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HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Edward C. Sandoval

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE STATE DEVELOP A SERVICE PLAN FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER, THROUGH A DYNAMIC PLANNING PROCESS LED BY THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE, WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, THE NEW MEXICO AUTISM TASK FORCE, THE AUTISM OVERSIGHT TEAM, THE NEW MEXICO AUTISM SOCIETY, THE AUTISM PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS, THAT BUILDS ON THE TENETS OF PREVIOUS PLANS AND REPORTS.

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that autism spectrum disorder is the largest-growing developmental disability in the world and that one in one hundred ten New Mexicans under the age of eight meets criteria for an autism spectrum disorder;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the legislature has worked diligently with the
3 autism community and state agencies to meet the needs of this
4 growing population; and

5 WHEREAS, the legislature understands that the numbers of
6 new diagnoses as well as the needs of underserved early
7 childhood, school-age and adult populations have negatively
8 affected the development and implementation of adequate
9 services and support for individuals with autism spectrum
10 disorder and their families in New Mexico;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state
13 develop a service plan for autism spectrum disorder, through a
14 dynamic planning process led by the interagency behavioral
15 health purchasing collaborative, with participation by the
16 insurance division of the public regulation commission, the New
17 Mexico autism task force, the autism oversight team, the New
18 Mexico autism society, the autism programs at the university of
19 New Mexico center for development and disability, individuals
20 and families affected by autism spectrum disorder and other
21 stakeholders, that builds on the tenets of previous plans and
22 reports and that includes the following:

23 A. access to multidisciplinary diagnosis for people
24 of all ages;

25 B. evidence-based and accessible treatment in the

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1 private and public sectors with:

2 (1) appropriate behavioral health services
3 included in medicaid modernization that makes available both
4 evidence-based intervention and comprehensive community support
5 services;

6 (2) the state employee insurance plan adopting
7 the New Mexico autism insurance mandate;

8 (3) reasonable copayments or the waiving of
9 certain copayments, allowing individuals and families access to
10 care; and

11 (4) a comprehensive and transparent process
12 that determines the level of care and appropriate support for
13 children with challenging behaviors, with a focus on:

14 (a) support to the individual and
15 family;

16 (b) notice of whether community
17 resources are available or have been exhausted;

18 (c) the role of public schools in
19 funding the educational component of a higher level of care;

20 (d) the development and implementation
21 of autism-specific standards for residential treatment centers;

22 (e) discharge plans that make available
23 training and technical assistance for community providers; and

24 (f) guidance from the public education
25 department on the reintegration of children from residential

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1 settings into public schools and on how professional
2 development for student-specific needs will be achieved; and

3 C. a means to assess the needs of high-functioning
4 adults with autism spectrum disorder who do not qualify for
5 developmental disabilities services and to offer them
6 appropriate levels of support; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the service plan include both
8 the proposed policy development and the funding necessary to
9 begin implementation; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency behavioral
11 health purchasing collaborative, through work with the other
12 named stakeholders, deliver the plan, which includes both the
13 proposed policy development and the funding necessary to begin
14 implementation, to the interim legislative health and human
15 services committee by November 1, 2012; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the interagency behavioral health purchasing
18 collaborative, the insurance division of the public regulation
19 commission, the New Mexico autism task force, the autism
20 oversight team, the New Mexico autism society, the university
21 of New Mexico center for development and disability and the
22 interim legislative health and human services committee.