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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/09

SPONSOR Garcia LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Reduce Dona Ana Teen Sexual Risk-Taking SB 416

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$80.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 416 appropriates \$80.0 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department to support a neighborhood-based initiative in Doña Ana County to reduce adolescent sexual risk-taking by helping adults, parents and community leaders develop effective communication skills.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$80.0 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 noted the appropriation in the proposed legislation is not part of the department's budget request or the Executive's recommendation for fiscal year 2010.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD reported sexual risk-taking is a public health issue, and includes a range of activities that can result in the propagation of sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy. Sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and the human papilloma virus which has been linked to cervical cancer, can have long-term, negative, and possibly terminal effects on the individual's health. Teen pregnancy often has a profound and lasting effect on the educational and economic achievement of young women and their children. In 2006, New Mexico had the second highest birth rate for girls 15 to 19 years of age in the nation. Doña Ana County has the highest birth rate for this age group.

DOH noted one of the governor's priorities is teen pregnancy prevention which focuses on 15 to 17 year olds in New Mexico. New Mexico teen birth rates for 15 to 17 year olds decreased by 28 percent from 1991 to 2006, while U.S. teen birth rates decreased by 43 percent. In 2006, the New Mexico teen birth rate for 15 to 17 year olds was 34.3 per 1,000 females, a rate 1.5 times higher than the national teen birth rate of 22 per 1,000. The teen birth rate for 15 to 17 year olds in New Mexico has been decreasing slowly, from 36.3 in 2002 to 34.3 in 2006.

DOH collaborates with New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition to implement the Plain Talk Program, an adult-teen program that utilizes a communication strategy to give adults information and skills to communicate effectively with young people about reducing risky sexual behavior. Research shows parents influence teen decisions about sex more than their friends, the media, or their siblings. DOH noted that open, honest conversation makes it easier for teens to postpone sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy.

The three strategies of the Plain Talk Program are community mapping, walkers and talkers (peer educators), and home health parties. Community mapping is used to engage residents and build community awareness of Plain Talk. Community residents are trained to be peer educators because they are easily able to gain the trust and confidence of other community residents and have a personal stake in their own community. The home health parties provide access to community residents through already established relationships and provide a safe and relaxed environment for residents to discuss sensitive topics.

DOH reported that Plain Talk was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Hablando Claro is the program name used in the Spanish-speaking sites. Currently, there is a site in Bernalillo County and two sites in Doña Ana County. An evaluation of Plain Talk (www.plaintalk.org) in Atlanta, San Diego and New Orleans found that the Plain Talk framework enabled communities to change the way adults communicated with teens about sexuality. The youth who talked with adults knew more about, and were more comfortable with contraceptives, used birth control more, used reproductive health services effectively more and were less likely to have an STD or a pregnancy than those who did not talk with adults. Community mapping of Plain Talk sites in Doña Ana County found that less than 40 percent of adults feel comfortable talking with teens about sex.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD noted the proposed legislation is related to the department's mission and vision of providing support and help to vulnerable populations.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD stated administration of this program would be absorbed by existing resources.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH reported the overall birth rate for 15 to 17 year olds decreased by 5.5 percent from 2002-2006. The birth rates for this group decreased in every racial/ethnic group except African American which increased by 4.8 percent. American Indian or Alaskan Native birth rates decreased by 9 percent, White rates decreased by 10.6 percent, and Hispanic birth rates for this age group dropped by 5.1 percent. Hispanic females compose 46 percent of the female population aged 15 to 17, but nearly 72 percent of the births to female's ages 15 to 17 in New Mexico are to Hispanic females.

RPG/mt