



CENTER FOR  
DEVELOPMENT  
& DISABILITY

# Individual Education Plan Training for Educational Decision Makers & Advocates in New Mexico

## Capstone Presentation

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## What is The Problem?

There are approximately 2500 children currently in foster care in NM. <sup>1</sup> We can assume that 13.7% of them have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and receive special education services.<sup>2</sup> When a child enters the foster care system, a judge will assign an Educational Decision Maker for each child. This person makes all educational decisions related to the child's IEP. An IEP is a legal document that is developed for each child in the U.S. who qualifies for special education services. In NM, the Educational Decision Maker is not required to have any training or knowledge of IEPs or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Does a NM agency provide IEP training for Educational Decision Makers?

A flowchart consisting of three rounded rectangular boxes stacked vertically. The top box is dark red, the middle is teal, and the bottom is orange. Each box contains a question. A light gray arrow points from the bottom right of the first box to the top right of the second box, and another light gray arrow points from the bottom right of the second box to the top right of the third box.

If NM does not currently provide a training, what would be an appropriate curriculum?

Is CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) an effective venue to disseminate the training?

Looking for Answers

## EXPLORE

**Look at other IEP training**

**Contact agency about current training**

## CONNECT

**Reach out to NM CASA Board Members**

**Introduction to NM Kids Matter**

## COLLABORATE

**Join Educational Advocacy Committee**

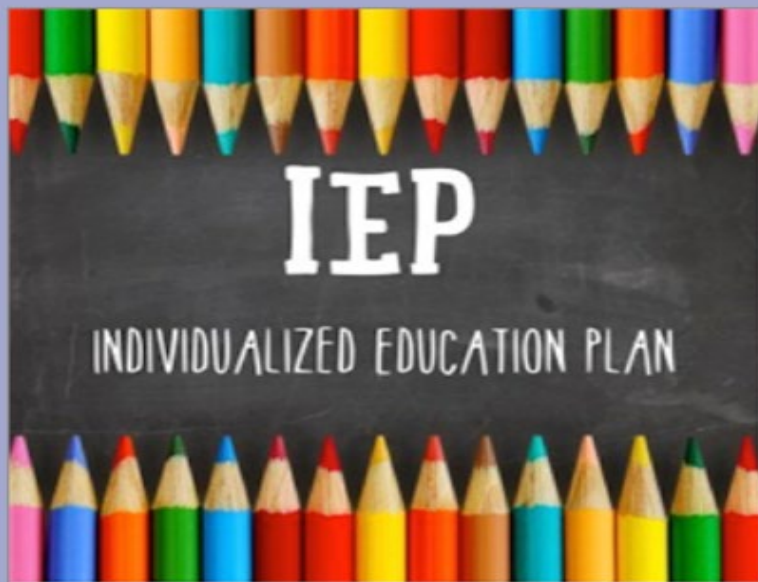
**Discuss pros & cons of current training**

## ACT

**Create training for EDMs & CASAs**

**Facilitate training on 4-28-21**

## Virtual CASA Learning Series



**Practical IEP Training for Educational  
Decision Makers & Advocates**

**Speaker**

**Jody Myers**

## What made this training different?

- Copies of real IEP pages
- Two breakout room activities
- Things explained in normal language
- Twenty-three website resources
- Three scenarios for whole group discussion
- Examples gathered from my time as teacher, advocate, & consultant
- Breakdown of Procedural Safeguards & IEP
- Practical
- Things to “watch for”

# Other Training vs. My Training

“At the EDT, the team decides if a child’s education is adversely affected by a disability that falls under one or more of these categories determined by federal law

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Developmental Delay
- Hearing Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impaired (OHI)
- Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment”<sup>3</sup>

Includes a copy of an IEP page used in NM with highlights to call attention to what category ADHD & Dyslexia fall under. There are school districts in NM that will not write IEPs for a student with these exceptionalities.

Based on assessment and evaluation information and the IEP Team determination of eligibility:

The primary disability is:

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Intellectual Disability
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Deafness
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment (includes ADHD)
- Specific Learning Disability: Dyslexia
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment/Blindness
- Exceptionality: Gifted
- Speech Only

