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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/13

SPONSOR Thomson LAST UPDATED _____ HB 209

SHORT TITLE Autism Spectrum Disorder Services SB _____

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$2,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB213, Autism Spectrum Disorder Program; Relates to HB22, Autism Coverage in Group Health Coverage

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)

Human Services Department (HSD)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 209 (HB209) appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Health for professional services and professional development programs in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), as follows:

- \$300 thousand for expanded diagnostic services for adults and children suspected of having ASD;
- \$300 thousand for services for adults with ASD who do not meet the criteria for services through the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver;
- \$1million for adaptive skill-building and parent home training services that directly support children with ASD; and
- \$400 thousand for professional development programs and capacity-building initiatives to move toward an evidence-based system of services for those with ASD.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$2 million contained in HB209 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY14 shall revert to the general fund.

The DOH indicates it would use a minimum of 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the department's administrative overhead costs associated with administration of the program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The UNMHSC indicates currently there is not an identified multidisciplinary team in New Mexico that focuses on the diagnosis of adults with ASD. The team-based diagnostic program for children 18 and under, administered through the Center for Development and Disability at UNMHSC and funded by the DOH, sees children and their families from throughout New Mexico. This clinical service has an 8 to 10 month wait for these services.

Families and individuals with ASD in New Mexico struggle not only with finding qualified, well-trained providers, but also with payment sources for these services. Adults with ASD may receive services through the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Medicaid Waiver if they have qualified for those services and have been allocated a spot on the waiver. However, adults with ASD whose cognitive abilities have been deemed as being in the typical or above average ranges, but who have significant challenges in their adaptive functioning, do not qualify for the DD Waiver and consequently are left without a payment source for needed services and supports. In 2008, the Legislature appropriated funds to the Department of Health to develop an intensive adaptive skill building program for a limited number of individuals, 5-18 years old in a few communities around the state. This program currently serves approximately 65 children but requests for services far exceeds the capacity of the program and the availability of qualified providers. At the same time, in 2008, funds were allocated to develop and implement a parent home training program for families whose young children, birth to 5, have been diagnosed with ASD. Current funding for this program supports parent home training for 60 families from communities throughout New Mexico.

The DOH indicates Medicaid now provides adaptive skill building services, (intensive evidenced based intervention) to children 0-5 years old with an autism diagnosis. Adaptive skill building is generally a 2 year course of treatment. The state funded adaptive skill building program serves children aged 5 through 18 years old and is still very small, serving 65 children in one-third of the counties in New Mexico and with only 4 contracted providers. The program has a waiting list in the pilot areas of approximately 40 children. There have been 132 applications so far this year. Some of those individuals do not reside in the pilot counties and some are not eligible due to insurance coverage. While insurance coverage is available for some children to access ASD related services, some families find the co-payment prohibitive and do not access the services available. Public employee insurance does not cover ASD services at this time. Currently, the DOH budgets approximately \$1.2 million annually for adaptive skill building services to 65 children, ages 5 through 18.

RAE/svb