Technical Assistance School Based Services– Districts Served

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| 21 st Century Charter | Bloomfield Schools |
| ABQ Bilingual Academy Charter | Capitan Municipal Schools |
| ABQ School of Excellence Charter | Carlsbad Municipal Schools |
| ACES Technical High School | Central Consolidated Schools |
| AIMS @UNM Charter | Chama Valley independent Schools |
| Aldo Leopold | Cimarron Municipal Schools |
| Altura Preparatory School | Clayton Municipal Schools |
| Amy Biehl Charter School | Cloudcroft Municipal Schools |
| Animas Public Schools (#10) | Cobre Consolidated |
| Artesia Public Schools | Corona Public Schools |
| ASK Charter Academy | Cottonwood Valley Charter School Socorro |
| Aztec Municipal Schools | Cottonwood Valley Charter Schools |
| Belen Public Schools | Demining Public Schools |

Autism Programs: Training & Technical Assistance -School Based Services – Districts Served

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| Des Moines Municipal Schools | Hobbs Municipal Schools |
| Dexter Consolidated | Hatch Valley Public Schools |
| Dulce Independent Schools | Hobbs Municipal Schools |
| Estancia Classical Academy | Hondo Valley Public Schools |
| Estancia Municipal Schools | Horizon Academy West Charter |
| Estancia Valley Classical Academy | Jal Public Schools |
| Eunice Public Schools | La Promesa Charter |
| Explore Academy Charter | Lake Arthur Municipal Schools |
| Farmington Municipal Schools | Las Cruces Public Schools |
| Gallu-McKinley County Schools | Las Montanas Charter School |
| GREAT Academy Charter Schools | Las Vegas City Public schools |
| Hagerman Municipal Schools | Lordsburg Municipal Schools |
| Hatch Valley Public Schools | Los Lunas Public Schools |

Autism Programs: Training & Technical Assistance School Based Services – Districts Served

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|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Loving Municipal Schools | Mosquero Municipal Schools |
| Lovington Municipal Schools | Mountainair Public Schools |
| Maxwell Municipal Schools | New America School of Las Cruces |
| McCurdy Charter School | New Mexico international School |
| Media Arts Collaborative Charter School | NM Corrections Academy |
| Mimbres Charter (CHC) | NM Corrections |
| Mission Achievement & Success Charter School | NM School for Blind & Visual Impairment |
| Monte del Sol Charter School | NM School for Deaf-Santa Fe |
| Montessori Elementary Charter School | North Valley Academy Charter School |
| Mora Independent Schools | Pecos Independent Schools |
| Moriarty-Edgewood Schools | Penasco Independent School |
| | Pojoaque Pbulic Schools |

Autism Programs: Training & Technical Assistance -School Based Services– Districts Served

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|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Questa Independent Schools | Springer Municipal Schools |
| Roy Municipal | SW Aeronautics, Mathematics and Science Academy Charter |
| Ruidoso Municipal | SW Secondary Learning Center Charter |
| Sandoval Adademy of Bilingual Education | Taos Municipal Schools |
| Santa Rosa Consolidated | Tatum Municipal Schools |
| School of Dreams Academy Charter | Tierra Adentro Charter School |
| Sequoyah Adoscent Treatment Center | Tierra Encantada Charter School |
| Silver Consolidated Schools | T or C Municipal Schools |
| Solare Collegiate Academy Charter School | Tucumcari Public Schools |
| South Valley Preparatory School Charter | Tularosa Municipal Schools |
| Southwest Primary Learning Center Charter | Turquoise Train Charter (PreK Only) |
| | UNM Mimbres School |
| | Wagon Mound |
| | West Las Vegas Public Schools |

Autism Programs Training & Technical Assistance: Parent Home Training Project ImPact

- Both provide parent training and coaching for parents/caregivers of children under the age of 6. PHT families have a child diagnosed with ASD; Project ImPact families may have children at risk or those with significant social/communication issues
- Staffed by clinicians and therapists, including bilingual staff: psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, social workers, and pre-doctoral interns and postdoctoral fellows (psychology)
- Project ImPact clinicians have received specialized training and have received fidelity and reliability on the model
- PHT: Served 92 families/392 visits in 16 counties (Bernalillo, Chavez, Cibola, Colfax, Dona Ana, Eddy, Lea, Los Alamos, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Sierra, Taos, Valencia)
- Project ImPact: Served 16 families/91 visits in 5 counties (Bernalillo, Cibola, Lea, Luna, Rio Arriba, Sandoval)



