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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Thomson **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/30/14
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 69

SHORT TITLE Autism Spectrum Disorder Services **SB** _____

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$250.0	\$250.0	\$750.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB109, Autism Spectrum Disorder Services
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 69 would make two appropriations for the development and provision of services for persons with autism spectrum disorders.

For the Department of Health, HB 69 would appropriate \$250 thousand from the general fund for autism programs at the University of New Mexico. These funds would be to develop and provide clinical, evidence-based treatment and services for children with autism spectrum disorders and significant problem behaviors.

For the Human Services Department, HB 69 would appropriate \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) to create an Autism Oversight Team. The team would be composed of members of the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative); representatives of Centennial Care managed care organizations (MCOs), and selected stakeholders. The Oversight Team would be responsible for developing and implementing a system-of-care approach to services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 69 would appropriate \$250 thousand from the general fund in FY15 to the Department of Health for the autism program at the University of New Mexico, and \$100 thousand from the general fund in FY15 to the Behavioral Health Services Division of the Human Services Department to create an Autism Oversight Team. Any unexpended or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of FY15 would revert to the general fund.

The Department of Health would request authority to budget a portion of the appropriated amount, as applicable to carry out the intent of the legislation, for DOH operating costs associated with administering and expending the appropriation. Such costs would be used for staff time, supplies, travel, and related administrative expenses.

Currently, the Department of Health budgets approximately \$1.2 million for adaptive skill building services to 65 children with autism spectrum disorder.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health indicates Medicaid now provides adaptive skill building services, (intensive evidenced based intervention) to children 0 to 5 years old with an autism diagnosis. The state funded adaptive skill building program serves children 5 through 18 years old. The program has a waiting list of approximately 40 children. While insurance coverage is available for some children to access autism spectrum disorder related services, some families find the co-payments prohibitive and do not access the services. State of New Mexico's public employee insurance does not cover autism spectrum disorder services at this time.

The Department of Health reports currently it provides no funding through the department's Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) for persons with autism spectrum disorder that do not meet the developmental disabilities (DD) Medicaid waiver eligibility criteria. The DD Medicaid waiver program provides services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder but has a significant waiting list for services.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Department of Health indicates it is not included as a member of the Oversight Team and it would be important for it to be included.

HSD indicates services for persons with autism are primarily provided through DOH and the state Medicaid program at the Human Services Department (HSD). The Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) does not currently provide any autism services with state funds or federal block grant funding. Therefore, BHSD suggests an amendment to move the funding for the Oversight Team from BHSD to DOH as follows:

Amend HB69 on page 2, lines 1 and 2 to replace the words “behavioral health services division of the human services department” with the words “department of health”.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) indicates the most recent prevalence number indicates that autism spectrum disorder (ASD) occurs in 1 in 88 children. (CDC, 2013) ASD is now considered the second most common developmental disability. Since ASD is four to five times more common in boys than girls, these numbers translate to a prevalence of 1 in 54 males. ASD is a neurobiologic, lifelong condition that is defined by a spectrum of behaviors. Some individuals with ASD have comorbid mental health issues and may have significant maladaptive behaviors that interfere with receiving school services and making it almost impossible for their parents to care for them at home. Recent research shows that intervening early using evidence-based techniques can ameliorate maladaptive behaviors in ASD.

In 2011-2012 the Center for Development and Disability at UNMHSC piloted an Autism Oversight Committee (AOT) and it is this pilot that forms the basis for the second part of HB69. The pilot was performed as part of a systems change HRSA grant. The CDD/Autism Programs hired a trained mediator/facilitator and convened a group of state agencies, MCOs and other stakeholders to assist children returning to New Mexico communities from residential treatment centers to determine the gaps within the individuals’ home community that need to be addressed in order for a safe return. The pilot uncovered systemic statewide issues and informed state agencies of specific gaps/issues, allowing them to advocate within their agencies for solutions. Funding for this function ended in 2012.

RAE/jl