

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

JOHN SANCHEZ
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



MONIQUE JACOBSON
CABINET SECRETARY

JENNIFER SAAVEDRA
DEPUTY CABINET SECRETARY

November 13, 2015

Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair
Representative Nora Espinoza, Vice Chair
New Mexico State Legislature
Legislative Health and Human Service Committee

Re: Response to letter dated October 8, 2015

Dear Senator Ortiz y Pino and Representative Espinoza:

I'm writing this in response to your letter dated October 8, 2015, regarding the Three Branch Institute.

It would be difficult to be any more committed to this agenda. What began as a two year project has evolved to significant, ongoing programs and policy changes at CYFD to further the work of the Three Branch Institute.

We have formed a trauma committee and will produce a specific plan for the next three years that will drive our funds and staff time. Also, the criteria for serious emotional disturbance was revised that enables young children to meet the criteria due to their child maltreatment. In addition, CYFD has implemented the following:

Foster Education: we have piloted our first educational liaison program in Lea County. Foster children will each be assigned an educational advocate who is responsible for ensuring the advocacy for that children within the school system

Complex Case consultation: we now offer monthly opportunities for staff to consult on complex cases. We have volunteer psychiatrists participate in the staffing and provide feedback to the staff. Staff discuss cases where there are complex diagnoses and medication issues.

E-learning for new workers: - we have developed an elearning curriculum with APD to provide information for staff related to trauma informed practice and medication use.

Medication reviews: Staff contact our Director of Psychiatry, Dr. Davis for individual case reviews on medication.

The following initiatives continue to be addressed which resulted from the work of the Three Branch participants:

Psychotropic medications initiative: CYFD continues to work in partnership with HSD to evaluate data referencing the number and type of psychotropic medications prescribed to children in foster care. CYFD has instituted a psychotropic medication review process which allows cases of children in foster care to be reviewed and clinical recommendations to be made. Multiple pediatric psychiatrists participate on this panel of reviewers.

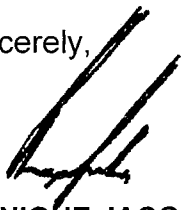
Bruce Perry Project: Neuro Sequential Model of Therapeutics--CYFD continues to support the training for clinicians both inside and outside CYFD to ensure that clinicians all over the state have the skills to conduct the assessments and to make recommendations for services to address the complex developmental trauma that children in foster care and in the juvenile justice system.

CYFD continues to evaluate how other trauma-informed assessments can be utilized for the children and youth we serve. An example of one that is being evaluated is called the "CANS" assessment.

So, as you can see, CYFD is still VERY active in the work initiated by the Three Branch Institute.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns with this matter.

Sincerely,



MONIQUE JACOBSON
Cabinet Secretary