

LFC Requester:	
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 2025-02-21
Bill No: HB534

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: Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Agency Name CYFD 69000
and Code
Number:
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Analysis:
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Short AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
Title: STORYTELLING FOR
CHILDREN

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
0	0		
0	0		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
0	0	0		
0	0	0		

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATION BUDGET (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	0	230.3	226.8	457.1	Recurring	General Fund

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

HB534 proposes the addition of a new section to the Children, Youth and Families Department Act. This provision mandates the department to contract with Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) to provide training for families and department staff and to develop language support and emotional development services aimed at enhancing the language development and storytelling skills of children in foster care. The bill also establishes standards for the delivery of training and workshops and requires the evaluation of the effectiveness of these services in supporting the development of children’s autobiographical memory.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

An appropriation for CYFD is not included in HB534.

If enacted, there are potential fiscal implications for CYFD as it requires CYFD to contract with SLPs to deliver trainings and workshops. It also requires the evaluation of the effectiveness of Autobiographical Storytelling on children’s development of autobiographical memory.

There is also a potential need for one FTE to oversee the contracts administratively and programmatically as well as ensure the establishment of training and workshop standards and the outcomes evaluation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Narrative therapy is a well-established therapeutic approach that has been utilized across generations, particularly within traditional and minority populations. Autobiographical storytelling is rooted in the same core principles as narrative therapy. These modalities are effective across diverse communities and cultures as they recognize the individual as the expert on their own life.

By acknowledging that people's lives are shaped by the stories they tell themselves, these approaches foster an environment conducive to healing.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If enacted, HB534 identifies SLPs to train CYFD staff and families and hold workshops, but it is unclear what staff and families will be trained in. Clinicians, including psychologists, counselors, and social workers, are the types of mental health professionals trained and qualified to utilize interventions and modalities such as Autobiographical Storytelling within a therapeutic setting. HB534 does not indicate or require collaboration between SLPs and clinicians to ensure the framework, including support, services, delivery, and outcome evaluation, is designed and implemented in a trauma responsive manner. This is a critical factor that needs to be included to avoid retraumatizing children who participate in Autobiographical Storytelling.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB534 does not include an appropriation to CYFD despite directing CYFD to contract with SLPs. Funding will be required for those contracts. It is also possible that additional FTE will be needed to provide contract oversight and management.

Also, a clarification about which CYFD staff are to be trained is needed. HB534 indicates CYFD case workers, but it is unclear if that is exclusive to the Protective Services Division. It is also unclear which positions within the Protective Services Division are to be trained.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None identified.