

# CENTRIA IN THE NEWS

## ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL



### NEW COMPANY AIMED AT FAMILIES WITH AUTISM

By Steve Sinovic / Journal Staff Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A behavioral healthcare company has set up business in Albuquerque to help children and families living with autism. Centria Healthcare, which is based in Michigan, said it hopes to offer clients assessments and diagnoses, prepare treatment plans with board-certified analysts and provide therapy, both in homes and in a clinical setting.

For-profit autism therapy programs, such as the ones run by Centria, have also created jobs for analysts, therapists and client services managers. The company, which opened its first New Mexico office at 6100 Seagull NE, already has 15 employees on board, said Matt Blouin, Centria's director of marketing.

As the client load grows — the U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates one in 45 children has autism — Centria has an aggressive goal of expanding its New Mexico operation to 200 therapists, technicians and client services managers over the next 18 months.

Blouin said the company is credentialed with Centennial Care Medicaid and all commercial insurances in New Mexico, giving it a revenue stream to set up business in the state.

Families, many already reeling from lost income, out-of-pocket expenses and the stresses of caregiving, can get help from Centria case managers in navigating the complexities of insurance and care, said Blouin.

With little guidance for many health care professionals, parents often feel alone to plot a course for their children, he added.

"There's a lot to juggle medically, educationally and socially" for children with autism spectrum disorder, or autism, said Blouin. Both are general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

The medical literature suggests early diagnoses and therapies can lead to positive outcomes for autistic children as they move through the education system and become adults, said Blouin.

While Centria staffers are reaching out to healthcare providers and social workers to build a referral network, they also are looking forward to holding Autism Awareness Nights for families and children in the coming months.

Founded in 2009, Centria serves children and young adults with autism in Michigan, Texas and New Mexico. In addition to autism services, Centria provides home-based catastrophic injury rehabilitation, private duty nursing and supportive living services.

## ALBUQUERQUE BUSINESS FIRST

### How CNM is helping to fill unique health care jobs for a new employer

By Marissa Higdon - Reporter  
Albuquerque Business First

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Centria Healthcare, a provider that works with children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders, announced its move into New Mexico in May, and now the company is working with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) to meet its workforce needs.

Centria is in need of registered behavior technicians (RBTs), who work with individuals with autism or with the families and caregivers of those individuals.

"The collaboration with CNM provides a direct pipeline to skilled and trained talent for jobs that exist now," said Scott Barry, Centria's CEO.

Lee says the training program was created based on benchmarks and requirements

Kyle Lee, the executive director of CNM Ingenuity, a nonprofit that helps CNM pursue cooperative ventures in technology and entrepreneurship, says Centria reached out to CNM about the possibility of a workforce training partnership a couple months ago. Centria, he says, has provided grant money to help launch the training program, which, as of Aug. 5, has a website and is scheduled to begin classes Aug. 29. CNM is offering a 45-hour training program to prepare students to pass a national test. If they pass, they're certified RBTs.

set by the national board that administers the test, and, although Centria is partnering with CNM to create the program, it's not the only company that will benefit from the larger RBT workforce.

"There's nine other companies that are hiring and expanding in this area," he said. "This program is designed for everyone."

He says the training wasn't being offered regularly in the state, but now CNM plans to offer the course on a regular basis.

"This will be a standing open enrollment program as long as the need is there," he said. "This is a workforce need for the entire state."

It costs students \$225 for the online course and an additional \$150 student fee for the face-to-face components of the training. Some of the grant money given by Centria will be used to provide financial aid to students who may need it.

Centria employs 46 RBTs and 10 other employees. The company currently works with 25 children.

"The incidence of autism is increasing," says CNM's RBT program instructor Kelly Peters. "There's going to be a very high demand for people with this certification."



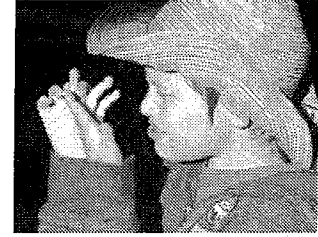
## CNM Ingenuity Helps Address Need for More Workers Specialized in Autism Care

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August 17, 2016 -- CNM Ingenuity and Centria Healthcare are teaming up with the goal of training enough people to fill a projected 300 new jobs in New Mexico.

