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HOUSE MEMORIAL 61

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY
AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STORYTELLING AS A
TRAUMA-INFORMED STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, narrative therapy is a well-established
therapeutic approach that has been used across generations,
particularly within traditional and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, autobiographical storytelling and relating
stories of personal experiences are rooted in the same core
principles as narrative therapy, and these modalities are
effective across diverse communities and cultures, as they
recognize the individual as the expert on that individual's own
life; and

WHEREAS, people's lives are shaped by the stories they
tell themselves and others; and

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1 WHEREAS, storytelling approaches foster an environment
2 conducive to healing; and

3 WHEREAS, each year there are between two thousand and two
4 thousand six hundred children in the foster care system in New
5 Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, children who enter the foster care system are at
7 increased risk for language delays and difficulties with speech
8 development due to adverse circumstances they may experience
9 prior to adoption, and these language and speech developmental
10 delays greatly impact the children's communication skills; and

11 WHEREAS, support provided by dedicated speech-language
12 pathologists may help foster parents and caregivers to
13 implement interventions that play a role in the prevention of
14 language delays or disorders in young foster children; and

15 WHEREAS, the skills involved with coherently relating
16 stories of personal experiences have been found to positively
17 affect emotional healing;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the house of
20 representatives hereby acknowledge the significance of
21 autobiographical storytelling as a trauma-informed strategy and
22 further request the children, youth and families department to
23 study and implement the following:

24 A. collaborate with speech-language pathologists
25 and licensed behavioral and mental health care providers

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1 familiar with trauma and trauma-informed practices and
2 experienced in autobiographical storytelling to provide
3 language development training and workshops for families and
4 caseworkers;

5 B. assist children in the care of the department to
6 develop autobiographical stories and share those stories in
7 order to support the children's emotional health and language
8 development;

9 C. design events that focus on concrete activities
10 with the child's present caregiver rather than traumatic events
11 from the child's past; and

12 D. provide families with a strategy plan to follow
13 if traumatic memories arise at home; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families.

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