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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

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| SPONSOR <u>Correa Hemphill</u> | LAST UPDATED <u>2/6/2024</u> ORIGINAL DATE <u>2/1/2024</u> |
| SHORT TITLE <u>CYFD Trauma-Informed Training</u> | BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 240/aSHPAC</u> |
| ANALYST <u>Garcia</u> | |

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

| FY24 | FY25 | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | \$1,500.0 | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

| Agency/Program | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| CYFD | \$500.0 | \$500.0 | \$500.0 | \$1,500.0 | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SHPAC Amendment to Senate Bill 240

The Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee amendment added contract providers of prevention services to the group of people to whom CYFD will provide trauma-informed training.

Synopsis of Original Senate Bill 240

Senate Bill 240 appropriates \$1.5 million from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) for trauma-informed training for all staff and foster families for expenditure in FY25 through FY27.

The bill would limit expenditure in each fiscal year to \$500 thousand and specifies any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.5 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

CYFD notes the agency would use appropriated funds to cover additional costs foster families might incur as a result of attending training, including travel and technology expenses, and the agency would use these funds to cover the costs of additional staff time that might be associated with attending and delivering training.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The *Kevin S.* settlement agreement and plan includes, among other action items, establishing a trauma-responsive system of care for all children in state custody and placing children in out-of-home care in stable, safe, and community-based placements in the least restrictive environment. Between December 2022 and December 2023, CYFD data suggests the total number of resource (foster) families in the state decreased from 1,000 to 976, a 2 percent decrease. According to the federal Administration for Children and Families, ongoing training and trauma-informed, culturally responsive supports are essential for retaining resource (foster) families.

CYFD has also faced chronic workforce challenges and shortages, with high demand for social workers, caseworkers, and investigators, and high turnover rates in these roles. Workforce challenges in turn affect system outcomes; a 2020 LFC report found CYFD regions with the highest caseloads also had the highest rates of short-term placements in foster care, and the report highlighted federal research indicating staffing shortages have a detrimental effect on caseworker abilities to make well-supported and timely decisions regarding children's safety. CYFD initiated a workforce survey and study in which staff ranked workload and self-care as pressing challenges facing staff. In 2023, the Legislature appropriated \$3 million to support CYFD's workforce development plan to address these challenges, including secondary trauma and self-care support, training and professional development support, local recruitment campaigns, and recruitment incentives for licensed social work graduates. As of November 2023, CYFD had spent less than \$100 thousand of the \$3 million appropriation. The General Appropriation Act of 2024 reauthorizes the \$3 million appropriation but targets the use of funds to initiatives focused on licensed social workers.

CYFD notes the provision of trauma-informed training will help staff identify needs associated with trauma-related issues staff encounter in their day-to-day work. In addition, the department notes the provision of trauma-informed training can help foster families support youth experiencing trauma responses. Additionally, CYFD additional funding would allow the department to satisfy requirements set forth in the *Kevin S.* settlement.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD performance measures currently include turnover of Protective Services workers, and this measure could improve as a result of trauma-informed training.

CYFD notes trauma-informed approaches are a best practice and could have a positive impact on child outcomes.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The General Appropriation Act (GAA) of 2024 reauthorizes the \$3 million appropriation to implement the agency's workforce development plans but targets the use of funds to initiatives focused on licensed social workers. Some of these funds could be used for a similar purpose.

In addition, the GAA provides \$1.25 million annually for three years within Section 9 to recruit, train, and support treatment foster care providers, which could include providing trauma-informed training to resource (foster) families.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

CYFD recommends including contract service providers as recipients of training within the bill. SHPAC included contracted providers of prevention services to the bill language.

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