

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY PLANNING COUNCIL

### BIO's

**Lanthia (Gillespie) Miles** retired from the State of New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in 2010 as the Community Outreach Coordinator and was the 1<sup>st</sup> classified Rehabilitation Technician in the State of New Mexico. She has been actively engaged in collaboration with the community at large and the African American community for 25+ years to improve life in Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico.

She is the Owner of LMG Consulting, a company she began in 2003 to address various issues in the African American community. Her focus is on helping individuals (disabled and ex-offenders) navigate the employment and social service systems, youth, disability advocacy, employment workshops, event planning and community outreach.

Most recently she was elected Board Member of Sheryl Williams-Stapleton African American Performing Arts Center Foundation;

She was appointed to the DA's Leadership Council, which is currently looking working on Community Based Crime Reduction in the International District where I reside; serving on the Behavioral Health and Law Enforcement Committees.

**Lanthia** is the proud mother of three (3) children, Chanel, Ahmet and Kimberley Gillespie, Grandmother (aka GG) of thirteen (13+) and Great Grandmother of three (6)!

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**Jacqueline Costales** currently serves within NMPED as the Division Director for School Transformation. Prior to her current position she served at CYFD Juvenile Justice Services as Principal for adjudicated youth and prior to that as Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction for the Albuquerque Public Schools. She is a 26-year veteran educator whose career has included service preK-12. Ms. Costales received an Ed.S. in Educational Administration, a Masters of Arts in Elementary Education and a Bachelor of Science in Education, all from the University of New Mexico. In addition to her most recent roles, she has served students, families, teachers, and principals in the following roles throughout her career: Support Principal, Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Teacher, and as Regional Support Specialist in the Priority Schools Bureau at the NMPED. She believes in collaborative synergy and accountability and partners with an array of stakeholders in her daily work. She is steadfast in her commitment to students and in supporting the success of academic programs in her daily life as an educator.

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**Chinda Lucoski** started her career in Health and Wellness professions with the US Air Force 25 years ago and it grew into a successful private practice in massage and bodywork. She is married to David Lucoski, a Resources Manager for the Air Force for the past 46 years. She has two children, Alicia 39

years old that has autism and Brian 35 years who is a Doctor of Physical Therapy. Chinda organizes and facilitates family support group and works on public awareness on developmental disabilities and supported employment in Otero County.

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**John Arango** – Joined the Peace Corps immediately after graduating from college and 2 years later came to NM to work at the Peace Corps Training Center for Latin America at UNM. He later went back to the Peace Corps as Country Director in Panama and Ecuador. While in Ecuador with their two children, they adopted a daughter. When they return to NM in 1973, they adopted a son who turned out to have a rare genetic condition that they describe as very slow muscular dystrophy. Their son's experience led Mr. and Mrs. Arango to become advocates for children. Mr. Arango wrote the Childhood Plan for the DDPC and later became Chair of the Carey Tingley Hospital Board during its move from T or C to UNM.

With other parents, we formed Parents Reaching Out as a way to share information, support each other, and advocate for children. Over the next few years, we and many other parents and colleagues such as Gail Chasey persuaded the state to apply for the Medicaid Waiver; secured funding for what is now the Center for Excellence at UNM; lowered the school age for children with disabilities to age 3; and created the NM Medical Insurance Pool. Advocacy moved to the national level with the formation of Family Voices in 1993. My wife and parents from every state worked to make family centered care a reality. Throughout, my wife took the lead along with Patty Jennings in NM and many other parents across the country. My role was to support her while I worked as a management consultant to non-profit organizations (chiefly legal aid programs) and for the American Bar Association.

My son's condition worsened when he developed a seizure disorder in early adolescence, and he steadily lost the ability to care for himself thereafter. After graduating from high school, he waited a few years before receiving services under the Medicaid waiver. Until his death in 2014, he (and we) were very fortunate to have assistance from his caregiver, Liz Griego.

