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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-6-06

SPONSOR Ezzell LAST UPDATED _____ HB 575

SHORT TITLE CYFD AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PROGRAMS SB _____

ANALYST Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$20.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB671,

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Health Policy Commission (NMHPC)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 575 appropriates \$20.0 from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for the purpose of contracting 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 \$20.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the

general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) “are a group of developmental disabilities caused by a problem with the brain. Scientists do not know yet exactly what causes this problem. ASDs can impact a person's functioning at different levels, from very mildly to severely.” Furthermore, “(p)eople with ASDs may have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills. They might repeat certain behaviors and might not want change in their daily activities. Many people with ASDs also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. ASDs begin during early childhood and last throughout a person's life.” (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/autism.html>)

The prevalence of ASD has continued grow nationwide and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that a prevalence for ASD to be between 3 and 6 per 1,000 children in the United States. Both nationally and in New Mexico there has been a significant growth in the number of children diagnosed with ASD. Given these statistics there may be approximately 7,200 to 10,800 children and adults with ASD in New Mexico, with an estimated 540 to 810 children under the age of five. The Department of Health (DOH) does not have data specific to ASD in Dexter or the surrounding area.

HB575 does not specify that Dexter, NM, has an extraordinary need for this type of service.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD will absorb the associated administrative costs.

Services funded by the appropriation should be coordinated with services already funded through the DOH Developmental Disabilities Support Division's Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program, the Southwest Autism Network and the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Specialized Early Treatment (SET) Project. The DOH FIT Program is the lead agency for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, and coordinates a statewide system of early intervention for children aged birth to three with and at-risk for developmental delays and disabilities. The contract with UNM also provides for ongoing training and technical assistance to early intervention and pre-school staff serving young children with ASD through the SET Project. The SET Project is jointly funded through DOH and the Public Education Department (PED).

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to HB671: UNM Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Although autism is typically first diagnosed in childhood, it is considered a long-term, socio-cognitive disorder rather than a behavioral health disorder. Management and treatment typically involve long-term education and support services.

The bill specifies the appropriation is intended to “contract with a community-based organization in Dexter.” The procurement code would require an RFP process to select a vendor.

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

Not clear if this is for all children and young adults in Dexter or for only those who are identified and receiving services from CYFD.

The Medicaid Program covers medically necessary services for this population, but does not cover “social interactions” or educational and other non-medical needs of the population. This bill would appear to address those needs for one geographic area.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to HB972, 2005, “both nationally and in New Mexico there has been a significant growth in the number of children diagnosed with ASD. According to a study by the University of Missouri-Columbia (Baker, D. L., 2004, March 16, Public Policy and the Shaping of Disability: Incidence Growth in Educational Autism) the average growth rate nationwide for ASD between 1995 and 2002 has been 307%, compared with just 15% for all other disabilities.”

According to CDC studies done in Europe and Asia, since 1985, they have found that as many as 6 of every 1,000 children have ASD. CDC studies in the US have shown a prevalence of 3-6 per 1,000 children. Given these statistics it is estimated that there may be approximately 7,200 to 10,800 children and adults with ASDs in New Mexico, with an estimated 540 - 810 children under the age of five.

HJM32, 2005 was passed and directed the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee study the following:

- The feasibility of establishing a system to determine the number and protect the confidentiality of individuals with ASD;
- How to deliver the necessary services to individuals with ASDs; and,
- The feasibility of the center for development and disability, the department of health's family, infant, toddler program, the public education department and the legislative education study committee collaborating to develop a “one-stop shop” to coordinate all necessary ASDs specialists to evaluate a child in one setting and to develop a comprehensive plan of action for early intervention.

It is unclear what the findings of HJM32, 2005, were.

The Southwest Autism Network, located at the UNM Center for Development and Disability, provides requested support to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families. The Southwest Autism Network operates several programs including the Family and Community Education in ASD (FACE), a statewide technical assistance and training network for families, providers and other professionals. According to their website, “FACE is staffed by parents and professionals with unique knowledge of the special needs of people with autism spectrum disorders. Staff provide information to families and professionals about services and resources in the community, conduct a variety of community training, and provide observation and recommendations to families and agencies to enable them to better understand and choose appropriate strategies to assist a person with ASD.” (<http://cdd.unm.edu/swan/face/index.htm>)

Human Services Department, through the Medicaid program, covers medically necessary ser-

vices for this population, but does not cover “social interactions”, educational and other non-medical needs of the population. This bill would appear to address those needs for one geographic area.

The Public Education Department and the Department of Health are the primary agencies charged with providing community-based services to children and young adults with ASD.

ALTERNATIVES

The findings of HJM32, 2005 should be considered as well as collaboration with the Southwest Autism Network at the UNM Center for Development and Disability,

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders will continue to experience community-related problems due to a lack of interaction with the community at large. And, staff and service providers will not have access to some of the latest information and community involvement techniques to continue work to effectively integrate children and young adults with disabilities into the community fabric.

AMENDMENTS

Make the appropriation to the New Mexico Department of Vocational Rehabilitation or to the Public Education Department.

DL/mt