Autism Programs Training & Technical Assistance: UNM Children Psychiatric Center

- Staff Provided: BCBAs and Education Consultants
- UNM CPC staff served: Physicians, nursing staff, mental health technicians, therapists
- Provided training, one on one coaching, problem solving, assisting with special programs for individual cottages – evidenced based practices were emphasize, taught and coached.
- 3 web based training developed on communication and behavior strategies and have been placed in University Learning Management System for capacity building



Autism Programs Training & Technical Assistance: General Peds Unit/Child Life Services

- Training & technical assistance presented for approximately 40 staff
- Community Packets developed and disseminated on peds floors
- 6 web based trainings have been developed and will become a mandatory portion of new employee trainings



Autism Programs: Family & Provider Resources

- Responded to 534 families and providers' request for resources from throughout the state
 - Bernalillo, Grant, Lincoln, Chaves, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, Eddy, Taos, San Juan, Dona Ana, Santa Fe, Torrance, Curry, Sandoval, Valencia, Guadalupe, Colfax, Los Alamos, McKinley, San Miguel, Zuni Pueblo, Mora, Lea, Socorro, Sierra, Roosevelt, Hidalgo, San Miguel, Quay
- Staffed by English and Spanish bilingual speakers; family members with lived experience



Autism Programs' Clinical Programs: Clinical Evaluations

- Clinical Evaluations
 - Clinical evaluation has become a hybrid model with some client encounters occurring in a virtual format while others are done in person
 - Implementation of model has been highly dependent on "state of state" in terms of COVID positive numbers, vaccine rates and other factors
 - Our clinic has been totally open during the 2021 fiscal year
 - Evaluation teams led by faculty psychologists, who supervised 2 psychology interns and 2 postdoctoral fellows. Other team members included social workers, speech-language pathologists with consults with occupation therapy, physical therapy, pediatrics, psychiatry
 - Most evaluations are completed in three appointment slots: interview/developmental history, testing and feedback/recommendations to family or individual
 - 551 encounters were completed; 190 completed evaluations
 - ASD Diagnosed in 67% of cases completed



Autism Programs' Clinical Programs: Clinical Evaluation

- Rates of referrals continue to grow:
 - 409 completed intakes during 2021
 - Current wait list is 722 clients (includes re-evaluations, second opinions)
 - Priority is given to 3&4 year olds seeking first time diagnosis
 - Currently have 196 children under the age of five (59 were children who aged out of Early Childhood evaluations (ECEP) and were transferred to Autism Programs'.



Autism Programs' Clinical Services: Clinical Training Program

- Huge shortage nationally for clinical psychologists and others who are trained in ASD diagnosis
- Currently the CDD has a robust clinical trainings program for Psychology interns/postdoctoral fellows
 - Have both an early childhood and autism track
 - Receive interns and fellows from across the country and are admitted through competitive process
 - These trainees are supervised by faculty psychologist for clinical evaluation work thus increasing the number of clients we can serve
 - For Fiscal Year 2022, we have hired an additional two psychologists from our postdoctoral pool
 - This training program has helped "grow our own" as we have been able to retain a number of these trainees over the years.



Autism Programs' Clinical Services: Social Work Program

- Developed to
 - support families through the diagnostic process
 - provide specific case management
 - provide "anticipatory guidance"
 - provide follow up as requested.
- In 2021,
 - Case Management Encounters: 550
 - Triage Cases: 479
 - # of Families Receiving Follow Up Support: 27



Autism Programs Clinical Services: ASD & Anxiety

- Family therapy for children and adolescents with ASD and co-occurring anxiety – Facing your Fears, an evidenced based model
- In 2021 conducted entirely on a virtual platform
- Two sessions (Fall & Spring) with 14 weekly meetings for each session
- 10 families and 10 individual children and adolescents with ASD participated



Autism Programs Clinical Services: Child Psychiatry Consultations

- Consultations to treat co-occurring symptoms and diagnoses with psychopharmacology
- 104 visits were conducted with families for medication management



Autism Programs: Research

- IRB approved data base of all clients seen; has been used to make programmatic decisions, observe trends
- Current research pilot project to assess recommendation hesitancy in families in rural areas (beyond access)



Future Directions

- Continue with current programs
- Increased clinical capacity with additional faculty psychologists
- Adolescent & Young Adult transition services:
 - Clinical evaluations have been extended through adulthood;
 - Psychiatry consults for medication management and differential diagnosis
- Family & Peer Support
 - Currently have 5 Certified Family Peer Specialists; additional 1 in process
 - Currently have 1 individual in process of becoming a Certified Peer Support Worker; plan to hire an additional three individuals with ASD who will become certified
 - Plan is to increase our Peer Support Services



Thanks for Your Attention!

Questions?

