



CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENT
& DISABILITY

How Mi Via Services Get Approved by Assessors

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LEND TRAINEE 2021-2022

APRIL 29, 2022

LEND Competencies

3: Knowledge of Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities, with a Focus on ASD

- ❖ Demonstrate knowledge of NDD and related disabilities, with a focus on ASD/DD, across the lifespan, including the need for research, education, services, and supports.
- ❖ Research and disseminate information about the services for MCH populations in New Mexico.

5: Person- and Family-Centered Care

- ❖ Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of person- and family-centered care.
- ❖ Use individual and family input in a meaningful way to design, deliver, and evaluate
- ❖ services and systems of care.



LEND Competencies (cont)

6: Research, Quality Improvement, and Evidence-Based Practice

- ❖ Gain experience with framing a problem, researching, developing a product, disseminating to relevant stakeholders, and providing a professional presentation.

7: Public Policy and Health Equity

- ❖ Observe and describe public policy, formulation and implementation, legislation/policy making, financing, budgeting, program administration, consultation, and program planning and evaluation.
- ❖ Understand how systems interact with and influence each other to either decrease or increase risk or protective factors, particularly those living in rural and other underserved communities.

Objectives

- ❖ LEND Competences
- ❖ Knowledge of my lived experience with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ❖ Problem-Framing Process
- ❖ Knowledge of what Mi Via is and what services they offer to participants
- ❖ Knowledge on eligibility and criteria to receive Mi Via Services
- ❖ Product
- ❖ Dissemination Plan
- ❖ Conclusion

My Lived Experience/Background

- ❖ Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at the age of 2
- ❖ After getting diagnosed, my mom advocated for my brother and I to get the DD Waiver
- ❖ When we got the DD Waiver, we got early intervention
- ❖ When Mi Via was first launched, we switched over to Mi Via
- ❖ With Mi Via, we received special education services while in public schools and charter schools we attended
- ❖ Advocating for myself ever since high school

How I came up with my question for Problem-Framing

- ❖ We requested art lessons through Mi Via
- ❖ Art lessons did get approved by a Third-Party Assessor in 2018
- ❖ In 2019, my art lesson request was rejected by a Third-Party Assessor
- ❖ The Third-Party Assessor said it would not benefit me after my Mi Via consultant put in the same reasonings both years I requested art lessons.
- ❖ My question was how does Third-Party Assessors make decisions for Mi Via Services?

What is Mi Via?

- ❖ Mi Via is my way which means families/participants get to work with who they would feel most comfortable with
- ❖ Self-directed home and community based service
- ❖ Opportunity for others with disabilities to participate in services

What can someone do to gain eligibility for Mi Via Services?

- ❖ Meet the definition of IDD (Intellectual Developmental and Disabilities)
- ❖ Application process
- ❖ Contact DDS (Development Disability Support Division)
- ❖ Has to meet financial eligibility and medical eligibility

What is the criteria to receive Mi Via Services?

- Anyone born with Development Disabilities, Intellectual Disability, IDD
- IQ level less than 70
- Functional limitations such as life skill areas and physical impairment
- Have a disability before turning 22
- Adaptive behaviors

Types of Adaptive Behaviors

- Language
- Self Care
- Cannot live on their own
- Cannot manage their own finance
- Has a learning disability

Product

- ❖ For my research, I read the Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC) Recommendations for the New Mexico Administrative Code
- ❖ I attended 2 Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC) Meetings for my research to learn more about Mi Via Services and how the Mi Via budget works
- ❖ After the meetings, I interviewed Chinda Lucoski from the Mi Via Advisory Committee and Jennifer Rodriguez from the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division for this project.

Brochure Topics

- ❖ How do you know if you are eligible for Mi Via Waiver?
- ❖ Life Experience
- ❖ How Mi Via Services gets approved by assessors
- ❖ What happens when a previous service is denied by an assessor?
- ❖ How does Mi Via decide which agencies to work with as Third-Party Assessors?
- ❖ Mi Via Budget
- ❖ What essential needs are provided through the Mi Via Wavier?

How do you know if you are eligible for Mi Via Waiver?

- Anyone born with Development Disabilities, Intellectual Disability, IDD
- IQ level less than 70
- Functional limitations such as life skill areas and physical impairment
- Have disability before turning 22
- Adaptive behavior related to language, self care, cant live on their own, cannot manage their own finance and has a learning disability.

Life Experience:

I interviewed Chinda Lucoski and Jennifer Rodriguez for this project. Chinda is a Mi Via Parent.

Why did you choose to be on Mi Via?

Mi Via- self-directed home/community based service

Opportunity for others to participate in services, and does honor the person's needs

Mi Via is more appropriate for her daughter

Independence (needs support), job coach drives her and still is advocating for her

Savannah is a Mi Via Participant.

We chose Mi Via because of independent decisions who we hire, we get to chose who we get to have around to work with us and which locations we get services from.



How Mi Via Services get Approved by Assessors

Review all of the budgets we request

Service and Support Plan (SSP) reviews goals on what supports I will get that year.

Third Party Assessors (TPA) reviews everything then report back to the Employer of Record (EOR)

What is next?

- Keep records for services, educational and medical records to be approved for services.
- Have important documents as much as possible, parents goes to school to get the IEPs for appeals (before they leave school)

What happens when a previous service is denied by an assessor?

- A person can request a fair hearing
- Allow them to argue the denial and justify why the person needs a service
- Administrative Law Judge through the Human Services Department



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How does Mi Via decide which agencies to work with as Third-Party Assessors?

Mi Via participant and families make the choices

The biggest direction of Mi Via is self-direction

Mi Via Budget

- Under 21, based budget is \$54,589
- Under 18, \$23,443
- Over 21 is \$72,710
- Additional funding for job coach

What essential needs are provided through the Mi Via Waiver?

- Day services
- Therapies such as Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), behavioral therapy, and nursing)
- Massage therapy
- Environmental modifications (wheelchair to have ram built)
- Related good and services (helps with a gym membership, computer, phone)



Dissemination

- ❖ Dropping off brochures in various places such as the
 - CDD
 - New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council
 - Parents Reaching Out (PRO)
 - The Arc of New Mexico
 - Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS)
- ❖ Call the agencies about a good time to drop the brochures off
- ❖ Email families who are interested
- ❖ Presenting the project when opportunity comes

Next Steps

- ❖ Talking to families/Mi Via participants that are interested in learning more about how Mi Via Services getting approved
- ❖ Educating others more about Mi Via
- ❖ Dropping off the brochures this summer
- ❖ Offer brochures to those who want one and offer to send brochures via email
- ❖ Learning more about the Third Party Assessors as they approve my services in the future

Conclusion

- ❖ It is important for families that are on Mi Via to always have accurate information
- ❖ It is very important to ask questions you have about the Mi Via Waiver
- ❖ The more somebody knows about Mi Via, the better they will know about how decisions are made
- ❖ This will make us better advocates

References

Mi Via Advisory Committee. (2021). Draft comments on NMAC rules and regulation. Unpublished.

Questions?

