

# New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)

## Early Childhood Program

Seriana Gutierrez, NMSU Social Work Trainee

### New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)

- **Mission statement:** To ensure all students who are visually impaired has the means to be able to learn and get educated as their right as a student.

### Services Available

- Birth to 3 program throughout the state providing services within the home and teaching parents about their child and their visual impairment
- Early Childhood Program services children 3 to 6 and the main goal of the program is to teach the children to be as independent as possible
  - Use alternative methods aside from vision to be successful in life
- NMSBVI's goal is to teach the kids to be independent, teach them how to understand their own weaknesses and strengths, so they can learn

- The outreach department provides training within districts across the state of New Mexico
- The goal is to help districts to better understand visual impairments and to be able to service the students in their districts, so they can be successful both at home and at school
- Outreach teachers train teachers within these districts
- Graduate program- send teachers to get their license in teaching children with visual impairments



### Funding

- Funded through the state
- Part of the state Land Grant
- Shortage of funding does not impact services



### The Location and Space

- There are campuses in Albuquerque and Alamogordo
- The campus in Alamogordo goes to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and is a residential campus
- Throughout the state
- There is an outreach program that works all throughout the state

### Requirements to Attend

- All students who have a visual impairments are admitted
- No waitlist
- Need to have an IEP in order to be admitted that identifies the child has a visual impairment
- No cost for attendance including transportation

### Alamogordo Residential Campus

- Students have opportunities to learn household skills such as meal planning, laundry, housekeeping skills as well as the opportunity to experience a varied number of recreation and leisure activities such as swimming, skiing, bike riding, camping, sewing, painting and pottery.
- Career Prep Program – high school graduates who need job skill development or additional prep before entering college can utilize this program up until the age of 22

### Disciplines Providing Services

Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Orientational Ability Therapist (works on how to navigate throughout the environment), Social Workers, Certified teachers who are visually impaired, Nutritionists at the residential campus

### Individuals Interviewed

- Paul Kilman - Early Childhood Program Coordinator and Director