

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 47

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN'S CABINET TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE, IMPROVE AND DEVELOP SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES FOR THE SANDOVAL COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM UTILIZING AND EXPANDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM AND BRINGING THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM'S PREVENTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES SERVED AT OTHER WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM SITES THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the Sandoval county family support program is an interagency model for the delivery of health and social services operating at the Sandoval county health commons; and

WHEREAS, the Sandoval county family support program services are oriented to prevention and are family- and relationship-based while being responsive to individual needs; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Sandoval county family support program
2 conducts screenings and assessments regarding needs for social
3 supports, chronic diseases, maternal mental health, parent and
4 child relationships, child development, health literacy
5 trainings and more; and

6 WHEREAS, the inappropriate use of health care services for
7 preschool children enrolled in medicaid costs millions of
8 dollars annually, and research has shown that low-cost health
9 literacy trainings can substantially reduce medicaid costs,
10 lost work and lost school days; and

11 WHEREAS, the women, infants and children program is the
12 entry point for many clients accessing these screenings and
13 services; and

14 WHEREAS, the women, infants and children program
15 safeguards the health of low-income women, infants and children
16 up to the age of five who are at nutritional risk by providing
17 nutritional foods, information on healthy eating and referrals
18 to health care providers; and

19 WHEREAS, at eighty-five sites around the state, the women,
20 infants and children program served more than one hundred
21 twelve thousand New Mexicans and provided over seven hundred
22 thousand monthly food benefit packages in 2008; and

23 WHEREAS, women, infants and children program visits offer
24 many opportunities to positively impact healthy behaviors as
25 families visit these program sites once every one or two months

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1 and often for many years; and

2 WHEREAS, the department of health estimates that sixty
3 percent of babies born in New Mexico are seen by the women,
4 infants and children program, including virtually all pregnant
5 women and babies who live in poverty; and

6 WHEREAS, the Sandoval county health commons family support
7 program has been offering expanded prevention and early
8 intervention services to women, infants and children program
9 recipients since 2002 through the use of community health
10 workers and other public health staff; and

11 WHEREAS, enriched programming available through the
12 Sandoval county family support program is leading to wider use
13 of these services and screenings in the community; and

14 WHEREAS, families visiting women, infants and children
15 program sites throughout the state would benefit from the
16 expanded array of services and screenings offered by the
17 Sandoval county family support program;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children's cabinet be requested to
20 appoint a task force to evaluate, improve and develop
21 sustainability strategies for the Sandoval county family
22 support program utilizing and expanding the infrastructure of
23 the women, infants and children program and bringing the family
24 support program's preventive service delivery model to low-
25 income families served at other women, infants and children

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1 program sites throughout New Mexico; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
3 representation from a network of individuals with expertise in
4 early childhood development, the Sandoval county family support
5 program, the women, infants and children program, individuals
6 with expertise in children's health, social and emotional
7 needs, researchers in early childhood development, maternal and
8 infant mental health, the department of health and others; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
10 representation from family members that reflects the cultural,
11 ethnic, economic and geographic composition of New Mexico; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
13 recommendations of the task force address return-on-investment
14 priorities, service delivery models, coordination with other
15 necessary partners and a continuum of services to be included;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
18 recommendations of the task force be presented to the
19 legislative health and human services committee by November 1,
20 2009; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the children's cabinet.