

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO
3 STUDY AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
4 STORYTELLING AS A TRAUMA-INFORMED STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN.
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6 WHEREAS, narrative therapy is a well-established
7 therapeutic approach that has been used across generations,
8 particularly within traditional and minority populations; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, storytelling approaches foster an environment
18 conducive to healing; and

19 WHEREAS, each year there are between two thousand and
20 two thousand six hundred children in the foster care system
21 in New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, children who enter the foster care system are
23 at increased risk for language delays and difficulties with
24 speech development due to adverse circumstances they may
25 experience prior to adoption, and these language and speech

1 developmental delays greatly impact the children's
2 communication skills; and

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

7 WHEREAS, the skills involved with coherently relating
8 stories of personal experiences have been found to positively
9 affect emotional healing;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the house of
12 representatives hereby acknowledge the significance of
13 autobiographical storytelling as a trauma-informed strategy
14 and further request the children, youth and families
15 department to study and implement the following:

16 A. collaborate with speech-language pathologists
17 and licensed behavioral and mental health care providers
18 familiar with trauma and trauma-informed practices and
19 experienced in autobiographical storytelling to provide
20 language development training and workshops for families and
21 caseworkers;

22 B. assist children in the care of the department
23 to develop autobiographical stories and share those stories
24 in order to support the children's emotional health and
25 language development;

