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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/06/07

SPONSOR Ezzell LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 463

SHORT TITLE CYFD Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Lucero

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$20.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB164, SB197, and HB375.

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>						

(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

House Bill 463 appropriates twenty thousand (\$20,000) from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2008 to contract with a community-based organization in Dexter to increase social interactions for children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders and to provide training to staff and caregivers.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of twenty thousand (\$20,000) contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

The appropriation is not part of the Children, Youth and Families Department’s request and is not included in the Executive recommendation of the Children, Youth and Families Department.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Autism is the fastest growing low incidence disability (US Department of Education 1999). Prevalence rate in New Mexico is estimated to be 3.6 per 1,000 (National Survey of Children’s Health 2003-04), approximately 1,813 children under the age of 18 with autism (NM Treatment Service Data 2004). Autism by its very nature is a complex disorder requiring a specific interdisciplinary team approach. It is a tremendous challenge for rural communities to provide services and trained individuals to provide those services. Evidence-based research is clear that early and intensive intervention and treatment is critical to overall prognosis of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (SWAN, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2004).

There are children and youth with autism spectrum disorders in Chavez Country (Southwest Autism Network data).

The Governor’s funding package for DOH includes \$750,000 for autism multidisciplinary evaluations and \$1,000,000 for autism training and outreach, which would be made available statewide.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

If passed, the bill will have a minimal administrative impact on children, youth and families department that the bill does not address.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to: SB 164, which would provide funding for training of parents and professionals, and skill building direct services for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders. SB 197 which would improve insurance coverage for individuals with autism spectrum disorders who are not Medicaid eligible.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The bill specifies the appropriation is intended to “contract with a community-based organization in Dexter.”

“Caregivers” is not defined.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

CYFD has previously contracted with other community-based organizations to provide equine based therapy for children with autism. At this time, CYFD’s experience demonstrates that expansion of equine-based and related therapies for this population requires a scientific evaluation of the service and how it is best applied to meet the needs of this target population

The bill does not define an upper age limit for “young adults.”

Safety issues may preclude the inclusion of young children in this program.

Rural children in New Mexico do not have easy access to services for ASD. Rural areas have few professionals with the necessary training in autism services and little opportunity for training opportunities to increase skills.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The bill could be amended to have the funding appropriated to DOH instead of CYFD. DOH currently provides programming for autism.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo.

DL/csd