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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/06

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 654

SHORT TITLE Children's Health Telemedicine Program SB _____

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB217/SB 89 (Geriatric Disorder Telemedicine Program)
 Relates to HB289 (Rural NM Chronic Medical Disease Treatment)
 Relates to HB303 (UNM Health Sciences Center Telehealth Program)
 Relates to HB858 (Telehealth Program Development)
 Relates to SB626 (Internet to the Hogans Initiative)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 654 appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the Center for Development and Disability to

- fund infrastructure for an outreach program using telemedicine to support a network of early intervention providers, families and children with special needs, and
- to provide training, education, case conferencing and clinical consultation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), HB 654 complements the Governor's New Mexico Telehealth Commission which is working to expand telemedicine/telehealth capacity statewide, and to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of this vital technology resource by providing funding for training, case conferencing and clinical consultation. CYFD is a member of the Commission.

The Department of Health (DOH) notes that the UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD) currently operates the REACH (Rural Early Access to Children's Health) project, funded under a 3-year grant from the federal Health Services & Resources Administration (HRSA). The grant has funded a telehealth network for ongoing training, technical assistance, and consultation to early intervention providers in rural communities that are often hours away from medical and therapeutic specialty staff in Albuquerque. Issues addressed through the telehealth system have included children with autism, sensory processing and the effects of early exposure to drugs, as well as consultation specific to the needs of individual children with disabilities or special health care needs.

The Department of Health's Children's Medical Services (CMS) notes that there remains difficulty in recruiting specialists in outlying rural areas for children and youth with special health care needs. The utilization of telemedicine for rural areas can be effective for diagnosis and intervention, and to promote family involvement when specialists are not available locally.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the Center for Development and Disability was established in 1990 as New Mexico's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. These centers are authorized by the federal Developmental Disabilities Act to build the capacities of states and communities to respond to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The CDD is designated by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and is one of a national network of University Centers for Excellence that is coordinated by and receives core funding from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

HED adds that, though housed at and administered through UNM, CDD projects involve clinical, training, and/or technical assistance activities in every county in New Mexico. The CDD

- provides training on a variety of different disability-related topics;
- responds to technical assistance requests from agencies throughout New Mexico;
- provides various clinical programs and services; and
- responds to requests for information from family members, students, self advocates, providers, and state agencies.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD notes that increased telehealth capacity and distribution may positively impact the quality and timeliness of behavioral health planning for CYFD client children and families, which in turn may improve client clinical behavioral health functioning and reduce recidivism among juvenile justice clients.

ML/nt