

SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE MEMORIAL 20

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

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, THE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS AUTISM INITIATIVE, 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

1 world and that one in one hundred ten New Mexicans under the
2 age of eight meets criteria for an autism spectrum disorder;
3 and

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

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

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

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1 following:

2 A. access to multidisciplinary diagnosis for people
3 of all ages;

4 B. evidence-based and accessible treatment in the
5 private and public sectors with:

6 (1) appropriate behavioral health services
7 included in medicaid modernization that makes available both
8 evidence-based intervention and comprehensive community support
9 services;

10 (2) the state employee insurance plan adopting
11 the New Mexico autism insurance mandate;

12 (3) reasonable copayments or the waiving of
13 certain copayments, allowing individuals and families access to
14 care; and

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

18 (a) support to the individual and
19 family;

20 (b) notice of whether community
21 resources are available or have been exhausted;

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

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

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underscoring material = new
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1 (e) discharge plans that make available
2 training and technical assistance for community providers; and

3 (f) guidance from the public education
4 department on the reintegration of children from residential
5 settings into public schools and on how professional
6 development for student-specific needs will be achieved; and

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

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the service plan include both
12 the proposed policy development and the funding necessary to
13 begin implementation; and

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the interagency behavioral health purchasing
22 collaborative, the insurance division of the public regulation
23 commission, the New Mexico autism task force, the autism
24 oversight team, the New Mexico autism society, the university
25 of New Mexico center for development and disability, the New

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1 Mexico state university special education and communication
2 disorders autism initiative and the interim legislative health
3 and human services committee.

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