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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/15/09

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJM 47

SHORT TITLE Sandoval Family Support Program Services SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$0.1	\$0.1		Recurring	Various

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department/Medical Assistance Division (HSD/MAD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 47 requests the Children’s Cabinet to appoint a task force to evaluate, improve and develop sustainability strategies for the Sandoval County Family Support Program (FSP) utilizing and expanding the infrastructure of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and bringing the FSP preventive service delivery model to low-income families served at other WIC program sites in New Mexico.

The Memorial provides for the following:

- The Sandoval County FSP is an interagency model for the delivery of health and social services operating at the Sandoval County health commons;
- The Sandoval county FSP services are oriented to prevention and are family- and relationship-based while being responsive to individual needs;
- The Sandoval county FSP conducts screenings and assessments regarding needs for social supports, chronic diseases, maternal mental health, parent and child relationships, child development, health literacy trainings and more;

- 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;
- The WIC program is the entry point for many clients accessing these screenings and services;
- The WIC program safeguards the health of low-income women, infants and children up to the age of five who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritional foods, information on healthy eating and referrals to health care providers;
- At eighty-five sites around the state, the WIC program served more than one hundred twelve thousand New Mexicans and provided over seven hundred thousand monthly food benefit packages in 2008;
- The WIC program visits offer many opportunities to positively impact healthy behaviors as families visit these program sites once every one or two months and often for many years;
- DOH estimates that sixty percent of babies born in New Mexico are seen by the WIC program, including virtually all pregnant women and babies who live in poverty;
- The Sandoval County Health Commons FSP has been offering expanded prevention and early intervention services to WIC program recipients since 2002 through the use of community health workers and other public health staff;
- Enriched programming available through the Sandoval County FSP is leading to wider use of these services and screenings in the community; and
- Families visiting WIC program sites throughout the state would benefit from the expanded array of services and screenings offered by the Sandoval County FSP.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HSD/MAD and CYFD report that representation on the task force would cause additional strain on limited staff and resources. DOH reports that representation for the department could be accommodated with existing staff and resources. Any additional fiscal impact to state agencies and stakeholders will be dependent upon the implementation of any recommendations made by the task force.

Any additional fiscal impact will also be balanced against the state's interest in maintaining the public health.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

DOH provided the following:

The Sandoval County FSP is located in the Sandoval County Health Commons, and is 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. Sandoval County and DOH are spear-heading an effort to bring community programs and partners together to provide more seamless services for residents in Sandoval County.

Through grants and partnerships, the Sandoval Commons 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.

Approximately fifty 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 public health personnel and 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 the DOH WIC Program to explore how staff skills, as well as client beliefs and motivation related to health behavior change, can better improve health outcomes.

The 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 highest risk and those with gestational diabetes will receive intensive case management from the County's community health workers and support from the WIC registered dietician and nutritionists. In addition, the FIT 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.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The task force will need to address return-on-investment priorities, service delivery models, coordination with other necessary partners and a continuum of services. The task force will present its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by November 1, 2009.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The task force will be required to include representation from a network of individuals with expertise in early childhood development, the Sandoval County FSP, the WIC program, individuals with expertise in children's health, social and emotional needs, researchers in early childhood development, maternal and infant mental health, DOH and others. The task force will also be required to include representation from family members that reflects the cultural, ethnic, economic and geographic composition of New Mexico.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

HJM 47 and HJM 37 are substantively the same except for a change in description of the scope of the task force, as follows:

- HJM 47 would evaluate, improve and develop sustainability strategies for the Sandoval County FSP and, utilizing and expanding the infrastructure of the WIC program, bring the FSP's preventive service delivery model to low-income families served at other NM WIC program sites.

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- HJM 37 would develop strategies to evaluate, improve, and expand the Sandoval County FSP statewide through the WIC program sites.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DOH notes that the Commons also provides high risk nutrition counseling by a registered dietician and dental services for pregnant women and children 0 to 5, which is another opportunity to assess for nutrition issues. In addition, the Commons offers groups for financial literacy, music for families and a teen support group.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

A task force to develop strategies to evaluate, improve and expand the Sandoval County FSP would not be created.

AHO/mt