

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 97

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .190726.1

Short Title: Expand Health Focus Centers

Sponsor(s): Senators Jacob R. Candelaria and Gerald Ortiz y Pino

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 14, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 97 makes an appropriation to enable the Health Sciences Center (HSC) at the University of New Mexico (UNM) to:

- expand existing Family Options Caring Understanding Solutions (FOCUS) programs;
- expand existing Milagro programs; and
- fund personnel and support, as well as evaluation of three FOCUS Centers for Excellence.

Fiscal Impact:

\$2.2 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to UNM, the three FOCUS Centers of Excellence and the expansion of the program centered at the university will provide comprehensive coordinated medical home organized care for pregnant women affected by substance abuse with emphasis on opiate abuse. After delivery of infants, the centers support normal early childhood development by providing:

- comprehensive care services;
- intensive home-based case management services; and
- early intervention to infants at risk of developmental delay from prenatal exposure to maternal substance abuse.

UNM further states that funding in SB 97 directed to the HSC will:

- support salaries and benefits for additional providers for the FOCUS and Milagro programs;
- implement provider networks in three communities; and
- create new salaried positions in three FOCUS Centers for Excellence, including:
 - nurses;
 - developmental specialist case managers;
 - substance abuse counselors;

- early childhood therapists;
 - program managers; and
 - physician leaders.
- provide training and technical support from FOCUS and Milagro for community providers;
 - support FOCUS activities for parenting groups and the Milagro residential program; and
 - support HSC staff and facilities related to the programs.

Background:

The Higher Education Department (HED) reports that since 1989 the Milagro program has addressed perinatal substance abuse prevention and treatment. Services begin in pregnancy and continue post-partum. The Milagro team is professional and highly knowledgeable regarding the latest evidence-based treatment modalities in perinatal, addictions, and mental health disorders.

The FOCUS program, also begun in 1989, at the UNM Center for Development and Disability has provided a continuum of interdisciplinary services for families of children aged birth through three who are at risk for or experiencing a developmental delay including:

- medical challenges such as prematurity;
- low birth weight;
- pre-natal exposure to drugs and alcohol;
- family substance abuse;
- mental illness;
- family violence; and
- unsupported teen parenting.

The FOCUS program serves families in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, and Torrance counties.

Committee Referrals:

SPAC/SFC

Related Bills:

CS/SB 43 *Require Health Services for Pregnant Women*
 SB 56 *UNM Health Center Project ECHO*