



CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENT
& DISABILITY

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SERVICE



CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENT
& DISABILITY

House Memorial 51 Senate Memorial 79 2017

SUMMARY, FUNDING AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

AUGUST 24, 2018

INTERIM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Policy Recommendations

- The legislature and the administration should consider developing an ASD specific waiver through Medicaid.
- Annual Reports from the Superintendent of Insurance and HSD/MAD on the use and costs of ABA in New Mexico.
- New regulation that DD Waiver eligibility be based on the DSM 5.
- ASD issues should be addressed either through ongoing legislative memorials or through appropriate executive action, creating a NM office on autism spectrum disorder.
- Licensure for behavior analysts in New Mexico.

Funding Recommendations: Five Million Recurring Dollars

- Restore **three million dollars** of state general fund spending on autism spectrum disorder. (Cut since FY' 08) Funding will fulfill the four tasks of HM 51 / SM 79.
- Allocate an additional **two million dollars** for ASD diagnosis and services to deal with the increased prevalence rate (one in fifty nine New Mexicans).

NM Stakeholders Concerns

- Members of task force voiced the following concerns for youth with ASD
 - Lack of appropriate, individualized transitions plans for you with ASD
 - Lack of post-secondary opportunities
 - Lack of employment opportunities
 - Difficulties with transitioning to an adult medical system
 - Difficulties navigating NM systems (parents & self-advocates)
 - Lack of provider expertise around needs of adults with ASD

Data for Young Adults with ASD

- Outcomes are worse when compared to individuals with either an intellectual disability or serious mental illness (Young Adults & Transitioning Youth with ASD, 2017 report to Congress)
 - More likely to have chronic health or mental health conditions
 - Less likely to be able to manage and develop friendships
 - Less likely to prepare for college and employment
 - Less likely to live independently away from parents
 - More likely to receive SSI
 - Less likely to have ever worked in their 20s
 - Less likely to have ever participated in postsecondary education or training of any kind.

Task One: A new Medicaid behavioral health benefit specifically for adults with ASD: **eight hundred thousand dollars**

- to the Department of Health to contract with the UNM Center for Development and Disability and New Mexico State University:
- Five hundred thousand to UNM to develop and implement diagnostic services for individuals over the age of twenty one, and to shorten the waiting time of older children and youth seeking ASD diagnosis.
- Three hundred thousand to NMSU to develop and implement a diagnostic clinic for younger children.

Task Two: A plan for developing in state resources and procedures for youth with ASD: **One million, two hundred thousand dollars**

- One million dollars to DOH to contract with UNM to develop higher level of care placements in New Mexico including inpatient hospitalization, residential treatment, and specialized group home services.
- Two hundred thousand dollars to the CYFD to develop and implement a high fidelity wraparound model specifically for high need individuals with ASD.

Task Three: Development of expedited DD Waiver criteria for individuals discharging from residential treatment: **two hundred and fifty thousand dollars**

- Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to DOH for the transition of four youth a year from residential treatment to DD Waiver placement.

Task Four: Development of programs for youth and adults who do not meet criteria for the DD Waiver: **seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars**

- One hundred thousand dollars to DOH to contract with psychologists with expertise in the diagnosis of ASD to provide technical assistance with DD Waiver applications.
- Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to DOH to contract with UNM CDD to develop, implement and evaluate programs for youth and adults interested in post-secondary, vocational, or life skills opportunities.
- Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to DOH to contract with NMSU to develop, implement and evaluate programs for youth and adults interested in post-secondary, vocational, or life skills opportunities.
- One hundred and fifty thousand dollars to contract with UNM CDD or another entity to research the feasibility and establish an ASD self-reported registry.

Increased prevalence allocation: two million dollars

- Five hundred thousand dollars to DOH to contract with UNM CDD to expand capacity for ASD diagnosis.
- Five hundred thousand dollars to DOH to contract with NMSU to expand capacity for ASD diagnosis.
- Four hundred thousand dollars to DOH to contract with NMSU to expand programs for youth and adults.
- Four hundred thousand dollars to DOH to contract with UNM CDD to expand programs for youth and adults.
- Two hundred thousand dollars to CYFD to expand and maintain ASD specific wraparound services.