I've retired from management consulting but continue to work for several organizations as a volunteer. I'm chair of the state Civil Legal Services Commission (that funds legal aid programs in NM), chair of the board of Chatter (that produces chamber music concerts in Albuquerque and Santa Fe) and a member of the board of the NM Medical Insurance Pool.

My vision for the DDPC is for the Council to become the vehicle through which people with disabilities and their families and supporters can ensure that people with disabilities of all ages receive the assistance they need to live happy and productive lives. We happen to be in a period when there are many opportunities to make gains for the people we love: in early childhood services (early intervention for many children should start earlier than 3); in schools, as a result of the Yazzie decision; with newly available state revenue, to eliminate the Medicaid Waiver waiting list; and in planning for the needs of elders with disabilities.

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**Pat Osbourn** is the Associate Director of Community Programs at the Center for Development & Disability, UNM. The CDD is NM's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service. She is a speech-language pathologist by training and currently directs

the Autism Programs at the CDD and oversees other projects there. She has been at the CDD since 1990 and has seen many changes at the Center and at the State in her tenure.

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**Emma M. Farris** graduated from the University of New Mexico with a double major in Psychology and Sociology in May 2016. She completed basic undergraduate courses at Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso Campus (2009-2011) with a GPA 3.0. Her experience is working with diverse populations; bilingual Spanish. She is a clear communicator with excellent public relations skills and a certified peer mentor in both Youth in Transition and Brain Injury. Emma presents disability awareness curriculum for youth leaders for New Mexico Governor's Commission for Disability across New Mexico.

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**Diane Mourning Brown - Director, NMDVR**

Diane Mourning Brown comes to DVR with over 25 years in nonprofit agency management and with a background in social work. Most recently she was the associate director of the New Mexico Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission in Albuquerque. Formerly, she was with the State of Colorado, Community College of Denver (CCD) where she served as the Executive Director of Resource Development. Ms. Mourning Brown attended the University of Colorado at Boulder earning bachelor degrees in Sociology and Journalism and the University of Phoenix in Tucson, Arizona with a master of arts in Organizational Management. Her goals for DVR include maximizing resources to provide the necessary services for our constituency, stabilizing our internal operations and human resources, working within the mission of DVR and in conjunction with the Public Education Department and the Department of Workforce Solutions.

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**Kathleen M. Holmes Cates** – daughter went through the FIT program in 2001-2004. Kathleen was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of an agency she felt was instrumental to her daughter's success and in 2011 was asked to become that agency's CEO. She has been LifeROOT CEO for over 8 years and serves on the ACQ.

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**Katie Stone** – Presently is the Executive Director & Producer, The Children's Hour Inc. in Albuquerque, NM. The mission is to produce weekly public radio programs with and for children and families. She has two adult children and several family members with developmental disabilities. She has been a parent advocate for issues concerning special education, served on the board and as president of the New Mexico Autism Society.

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**Jennifer "Jenn" Sanchez** – Jenn is a former board member and president of the NM Autism Society and graduate of the CDD's partners in policymaking program as well as a student at UNM where she's earning her degree in special education. Most importantly she's the mother to 3 amazing kids including 1 on the spectrum. "I look forward to working with and for this amazing community."

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**Tarra Main** – Tarra is a single mom of 3 children. Two of her children have Autism, with her youngest having developmental delays. She has previously been on the board for New Mexico Autism society and has been a volunteer for Special Olympics Rio Rancho. She is currently on the board for a new nonprofit called Elevate the Spectrum. Their mission is to empower individuals with Autism and their families through inclusion, advocacy and friendship. "I am passionate about volunteering my time in the special

needs community. I enjoy meeting new people, being supportive to their needs and making new friendships.”

