

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 19a

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .190552.1

**Short Title:** Office of School and Adolescent Health

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Mary Kay Papen

**Analyst:** Sarah Amador-Guzman

**Date:** February 15, 2013

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**AS AMENDED**

The Senate Education Committee amendments add language that allows the Office of School and Adolescent Health within the Department of Health to expand the behavioral health support to students beginning in pre-kindergarten regardless of a school's grade as ranked by the Public Education Department.

**Original Bill Summary:**

SB 19 makes an appropriation for behavioral health support using standards and benchmarks for school-based behavioral health centers (SBHC), for students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled in schools ranked a C, D, or F, by the Public Education Department (PED).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$2.5 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health's (DOH) Office of School and Adolescent Health for FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to DOH, the operating budgets of DOH SBHC's have decreased since FY 09 as shown in the table below.

<b>Operating Budget for DOH SBHCs</b> (FY 2009-2014)						
<b>Type of Fund</b>	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>FY 12</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>
General Fund	\$4,088,000	\$2,746,100	\$2,616,000	\$2,424,100	\$2,424,100	\$2,424,100
Inter Agency Transfers	\$0	\$1,088,000	\$1,088,000	\$1,088,000	\$1,088,000	\$1,088,000
<b>Total</b>	\$4,088,000	\$3,834,100	\$3,704,000	\$3,512,100	\$3,512,100	\$3,512,100 <i>(requested)</i>

## **Substantive Issues:**

According to the DOH bill analysis:

- suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents 15-24 years old in New Mexico;
- in 2009, New Mexico had the fourth highest rate for youth suicide in the nation;
- in the 2011 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NMYRRS 2011), results showed that:
  - 29.1 percent of high school students had persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the past 12 months;
  - 16.7 percent seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months; and
  - 13.4 percent made a suicide plan in the past 12 months;
- adolescents face numerous challenges to their emotional well-being, such as bullying, peer pressure, and community and relationship violence resulting in an increased need for behavioral health services;
- an adolescent is up to 21 times more likely to access an SBHC for a behavioral health concern than they are to access a community health center or a health maintenance organization;
- mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders are a major health threat, almost one in five young people have one or more mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders at any given time; and among adults, half of all mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders were first diagnosed by age 14;
- studies conducted in school year 2010-2011 demonstrated that New Mexico SBHCs encounter a total of 13,752 behavioral health visits, representing 41.1 percent of all 33,434 visits; and
- Native Americans in New Mexico have the highest rates of suicide among youth ages 15-24, and males have higher rates than females.

## **Background:**

According to the DOH bill analysis, the New Mexico SBHCs:

- are administered primarily by PED and DOH via a governmental services agreement with the HSD;
- served 61 communities in 30 counties;
- provided access to healthcare to over 50,000 adolescents;
- offered care to uninsured adolescents and are considered Medicaid certified centers;
- received funding from the state and generally obtained an approximate 1:1 match in federal Medicaid funding;
- offered sports physicals, immunizations, lab tests, family planning services, and oral healthcare;
- served student populations equaling 41 percent Hispanic, 39 percent Caucasian, and 18 percent Native American;
- provided care primarily to 14-19 year olds, which represented 61 percent of all visits in school year 2010-2011;
- conducted 33 percent primary care visits and 37 percent behavioral healthcare visits; and
- completed a total of 42,977 patient visits in school year 2011-2012.

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

SB 47 *School-Based Health Centers*