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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/09

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 165

SHORT TITLE Otero County Child Therapy Services SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Peery-Galon

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$60.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

No Response Received From

Department of Health

### SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 165 appropriates \$60.0 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department to provide therapy services, including family therapy and play therapy for young children, for children in Otero County who are at-risk of being removed or have already been removed from their family homes due to abuse or neglect.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$60.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

CYFD stated the appropriation in the proposed legislation is not part of the department's request or the Executive's recommendation.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

CYFD reported that as of December 31, 2008, there were 46 children in foster care in Otero County. Behavioral health services for these children are funded primarily through the Medicaid program. Behavioral health services for non-Medicaid eligible children or funding for services that are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement are secured through general fund dollars. CYFD noted difficulties in accessing behavioral health services for at-risk or maltreated children are often associated with a lack of qualified providers.

CYFD reported the department requested funding for children's behavioral health services. These funds are part of the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative funding stream and are administered by ValueOptions.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD reported the proposed legislation would have a positive effect on department performance measures pertaining to children who experience repeat maltreatment, children who are reunified with their families within 12 months, and children who experience maltreatment in foster care.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD stated it will provide administration of additional funds from existing resources.

RP/mc