Questions (written and verbal) from the audience

1. Does anyone use Uber drivers?
2. How will the state ensure the rights of people will not be violated?
3. What happens when someone’s rights are violated?
4. How much input does the guardian have regarding the rights of people?
5. How will the validation process for providers work and has it started yet?

Discussion/ideas by the audience and panelists

1. Does anyone use Uber drivers?
   - Need to be creative about transportation
   - This idea came up at another Town Hall, should be explored
2. How will the state ensure the rights of people will not be violated?
   - Participant surveys
   - It is up to all of us to watch what is going on and to listen to the people we see and talk with
   - We need to teach people with disabilities what their rights are so they know and can look out for themselves and their friends
   - Need to encourage people to speak up if they see something they think is not good
3. What happens when someone’s rights are violated?
   - The case manager calls DDSD.
   - There are Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation guidelines agencies must follow
4. How will the validation process for providers work and has it started yet?
   - CDD will do site visits. It has not started yet. CDD is still compiling information and plan to do sample validation in one week. Anticipate starting site visits in one month
   - CDD is making calls to verify settings
5. How do you foresee Day Hab settings transition into the community?
   - An audience member has done this. It’s individual based, no more than 3 people in a group. It is NOT center based. They go to community area (Barnes and Nobles, etc.) for quiet areas
6. NM is a rural state with many isolated areas. How do we transition from center based?
   - Need to gradually teach people/expose them to new activities
   - ARC of Anthony, NM has 2 day/2 hours and monthly meetings. They have been experimenting for years on how to integrate into community settings
7. Will people be able to choose Day Hab?
   - Day Hab is NOT going away.
   - We need providers and people need services.
   - We need to provide those services differently, be more focused on an individual’s choice, integration, teaching skills and responsibility
   - If a Day Hab program chooses to not comply with the CMS Final Rule they have that right but the DD Waiver will not be allowed to fund them and they cannot be a DDSD provider.
   - If DDSD pays providers for services that are not in compliance with the CMS Final Rule, Medicaid will not reimburse NM and NM could lose their funding.
   - People always have the option of paying for a service out of pocket if that is what they choose to do.

8. We need to teach people to make decisions (with support as needed) and be responsible for those decisions.

9. We have created a system of dependency, we have taught people on the waiver to be dependent on their staff and not think for themselves or do for themselves. At the time that may have been what was necessary but it is now a new time and we need to do things differently.

10. Young people and families will not be satisfied with the services that are currently offered. Young people have bigger dreams and visions for their lives than living in a group home and going to Day Hab.

11. The DD Waiver offers no incentives for providers to teach skills so people can learn to do things for themselves and learn to become more independent (cooking, shopping, laundry, riding the bus, etc.).

12. It is a disservice to people to limit people and say this is as far as you can go.

13. Panel member:
   - “I have my own apt. I do my own shopping. My mom picks me up, I need help with big heavy items. Everyone has the right to choose where they want to live, the right to marry, to buy or rent their own home, to have a roommate or live by yourself, to drive or take a bus. Nothing should stop you. Choices of what to eat, what to wear, the right to have a job at decent pay or volunteer. The right to live out your dreams”.

14. We need to start teaching people skills early, achieving success in school with IEPs. Teach a work ethic. Helps a person’s self-esteem and helps them transition into the community.
   - DDSD’s Friends/Relationship class really helped an audience member’s son

15. What resources are available to help their son become more independent and learn new skills?
   - ARC of NM
   - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
   - DDSD- 575-528-5180
   - Alamogordo Support group
16. Partners in Policy Making was a big help to an audience member. “All people want the same thing. It takes advocates to fight for rights, I encourage you to go to the Disability Rights Awareness Day. Get involved in your community. Work first! NM is not there yet. Partners for Employment matches people with jobs. Please get involved!”.

17. Meet with local legislators, invite them to schools, fight for IEP’s, basic life skills

18. Audience member:

- “I am so impressed with the panel. I knew (particular panel member) when they were little and am so impressed with everything she has done. I need to get involved more. It’s because of my daughter that I have met these wonderful people”.

19. Panelists and audience members talked about working and how much they love working, earning money, making friends at work

20. Group homes are not a good match for one of the panelists. Is too restrictive and does not allow her the freedom she had when she lived in her own home. Staff do things for her instead of allowing her to do things for herself. Ex. cooking

21. How much input does the guardian have regarding the rights of people?

- Guardians who have full/plenary guardianship maintain the final decision as allowed by the judge’s order. The CMS Final Rule does not supersede the authority of guardians
- However, guardians have the responsibility to take the person’s desires and wishes into consideration as much as possible.
- The “protected person” still maintains many civil rights even if they have a guardian

22. We all need to work together to make the Know Your Rights campaign real.