

Creating Opportunities in Southern Dona Ana County

The Annual Transition Institute

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Taos, New Mexico

I. List of Presenters

Priscilla Salinas, Southern New Mexico Advocate
Andrea MacRae, Project Assistant
Grace Marquez, Project Assistant
Olga Acosta, Parent

II. Moderator/Contact Person

Randy Costales, Associate Director
The Arc of New Mexico
3655 Carlisle NE
Alb. NM 87110
Phone 505-883-4630
FAX 505-883-5564
rcostales@arcnm.com

III. Abstract

Speakers will discuss The Arc's efforts in Southern Dona Ana County to build more inclusive communities and to promote positive outcomes for young people with developmental disabilities through the following Projects of National Significance funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities:

1. The Community Means All People (MAP) Project was a collaborative effort and partnership between The Arc of New Mexico and four New Mexico communities to organize local coalitions and to help individuals with developmental disabilities identify and access recreational activities of their choice. The speakers will present the guidebook and share what they have learned about helping people access the community and about forming coalitions. Students of all ages and their families participated in a colorful and exciting planning process that helped them develop a vision and goals for their future and steps to achieve their goals.
2. The "El Poder de los Jovenes" (Empowerment of Youth) Project is to promote positive outcomes for youth for disabilities in the areas of education, employment, recreation, and healthy lifestyles. Through involvement in the project, young people will increase their chances of graduating from high school with a standard diploma, obtaining and maintaining employment, participating in community activities of their choice, and developing healthy lifestyles. Project staff will be working closely with the local school district to explore and develop ways to involve students with disabilities in extracurricular activities, self-advocacy training, and leadership development.