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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/22/08
 LAST UPDATED 01/23/08 **HB** 76/aHCPAC

SPONSOR Vaughn

SHORT TITLE Otero Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program **SB** _____

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee Amendment

The HCPAC amendment strikes “emphasizes abstinence and sexual responsibility” and inserts in lieu thereof “provides a comprehensive educational approach, including a combination of abstinence, sexual responsibility, contraception and disease prevention”.

Significant Issues

DOH policies will only support programs that provide a comprehensive educational approach to teen pregnancy prevention.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 76 appropriates \$100 thousand from the General Fund to DOH for expenditure in FY09 to develop a teen pregnancy prevention program in Otero County that emphasizes abstinence and sexual responsibility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the General Fund. The appropriation included in the bill is not part of the DOH's Executive Budget Request for FY09.

The Department will contract the funds to local agencies through the state procurement process. The activities proposed in this bill could be incorporated into the NM DOH Family Planning Program Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program.

DOH elected to not re-apply for federal abstinence monies in FY2007-2008.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Comprehensive sex education is one of the evidence-based strategies recommended by DOH for teen pregnancy prevention. Comprehensive sex education teaches about abstinence as the best method for avoiding sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception. It teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals, and options, and to make responsible decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health. A program that emphasizes abstinence and sexual responsibility should also follow these guidelines.

According to the DOH and PED, New Mexico's teen birth rates decreased by 16% from 1998 to 2004 while the U.S. teen birth rates decreased by 26% from 1998 to 2004.

In 2005, the birth rate for 15-17 year olds in Otero County was 18.9 per 1,000 with 31 births, or 2% of the state's total. There are 1,637 female teens ages 15-17 in Otero County.

In 2005, the New Mexico teen birth rate for 15-17 year olds was 35.7 per 1,000 females, a rate 1.7 times higher than the national teen birth rate of 21 per 1,000.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

While the funding is not included in DOH's Executive Budget Request, HB 76 aligns with the FY09 DOH Strategic Plan, Objective 2, Reduce Teen Pregnancy, as evaluated under the performance measure Annual Teen Birth Rate for Females ages 15 to 17.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH policy requires any curriculum used by Department employees or contractors to be evidence-based and approved by the Medical Oversight Committee. The DOH does not fund programs that do not follow a comprehensive educational approach to teen pregnancy prevention that includes a combination of abstinence, sexual responsibility, contraception and disease prevention.

The PED reports that this program will not meet the Department's Health Education Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Funding may not be available to develop a teen pregnancy prevention program in Otero County that emphasizes abstinence and sexual responsibility.

AHO/bb:mt