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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/09

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 37

SHORT TITLE Sandoval Family Support Program Services SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non- Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

No Responses Received From

Lieutenant Governor's Office

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 37 requests that the Children's Cabinet appoint a task force to develop strategies to evaluate, improve and expand the Sandoval County Family Support Program to serve more women and children utilizing the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program sites throughout New Mexico. The task force is to include representatives from a network of individuals with expertise in early childhood development; the Sandoval County Family Support Program; the Women, Infants and Children Program; individuals with expertise in children's health, social and emotional needs; researchers in early childhood development, maternal and infant mental health; the Department of Health; and others. The task force is to include representation from family members that reflect the cultural, ethnic, economic and geographic composition of New Mexico. The findings and recommendations of the task force are to address return-on-investment priorities, service delivery models, coordination with other necessary partners and a continuum of services to be included. The findings and recommendations of the task force are to be presented to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by November 1, 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HSD noted that the joint memorial does not provide an appropriation or identify a budget to cover costs for the task force and its administrative costs, including participation costs for family members.

HSD reported that as the State Medicaid Agency and a member of the Children’s Cabinet, it is assumed that the Medical Assistance Division would participate on this task force. Doing so would create a strain on limited Medical Assistance Division staff and resources, and create unanticipated costs associated with its participation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reported the Sandoval County Support Program is located in the Sandoval County Health Commons, an integrated model for the delivery of health and social services for children and families and demonstrates a promising practice health care delivery system for the state. DOH and Sandoval County are spear-heading an effort to bring community programs and partners together to provide more seamless services for residents in Sandoval County.

DOH noted the Sandoval Commons through grants and partnerships has developed a variety of services that support families as a whole and is responsive to the needs of the family. These services are prevention-oriented, relationship-based, and peer-focused. This approach allows family members to begin the process of looking at behavioral changes that ultimately can improve nutrition, physical health, maternal mental health and overall emotional health and social development of the family.

DOH reported that approximately 50 percent of young families participate in the WIC program for multiple years, making WIC offices a particularly important place to support families to make positive behavioral changes for health improvement. DOH’s public health personnel at the Sandoval County Commons, along with the County’s Community Health Workers, participate in ongoing training in child development, pediatric overweight prevention, motivational interviewing techniques and crisis intervention. The Sandoval Commons is a pilot site for the U.S. Department of Agriculture pediatric overweight prevention research grant, received by DOH’s WIC Program to explore how staff skills, as well as client beliefs and motivation related to health behavior change, can better improve health outcomes.

DOH reported that Sandoval Commons is working with “New Mexico Takes on Diabetes” through a grant from the Con Alma Foundation to develop WIC protocols for gestational diabetes, which focuses on prevention. During the pilot project, WIC pregnant women will be screened for gestational diabetes risk. Those at the highest risk and those with gestational diabetes will receive intensive case management from the County’s Community Health Workers and support from the WID registered dietician and nutritionists. In addition, the Families, Infant and Toddler program curriculum for pregnant women will encourage women to maintain a healthy weight during pregnancy, reducing the risk of developing gestational diabetes, and to transition into healthy lifestyles for themselves and their children.

DOH stated the Sandoval Commons also provides high risk nutrition counseling by a registered dietician and dental services for pregnant women and children from birth to age 5, which is another opportunity to assess for nutrition issues. In addition, the Commons offers group for

finance literacy, music for families and a teen support group.

HSD reported that because the joint memorial notes “the inappropriate use of health care services for preschool children enrolled in Medicaid costs millions of dollars annually, and research has shown that low-cost health literacy trainings can substantially reduce Medicaid costs, lost work and lost school days...”, HSD’s Medical Assistance Division assumes that it would be asked to participate in the task force. While the Medical Assistance Division applauds the work of the Sandoval program and the expansion initiative proposed by the Children’s Cabinet, asking the Division to devote resources and personnel to such an undertaking at this time would make addressing its core service needs even more challenging.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD noted it currently does not have specific performance measures related to the activities of the task force. CYFD does contract with local providers for home visiting and infant mental health services.

DOH states the joint memorial relates to the governor’s objectives in Healthy New Mexico pertaining to “Improve Health, Developmental, and Educational Outcomes of Newborns”, and the State of New Mexico 2008 Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan’s goal to provide New Mexicans more opportunities for health care coverage and access.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD stated it would absorb the administrative impact resulting from the joint memorial utilizing existing resources.

DOH noted that department staff would provide representation on the task force, which could be accommodated with the existing workforce.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH reported the New Mexico WIC Program serves families at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. These families are often at nutritional risk and are experiencing food insecurity. Also, the Sandoval Commons helps identify families who are eligible for a variety of services, such as Medicaid.

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