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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
56th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2024

Bill Number	<u>SB240/aSHPAC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Hemphill</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.226987.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SCC/SHPAC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>CYFD Trauma-Informed Training</u>		
Analyst	<u>Davalos</u>	Original Date	<u>2/2/2024</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/9/2024</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of SHPAC Amendment

The Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee amendment to Senate Bill 240 (SB240/aSHPAC) adds language that includes “contracted providers of preventive services” to receive trauma-informed training, in addition to staff and foster families.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 240 (SB240) appropriates \$1.5 million to the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) for trauma-informed training for all staff and foster families, with stipulations that CYFD does not spend more than \$500 thousand per fiscal year for trauma-informed training for all staff and foster families.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the general fund to CYFD for expenditure in FY25 through FY27. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund. For FY25, it appears the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 as amended (HB2/HAFCS/aHF1#1) does not contain the appropriation proposed by SB240/aSHPAC.

SB240/aSHPAC would appropriate funds to CYFD for trauma-informed training for all staff, contracted providers of preventive services, and foster families. CYFD notes there would be a fiscal impact as CYFD would have to consider staff time, travel reimbursement for foster families, and technological purchases for foster families to attend online training.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In FY23, of all [substantiated cases of child abuse in New Mexico](#), 30 percent of children were physically abused, 2 percent were sexually abused, and 68 percent were physically neglected. According to [CYFD’s FY24 Annual Progress and Services Report \(APSR\)](#), 1,887 children were

in state custody in FY23, a significant increase from the previous fiscal year, when 1,701 children were in state custody. Experiencing state custody placement is a traumatic moment in a child's life; however, survivors of trauma can recover, and [research suggests](#) trauma informed care like that proposed in SB240/aSHPAC can mitigate long-term consequences of trauma. SB240/aSHPAC would offer staff, contracted service providers, and foster families the required training to provide appropriate care and services to the families they serve.

Training for CYFD Staff. Currently, CYFD prepares employees for their job duties by educating them on child welfare concepts, which include:

- Trauma-informed care;
- Child maltreatment;
- Work bias;
- Communication and interview skills; and
- Cultural humility.

CYFD also provides federal Title IV-E funded training, which includes;

- Social work stipend program;
- New employee training;
- Annual court improvement project cross-training;
- Resource parents;
- Youth;
- SAFE training (Structure Analysis Family Evaluation);
- Safety organized practice (SOP);
- Cornerstone (learning management system);
- Youth and preventing sex trafficking; and
- FACTS (internal system database).

CYFD notes trauma-informed training for staff, which is mandated in SB240/aSHPAC, would help them identify needs associated with trauma-related issues that arise during their day-to-day work and for the families they serve.

Training for Contracted Providers of Preventative Service. According to the CYFD's FY24 APSR, a "trauma responsive training and coaching plan" will be implemented as part of their efforts in building a trauma responsive system of care. "CYFD and the Human Services Department (HSD) will create a cross departmental Trauma-Responsive Training and Coaching Plan that describes in writing a plan and process for providing mandatory, high-quality trauma-responsive training to all CYFD employees, designated HSD employees, and employees of child-serving agencies that contract with CYFD or HSD to provide care to children in state custody." It appears SB240/aSHPAC would strengthen CYFD and HSD's goals in mandating trauma-informed training.

Training for Foster Families. CYFD currently provides Resource Engagement Adaptability Diversity Initiative New Mexico ([READI NM](#)) trainings that provide 11 foundational knowledge modules for resource parent–[foster and kinship caregivers](#)–applicants which prepares them to work with families in the foster care system. All adults in a household that identify as a caretaker for a foster child must attend the READI NM training modules consecutively. Trauma-informed support and trauma-responsive discipline are among the training modules foster families must attend. The complete list of the consecutive training modules resource parents must take is provided below:

1. Who are our children and families
2. Reunification as the role of the resource parent
3. Foundational beliefs and values of foster care
4. Child and youth identify and family connections
5. Care from a place of wholeness
6. Navigating services for children and youth
7. Resource parent resilience and self-care
8. Supporting transitions
9. Providing unconditional care
10. Trauma informed support
11. Trauma responsive discipline

CYFD notes it would be equally important for foster families who work with youth who are experiencing trauma responses to receive SB240/aSHPAC trauma informed training.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

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