

HOUSE BILL 281

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Nora Espinoza

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT ACT TO CHANGE RECOGNITION CRITERIA FOR LICENSURE PURPOSES OF NATIONAL ACCREDITING BODIES FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HOME-BASED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 9-2A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1992, Chapter 57, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"9-2A-8. DEPARTMENT--ADDITIONAL DUTIES.--In addition to other duties provided by law or assigned to the department by the governor, the department shall:

A. develop priorities for department services and resources based on state policy and national best-practice standards and local considerations and priorities;

B. strengthen collaboration and coordination in

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1 state and local services for children, youth and families by
2 integrating critical functions as appropriate, including
3 service delivery, and contracting for services across divisions
4 and related agencies;

5 C. develop and maintain a statewide database,
6 including client tracking of services for children, youth and
7 families;

8 D. develop standards of service within the
9 department that focus on prevention, monitoring and outcomes;

10 E. analyze policies of other departments that
11 affect children, youth and families to encourage common
12 contracting procedures, common service definitions and a
13 uniform system of access;

14 F. enact regulations to control disposition and
15 placement of children under the Children's Code, including
16 regulations to limit or prohibit the out-of-state placement of
17 children, including those who have developmental disabilities
18 or emotional, neurobiological or behavioral disorders, when in-
19 state alternatives are available;

20 G. develop reimbursement criteria for licensed
21 child care centers and licensed home providers establishing
22 that accreditation by a [~~department-approved~~] national
23 accrediting body that has had its accreditation standards
24 approved by at least three other state governments is
25 sufficient qualification for the child care center or home

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1 provider to receive the highest reimbursement rate paid by the
2 department;

3 H. assume and implement responsibility for
4 children's mental health and substance abuse services in the
5 state, coordinating with the human services department and the
6 department of health;

7 I. assume and implement the lead responsibility
8 among all departments for domestic violence services;

9 J. implement prevention and early intervention as a
10 departmental focus;

11 K. conduct biennial assessments of service gaps and
12 needs and establish outcome measurements to address those
13 service gaps and needs, including recommendations from the
14 governor's children's cabinet and the children, youth and
15 families advisory committee;

16 L. ensure that behavioral health services provided,
17 including mental health and substance abuse services for
18 children, adolescents and their families, shall be in
19 compliance with requirements of Section 9-7-6.4 NMSA 1978; and

20 M. fingerprint and conduct nationwide criminal
21 history record searches on all department employees, staff
22 members and volunteers whose jobs involve direct contact with
23 department clients, including prospective employees and
24 employees who are promoted, transferred or hired into new
25 positions, and the superiors of all department employees,

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1 staff members and volunteers who have direct unsupervised
2 contact with department clients."

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