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**Dolores C. Gonzales** – is the Policy and Planning Director at Aging & Long Term Services Department for the State of New Mexico. She has varied work experience including 12 years of experience in management, serving as Bureau Chief with the NM – Department of Finance – Local Government Division where she oversaw the day to day operations of programs relating to State/Federal/Legislative funds assigned to the Division. Dolores served as an independent contractor for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunger summit in New Mexico. Additionally, while employed at the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging, she organized the End Hunger Summit for four years. Dolores’ career in State Government has focused on serving the citizens of the State of New Mexico through the process of administering programs for those with the most need. In her time off, she enjoys spending time with her family and is the proud grandmother of 3 beautiful grandchildren.

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**Laurel Deans** – Is a self-advocate for the Center for Self Advocacy in Albuquerque, NM. She works on issues related to disabilities; attends workshops and presents workshops on disabilities to various groups around the state. Laurel is associated with the New Mexico Disability Youth Leader Project and assists in presenting interactive presentations to K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students. They recognize the importance of inclusion and access for students with multiple types of disabilities. She has also served in several preschools as a Teacher Assistant.

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**Selma Nevarez** – Ms. Nevarez is a lifelong learner and enjoys contributing her leadership skills and knowledge to support disabled individuals as well as typically developing children and adults in a learning community. She has been married for over 40 years to Rudy who has been the most loving and supportive husband EVER! Mother to 2 wonderful children Felicia and Felipe and his wife Gillian and grandmother to 2 beautiful twins, Gabriel and Chloe.

She taught special education for 24 years, teaching all levels of children with developmental disabilities. In that time she mentored and encouraged families to become advocates for their special children. She was then voted into the position of Special Education Director by the Gadsden School Board and did that job successfully for 11 years.

Having a niece, Alice, with a cerebral palsy and in a wheelchair she learned first-hand how much families have to come together to support a child with special needs. As a special education Director she advocated for our children and our families to make sure their educational needs were being met. During her 34 years in Special Education she was also a coach for Special Olympics and is still proudly a coach for the Olympians.

She retired from Gadsden and now work for The Children's Garden, Child Development Centers and currently is the Pre K Coordinator for the business. She is very excited about this position with the DDPC and looks forward to helping the State of NM become more aware of the needs of our Special Needs population and what we have to do to improve their quality of life.

**Lanthia Miles (Gillespie)** – Is retired from the State of New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. As the Owner of LMG Consulting, her focus is on helping individuals (disabled, ex-offenders and Veterans) navigate the employment and social service systems, youth and disability advocacy, employment workshops, event planning and community outreach. She has been actively engaged in the African American community for 25+ years.

Lanthia believes “our greatest challenge is to ensure that African American youth are educated. Their involvement in the community is essential to provide them with exposure to life experiences outside of their home, school and church environments to prepare them for the world. African Americans in the State of NM need to take pride in their heritage and legacies. Our roots are deep and we have built and contributed many things to not only New Mexico and but also the United States of America.”

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**Lupe Sanchez** - Sanchez is currently employed as the DWI Coordinator for Santa Fe County. Prior to his employment with Santa Fe County, Lupe served as the program Director of the Specialty programs for the First Judicial District Court. Lupe has a total of 24 years working in State and Local Government. Lupe enjoys spending his free time with his wife and two kids enjoying the great outdoors.

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**Joel Davis** - is a private attorney who advocates on behalf of nonprofit entities, Native American Tribes and individuals to ensure their legal and governmental needs are heard and addressed.

Joel knows the struggles faced by parents in obtaining services and support for developmentally disabled community members as a parent of a developmentally disabled child currently on the DD Waiver Wait List and as a former government relations advocate for the New Mexico Autism Society while serving as a director of the board.

Joel has served as an expert witness on successful legislation concerning the developmentally disabled in the schools, for state insurance laws amendments to ensure developmentally disabled adults are covered for key services beyond school age, among other issues.

Joel was born in Farmington, New Mexico, graduated high school from Highland High in Albuquerque, NM and has resided in Rio Rancho, NM for the past 15 years.

Joel holds a juris doctorate degree from the University of New Mexico School of law and Bachelors of Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing from Southwestern Oklahoma State University."