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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gallegos, DY ORIGINAL DATE 1/21/16
LAST UPDATED 1/25/16 HB 11

SHORT TITLE Shaken Baby Syndrome Educational Materials SB _____

ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences (UNM HSC)
Department of Health (DOH)
Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Responses Not Received From

Higher Education Department
Human Services Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 11, Shaken Baby Syndrome Educational Materials, appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for the purpose of purchasing supplies to educate new parents in birth hospitals on the dangers of shaking their infants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2017 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), shaken baby syndrome (SBS) is “a type of inflicted traumatic brain injury that happens when a baby is violently shaken. A baby has weak neck muscles and a large, heavy head. Shaking makes the fragile brain bounce back and forth inside the skull and causes bruising, swelling, and bleeding, which can lead to permanent, severe brain damage or death. The characteristic injuries of shaken baby syndrome are subdural hemorrhages (bleeding in the brain), retinal hemorrhages (bleeding in the retina), damage to the spinal cord and neck, and fractures of the ribs and bones. These injuries may not be immediately noticeable. Symptoms of shaken baby syndrome include extreme irritability, lethargy, poor feeding, breathing problems, convulsions, vomiting, and pale or bluish skin. Shaken baby injuries usually occur in children younger than 2 years old, but may be seen in children up to the age of 5.” On many occasions, the parent or caretaker, not knowing how vulnerable the infant’s brain is, cause grievous injury when frustrated with a crying child. Once the injuries have occurred, however, there is little to remedy the problems caused, which may include blindness, severe developmental dehydration or even death.

From 2003 to 2007, an estimated 780 (0.76 per 100,000 person-years) US children under age 4 years died of Abusive Head Trauma, and 1759 (8.6 per 100,000 population; this would translate to approximately five infants dying and 11 infants hospitalized each year in New Mexico) were hospitalized annually. An estimate done by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates medical costs of \$48,000 over the four years following injury of each child injured through shaken baby syndrome (also called abusive head trauma). Costs for special education, ongoing medical services and therapies, and loss of future earnings are incalculable, but are likely to be very high for each injured child.

In a pilot program developed by UNM researcher Kathy Lopez Bushnell, RNC, EdD, MPH, MSN, pediatric resident Christopher Torrez, MD, and Desiree Torrez, BS, new parents delivering infants at UNM Hospital were trained by nursing staff to see the effects of shaking a newborn’s head, graphically illustrated by a special doll which lights up in areas damaged when the doll’s head is shaken. They also use printed material, and a video entitled “When Babies Cry.”

The results of their work to this point, as reported by Dr. Torrez, suggest that the intervention has been effective. From January 2012 to September 2014 there were 39 cases of diagnosed SBS in infants who were discharged from UNM Hospital units other than those at UNM Hospital where the intervention was carried out. During the same time period there were zero infants discharged from UNM nurseries that were subsequently diagnosed with SBS. This difference is statistically significant.

If this intervention is as successful in New Mexico’s approximately 30 birth hospitals as it appears to have been at UNM Hospital, approximately 15 cases of shaken baby syndrome would be prevented per year. At an average four-year cost of approximately \$48,000 per injured baby, the annual saving would be \$640,000, which does not include the eventual savings in special education and lost adult productivity that would be predicted.

In addition, CYFD notes that it wishes to collaborate with UNM on this project. It cites its PullTogether Initiative, a large effort at prevention of child abuse. CYFD would hope to take

this educational message to a broader audience, and avoid any duplication of effort. PullTogether invites community leaders across the state to join CYFD in a community engagement initiative to work jointly to improve the quality of life for the state's children. CYFD states

Shaken baby syndrome is not limited to just the interaction of children and parents. By taking the educational materials provided by the Health Sciences Center to the larger community that is being drawn together by CYFD's PullTogether initiative, we have the opportunity engage everyone else involved in that child's life: friends, relatives, caregivers. By providing our citizens with the tools to identify, respond to, and prevent shaken baby syndrome, we decrease the risk of child maltreatment, and by extension decrease the risk of preventable fatalities within the state. More, by making those materials available via the PullTogether.org website, we focus efforts in a more comprehensive, less fragmented way.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Each birth hospital would have to designate and train personnel to show the video, hand out the printed material, demonstrate the effects of shaking using the doll, and answer parents' questions.

ALTERNATIVES

Asking birth hospitals to train parents in the effects of shaking babies without access to the video, the printed material, or the doll.

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