

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number: HB 471**

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number: .192545.1**

**Short Title: Expand UNM Focus & Milagro Programs**

**Sponsor(s): Representative Christine H. Trujillo and Others**

**Analyst: James Ball**

**Date: February 14, 2013**

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 471 makes an appropriation to expand and provide personnel, support, and evaluation for existing Family Options Caring Understanding Solutions (FOCUS) and Milagro programs at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center (HSC).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$2.2 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to UNM, the expansion of FOCUS will provide comprehensive coordinated medical home care for pregnant women affected by substance abuse with emphasis on opiate abuse. The centers will expand support for early childhood development by providing:

- comprehensive care;
- intensive home-based case management services; and
- early intervention for infants at risk of developmental delay from prenatal exposure to maternal substance abuse.

UNM further states that funding in HB 471 will:

- support salaries and benefits for additional providers at the FOCUS and Milagro programs;
- implement provider networks in three communities by creating new salaried positions with benefits for:
  - nurses;
  - developmental specialist case managers;
  - substance abuse counselors;
  - early childhood therapists; and
  - program managers.

**Background:**

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), FOCUS was begun in 1989, at the UNM Center for Development and Disability to provide a continuum of interdisciplinary services for families of children aged birth through three who were at risk for or experiencing a developmental delay including:

- medical challenges such as:
  - prematurity;
  - low birth weight; and
  - pre-natal exposure to drugs and alcohol; and
- environmental challenges such as:
  - family substance abuse;
  - mental illness;
  - family violence; and
  - unsupported teen parenting.

FOCUS serves families in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, and Torrance counties.

HED also states that Milagro has addressed perinatal substance abuse prevention and treatment since 1989. Services start during pregnancy and continue post-partum. The interdisciplinary treatment team consists of:

- a certified family nurse practitioner;
- maternal fetal medicine physicians;
- masters-prepared clinical counselors;
- registered nurses;
- consulting psychiatrist and addictionologist;
- mental health techs; and
- support staff.

Finally, HED’s analysis says that the Milagro team is knowledgeable regarding the latest evidence based treatment modalities in perinatal, addictions and mental health disorders.

**Committee Referrals:**

HEC/HAFC

**Related Bills:**

- HB 69a *UNM Health Center College of Public Health*
- HB 80 *UNM Dental Science Program*
- SB 56 *UNM Health Center Project ECHO*
- SB 57 *UNM Health Center Nursing Enrollment*
- SB 87 *UNM Health Workforce Analysis*
- SB 137 *Rural Primary Health Care Funding*
- SB 300 *UNM Health Center Hepatitis C Program*