

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/14

SPONSOR Dodge LAST UPDATED _____ HB 251

SHORT TITLE Clovis Child Advocacy Services SB _____

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 251 appropriates \$150.0 thousand to Children, Youth and Families Department to contract for child advocacy services in Clovis.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$150 thousand to CYFD to contract for child advocacy services in Clovis. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Child advocacy services performance services such as outreach to schools, government agencies and the community in an effort to prevent of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment. According to the CYFD, child maltreatment victims are less traumatized when agencies cooperatively work together and when professionals come to a child advocacy center instead of the child traveling to different offices and being interviewed multiple times by multiple individuals and agencies. Development of a child advocacy center where various agencies involved in the investigation of child abuse could be located in the same building to provide an environment of focused care to children who are faced with a situation of potential abuse or neglect could decrease duplication of the interview process. Additionally, there is more collaboration and follow through by the team members at child advocacy centers which ensure that children and their families receive immediate crisis intervention and referrals for services.

Children who are suspected of having experienced maltreatment, abuse or neglect may be interviewed using a system called forensic interviewing. CYFD states that forensic interview is more reliable, resulting in better informed decisions about protection, prosecution and treatment. This interview process may be assisted by decreasing duplication through a child advocacy service center. Currently, the CYFD is attempting to implement a similar program in Valencia County.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures related to the well-being of children which will be positively affected by this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The department reported that any additional administrative duties associated with implementing the provisions of the bill will be absorbed by existing resources.

KK/jl