



Expansion of Child Abuse Evaluation Services, Pursuit of Excellence

FY20 New Request

Program Mission

Effectively improve child well-being by addressing child maltreatment as a crucial issue facing New Mexico. Our work toward establishing a center of excellence in child well-being at the UNM HSC will focus on sustaining and expanding programs that assure broad access to high quality specialized medical care to potential victims of child abuse and neglect. This includes clinical services based at the HSC and implementation of outreach programs to support stakeholders throughout New Mexico.

Objectives/Outcomes

- To protect children and youth from abuse and neglect by increasing capacity for high level clinical care
- Provide focused educational opportunities related to child maltreatment for all HSC learners with particular emphasis on medical students, pediatric resident physicians, and pediatric emergency medicine fellows
- Increase the number of regional community outreach/education sessions focused on the medical evaluation of child maltreatment
- Increase the number of program staff participating in community events, multidisciplinary teams and educational sessions

Objectives/Outcomes

- Establish formal partnerships with other state agencies tasked with child protection. Collaborate to fund a comprehensive child maltreatment program at UNM
- Expand clinical services support via outreach (Project ECHO) to clinicians outside of the metropolitan area
- Evaluation benchmarks: Number of families and children served statewide; number of learner and stakeholder educational opportunities provided; evaluation of effectiveness of the training; reduction in the number of children with repeat visits to emergency departments; ultimately, reduction in recurrence of abuse and neglect in children in families served

Current Challenges

Ongoing adversity affecting children and families in New Mexico

- NM children rank 50 in indicators of child well-being (NM KidsCount 2018, 2019)
 - Economic status, education, health, family/community support
- Inadequate clinical work force to respond to child maltreatment in health care systems
 - Existing workforce covers a somewhat narrow geographic catchment
- Limitations in multi-disciplinary stakeholder collaboration in preventing and responding to child maltreatment
 - Protective services (tribal and CYFD), law enforcement, judiciary, healthcare

FY19 Legislative Appropriation

- \$150,000
- Funding supports two positions:
 - partial salary support for a faculty physician providing 0.4FTE clinical coverage for the Child Abuse Response Team (CART)
 - Position is in place
 - Immediate impact: 40% Increase in CART consultations in 9/2019 in comparison to the month of 9/2018

FY19 Legislative Appropriation

- Full salary support for a program coordinator position for all responsibilities that are related with Project ECHO (SafeCARENM Project ECHO) implementation and coordination.
- Position interviews conducted 10/22/2019
- Anticipate onboarding within approx. 30 days

SafeCare NM ECHO

Based on model program successfully implemented in Missouri

Short Term Goals:

- Establish cohort of health care professionals statewide dedicated to improving access to high quality care for children affected by child maltreatment statewide
- Provide ongoing education, mentorship, and support to engaged health care professionals
- Improve the multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment statewide by enhancing stakeholder networks and engagement
- Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Judiciary, Social Work, Community Resources
- Implement evidence based statewide standards for medical and stakeholder response to concerns for child maltreatment

SafeCare NM ECHO

Long Term Goals

- Establish formal consistent collaboration among all stakeholders in the prevention of and response to child maltreatment
- Improve reimbursement for the medical care of children affected by child maltreatment
- Improve the experiences of health care professionals engaged in the legal system in child maltreatment cases
- Recruit and retain a sustainable health care work force dedicated to care of maltreated children in New Mexico