Centria is a healthcare provider that, among its many services, works with children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders. The company recently announced that it is moving into New Mexico and is working with CNM to meet its workforce needs.

"Centria is in need of registered behavior technicians (RBTs) who help people with autism, their families and caregivers," said Lissa Knudsen, CNM's program coordinator. "Starting this fall, CNM will be offering a 45-hour RBT certificate training program to educate individuals to work in this profession. The company has provided a generous donation to help launch the program and provide some financial aid to students."



The CNM program will offer hands-on experience to students and give them the knowledge they need to pass the Registered Behavior Technician Exam. People who want to work as RBTs at companies other than Centria can also take the course.

RBTs work in home-care environments, in centers or in schools providing one-on-one therapy and behavioral assistance to those diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities. They are responsible for implementing behavioral plans developed by Board Certified Behavior Analysts and collecting and charting data on the progress and improvement in the abilities of clients with whom they work.

New Mexico's autism rates are climbing, and research shows that effective, scientifically-based Applied Behavior Analysis interventions have a profound impact on child development.

Though there are other programs available, CNM's stands out because it will be offering:

- \* Rolling registration so students can get started on their training at any time – students have three months from start date to finish;
- \* Five hours of stress management and prevention training so that students who graduate won't burn out;
- \* High-quality, interactive curricula developed by one of the most highly respected autism instructors in the state;
- \* In-person performance assessments that allow students to collaborate with future co-workers and provide a supportive structure that gets results.

Students in the program will learn Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy that encourages positive behaviors and discourages negative behaviors in order to improve a variety of skills. Currently in New Mexico, there are only 32 board-certified behavior analysts and a shortage of RBTs.

CNM's RBT licensure program will start Aug. 29 and includes an online, self-paced component and 16 hours of face-to-face performance assessments.

[Click here](#) to learn more about CNM's RBT training program.

Filed under: [Employee News](#), [News](#)

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## CENTRIA BUSINESS BRIEF (NEW MEXICO)

Centria Healthcare is the leader in clinical and customer service expertise for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). This Business Brief includes a snap shot of Centria Healthcare's Autism services.

[www.CentriaAutism.com](http://www.CentriaAutism.com)

6100 Seagull St. NE, Suite B 200  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Office Phone: **855.77.AUTISM**  
Office Fax: 844-245-7836

### Clinical Excellence

100's of Experts In Behavioral Health including Behavior Technicians, Board Certified Behavioral Analysts & Psychologists.

### Ages Accepted

Private Insurance 1-21 yrs  
Medicaid 1-21 yrs

### Services Offered

#### Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

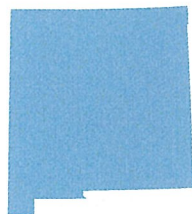
Diagnostic and Psychological Testing Services:

ADOS, ADI-R, Vineland, Mullen, DAS-II, Wechsler

*ABA has been identified by the Surgeon General as the only evidenced based treatment for Autism.*

### Areas Of Coverage

We currently can provide In-Home Services throughout the entire state of New Mexico.



### In-Home Care

Centria currently provides in-home ABA therapy for those clients with Autism. Our mission is make ABA accessible to all families, regardless of service location. We believe early intervention and expert clinicians are the key to success.

### Insurance Plans Accepted

We are in network with most insurance options including commercial insurance, medicaid plans, and military insurance (TRICARE).

### Benefits of ABA Therapy

#### Communication Skills:

Language, Vocabulary, Conversation, Social, Reading, Writing

#### Living Skills:

Fine Motor, Toileting, Dressing, Eating, Personal Self-Care, Domestic, Work

#### Behaviors Skills:

Hyperactivity, Self Injury, Tantrums, Non-Compliance, Aggressive behavior, Inability to Sit Still

#### School Readiness Skills:

Organization, Environment Challenges, Acceptance of Change



**855.77.AUTISM**

### Insurance Plans Currently Accepting

Presbyterian Commercial & Centennial Care  
Blue Cross / Blue Shield of New Mexico  
Cigna Commercial Military - Tricare

Aetna Commercial  
United Optum Centennial Care  
Molina Centennial Care