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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/18

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Reconvene the J. Paul Taylor Child Task Force SM 95

ANALYST Klundt

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		<\$10.0*	<\$10.0	<\$20.0+	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 95 (SM95) would continue the meeting and work of the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force, established in 2013 under the auspices of the University of New Mexico. The Task Force continues to study funding for early childhood programs (especially home visiting and early childhood education) as well as establish policy that would expand screening of children and families for risk factors, including adverse childhood experiences; increase access to mental health services for young children, make information about early childhood programs available to families, and to support and coordinate training for those who deal with young families. It has each year presented its findings to the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee, and would continue to do so if SM 95 is passed. SM 95 further recommends that the University of New Mexico continue to convene and facilitate meetings of the Task Force.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No appropriation is made.

In similar legislation, state agencies, personnel of which would be attending the J. Paul Taylor Task Force meetings, would incur the cost of their travel and time, which would take them away from other duties. DOH estimates that the personnel costs to that agency would be \$4600 per year; CYFD estimates that the cost to that agency would be “minimal.” If the cost to CYFD were assumed to be in the same range as DOH, one could assume a total cost to state agencies of <\$10,000.

Although this is, by the nature of a memorial, a nonrecurring cost, it is to be noted that this task force has been supported by repeated memorials over the past five years.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES.

In similar legislation, both CYFD and DOH comment that those agencies believe that the work of the J. Paul Taylor Task Force duplicates work of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), which was established by legislation enacted in 2011. ELAC itself consists of fifteen members appointed by the Governor to “make recommendations and advise on early learning issues in New Mexico.”

ELAC’s “New Mexico Pyramid Partnership – A Framework for Social Emotional Well-Being for Infants” consists of members from a number of state agencies, from UNM HSC, from the New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health and from several other stakeholder groups. DOH comments on the Pyramid Partnership’s functions:

The NM Pyramid Partnership Framework has adopted the evidence-based practices developed by the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL) at Vanderbilt University (<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu>). The Pyramid framework developed by CSEFEL is used to promote the social and emotional competence of children birth to age five in the context of nurturing relationships and quality learning environments, and provides strategies to prevent and address the challenging behavior of young children and to help prevent children from being expelled from preschool. The Pyramid Partnership Framework is also making recommendations regarding infrastructure needs, including funding mechanisms, to support early childhood mental health.

Members of the current J. Paul Taylor Task Force (JPT TF), when contacted, stated that they believed the two committees (the JPT TF and ELAC) had complementary functions. One commented that “I hope that the task force will work on an operationalized definition of child neglect to inform policy and practice for health systems, education systems, child welfare, and legal advocates;” and that “we also lack a definition of adequate and appropriate parenting, a topic that has to take into considerations the needs of parents with developmental delays or with psychiatric health issues. These do not constitute "neglect" but do present situations where increased support could help.”

Another member of the JPT TF noted that “the Task Force has consistently tried to take a health/public health approach in its work as opposed to ELAC, which takes more of an early education view. In this way, the two groups' work can complement each other. A third commented that “I really appreciate the fact that the J Paul Taylor task force is independently convened with state, provider and advocacy participants all at the table and with a very specific focus in socio-emotional needs of children. In addition, the legislative report process allows us to highlight issues related to supporting the socio-emotional needs of young children.”

Legislators are welcome to participate in the task force; however, they do not participate in the ELAC.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Personnel from a number of state government agencies, including DOH, HSD and CYFD are asked to attend meetings of both the JPT TF and ELAC.

ALTERNATIVES

The functions of the J. Paul Taylor Task Force could be undertaken by the Early Learning Advisory Council, perhaps with some of the members of the JPT TF joining ELAC.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The J. Paul Taylor Task Force would cease to exist, and its reports, made annually for the past four years to the Legislative Interim Committee on Health and Human Services, would no longer be made.

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