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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Padilla **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/11/14
LAST UPDATED 02/03/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE CYFD Foster Care Reports to Legislature **SJM** 3/aSRC/aSPAC

ANALYST Klunt

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	\$60.0	NFI	\$60.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 3 amends the following reporting requirements:

- Removes Section E on page two “the data reporting for over the past ten years, the highest number of foster home placements made for a single foster child”;
- Replaces Section E with “over the past five years, the placement stability data collected by the Children, Youth and Families Department”;
- Amends Section I for collection of data for five years to measure all behavioral health concerns that have been identified among foster children;
- Adds a requirement for the CYFD to also include an identification of any information that is not provided for lack of data.

Synopsis SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 3 requires additional information be included in the foster care report submitted to the legislature in August 2014. Specifically, the following information is required in addition to the original reporting requirements:

- The total number of cases opened by the protective services division of CYFD for the past 36 months;

Senate Joint Memorial 3/aSRC/aSPAC – Page 2

- The average number of cases managed by the protective services division social workers for the past thirty-six months, listed by month;
- The average salary of protective services division social workers for the past 36 months;
- Over the past thirty-six months, the number of cases opened by the protective services division based on reports by
 - Schools;
 - Abused or neglected children;
 - Relatives of abused or neglected children;
 - Neighbors of abused or neglected children; and
 - Others.
- Any obstacles including laws, regulations and policies, that prevent the protective services division from meeting its stated mission and goals; and
- The education and training provided to all protective services division staff before and during employment with the division

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 3 requests CYFD to prepare a report on foster care in New Mexico to the interim Health and Human Services Committee by November 2014. The report will include:

- 1) the limit, if any on the number of foster children that may be placed in a single foster home at one time;
- 2) the average number of foster children per home;
- 3) the largest number of foster children that have been placed in a single foster home at one time;
- 4) the average number of foster homes into which foster children are placed during the time those children are in the care of the children, youth and families department
- 5) over the past ten years, the highest number of foster home placements made for a single foster child;
- 6) how foster homes for emergency foster placements are identified and selected;
- 7) the children, youth and families department's current plan for identifying and certifying foster families;
- 8) the last date on which the standards for certifying a foster home were updated;
- 9) all behavioral health concerns that have been identified over the past ten years among foster children and;
- 10) information and data from the past ten years regarding foster children after they reach the age of eighteen. The report shall be presented to the interim legislative health and human services committee by November 2014.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation attached to this memorial, but the CYFD states that one FTE would be required to gather the data and compile information for the report. Without the appropriation the agency will utilize existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A majority of the information required by this memorial is tracked by the CYFD Protective Services program. The agency states there may be a significant administrative burden to compile

the information for this report because no historical aggregated data concerning behavioral health for all children in foster care is currently available. Additionally, CYFD has no existing tracking system for children after they turn 18; and therefore, the agency states that it may be unable to comply with a portion of the memorial. However, the CYFD could consider matching data with other agencies to assess certain outcomes after the age of eighteen including the Public Education Department, the Department of Corrections, the Human Services Department, and the Department of Higher Education.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

While the memorial does not consider additional reporting regarding the Protective Services programs, the number of children after foster care placed either with an adoptive family or the original legal guardian may also be informative. Additionally, the memorial may want to include the vacancy rates among protective services workers versus the national average and best practices, average caseload of protective services workers versus the national average and best practices, the turnover rate for protective service workers, and the number of children who are subjected to substantiated abuse or neglect following prior substantiated abuse or neglect.

KK/ds:svb