Be flexible

Over prepare

Things will go wrong

Perfection is not realistic

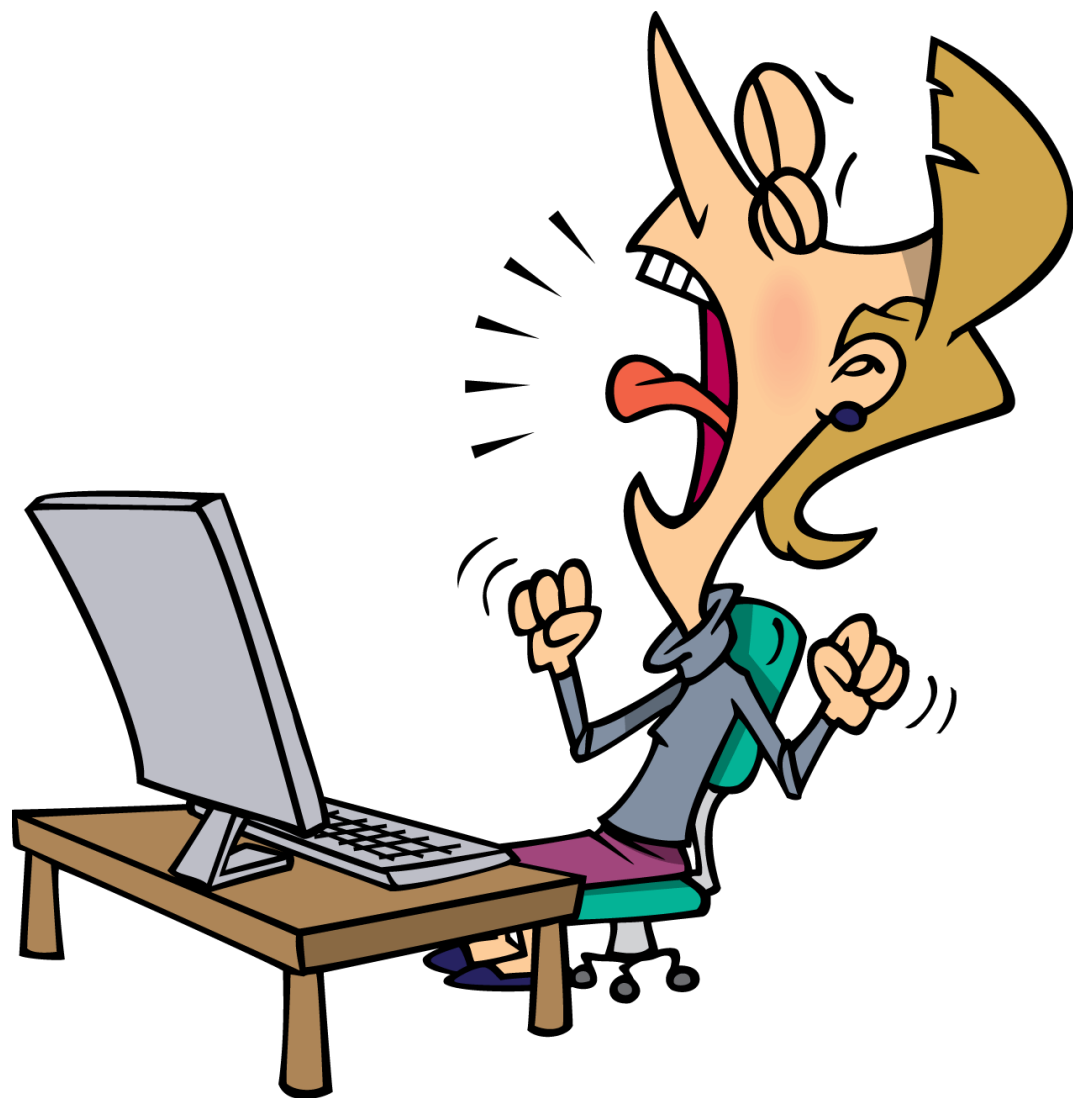
Lose the jargon

Tell stories

Admit when you don't know something

# Reflection





April 29, 2021

Dear Valued Sparklight Customer,

We want to take a moment to apologize to our Rio Rancho and Roswell customers for the recent internet and phone outage you may have recently experienced.

- Sparklight customers in Rio Rancho were without internet from approximately 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on 4/28/21.
- Sparklight customers in Roswell were without internet from approximately 2:30 p.m. on 4/28/21 to 10:30 a.m. 4/29/21.

Sparklight partners with vendors for the primary and backup circuits that run through both Roswell and Rio Rancho. One of our vendors experienced an equipment failure as well as a fiber cut that resulted in this extended outage. We appreciate your patience while our vendors worked diligently to replace equipment and repair these fiber cuts and greatly apologize for any inconvenience this outage may have caused.

# Next Steps

Finish	Finish Part II of training on May 19
Incorporate	Incorporate survey results into training
Work	Work towards CASA requiring EDM training for state of New Mexico
Advocate	Advocate for law requiring all EDM have IEP training per Legislative Bill
Support	Support office of Special Education Ombudsman
Continue	Continue to educate and advocate for students & their families

# Competencies addressed in IEP Training for EDM & Advocates

1.6 Demonstrate an awareness of the benefits of partnership with families at program/policy level.

1.10 Use family input in a meaningful way in the design/delivery/evaluation of services.

2.4 Demonstrate effective communication skills as a member of an interdisciplinary team.

4.7 Demonstrate leadership skills in the facilitation of a seminar or meeting.

5.1 Critically review literature.

5.2 Demonstrate skills in access/utilization of electronic information, resources and databases.

5.5 Demonstrate verbal presentation skills including the use of PowerPoint and auditory augmentation system.

6.3 Demonstrate networking and advocacy skills.

6.4 Demonstrate an understanding of state and national disability legislation.

# References

1. The State of America's Children in New Mexico, 2021 Factsheet [https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SOAC-2021-Fact-Sheet\\_New-Mexico.pdf](https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SOAC-2021-Fact-Sheet_New-Mexico.pdf)
2. Data Display: New Mexico Identification of Children with Disabilities <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/partbspap/2013/nm-acc-stateprofile-11-12.pdf>
3. Let's Begin the Journey An Overview of Special Education and the IEP Process, Parents Reaching Out, Winter 2019

\*This project did not require IRB approval due to the fact there was no research on human subjects\*