

1
2 A MEMORIAL

3 REQUESTING THAT THE STATE DEVELOP A SERVICE PLAN FOR AUTISM
4 SPECTRUM DISORDER, THROUGH A DYNAMIC PLANNING PROCESS LED BY
5 THE INTERAGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURCHASING COLLABORATIVE,
6 WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC
7 REGULATION COMMISSION, THE NEW MEXICO AUTISM TASK FORCE, THE
8 AUTISM OVERSIGHT TEAM, THE NEW MEXICO AUTISM SOCIETY, THE
9 AUTISM PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR
10 DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY, THE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
11 SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS AUTISM
12 INITIATIVE, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM
13 SPECTRUM DISORDER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS, THAT
14 BUILDS ON THE TENETS OF PREVIOUS PLANS AND REPORTS.
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16 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that autism spectrum
17 disorder is the largest-growing developmental disability in
18 the world and that one in one hundred ten New Mexicans under
19 the age of eight meets criteria for an autism spectrum
20 disorder; and

21 WHEREAS, the legislature has worked diligently with the
22 autism community and state agencies to meet the needs of this
23 growing population; and

24 WHEREAS, the legislature understands that the numbers of
25 new diagnoses as well as the needs of underserved early

1 childhood, school-age and adult populations have negatively
2 affected the development and implementation of adequate
3 services and support for individuals with autism spectrum
4 disorder and their families in New Mexico;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state develop a service plan for
7 autism spectrum disorder, through a dynamic planning process
8 led by the interagency behavioral health purchasing
9 collaborative, with participation by the insurance division
10 of the public regulation commission, the New Mexico autism
11 task force, the autism oversight team, the New Mexico autism
12 society, the autism programs at the university of New Mexico
13 center for development and disability, the New Mexico state
14 university special education and communication disorders
15 autism initiative, individuals and families affected by
16 autism spectrum disorder and other stakeholders, that builds
17 on the tenets of previous plans and reports and that includes
18 the following:

19 A. access to multidisciplinary diagnosis for
20 people of all ages;

21 B. evidence-based and accessible treatment in the
22 private and public sectors with:

23 (1) appropriate behavioral health services
24 included in medicaid modernization that makes available both
25 evidence-based intervention and comprehensive community

1 support services;

2 (2) the state employee insurance plan
3 adopting the New Mexico autism insurance mandate;

4 (3) reasonable copayments or the waiving of
5 certain copayments, allowing individuals and families access
6 to care; and

7 (4) a comprehensive and transparent process
8 that determines the level of care and appropriate support for
9 children with challenging behaviors, with a focus on:

10 (a) support to the individual and
11 family;

12 (b) notice of whether community
13 resources are available or have been exhausted;

14 (c) the role of public schools in
15 funding the educational component of a higher level of care;

16 (d) the development and implementation
17 of autism-specific standards for residential treatment
18 centers;

19 (e) discharge plans that make available
20 training and technical assistance for community providers;
21 and

22 (f) guidance from the public education
23 department on the reintegration of children from residential
24 settings into public schools and on how professional
25 development for student-specific needs will be achieved; and

1 C. a means to assess the needs of high-functioning
2 adults with autism spectrum disorder who do not qualify for
3 developmental disabilities services and to offer them
4 appropriate levels of support; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the service plan include
6 both the proposed policy development and the funding
7 necessary to begin implementation; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency behavioral
9 health purchasing collaborative, through work with the other
10 named stakeholders, deliver and report on the plan, which
11 includes both the proposed policy development and the funding
12 necessary to begin implementation, to the interim legislative
13 health and human services committee by November 1, 2012; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the interagency behavioral health purchasing
16 collaborative, the insurance division of the public regulation
17 commission, the New Mexico autism task force, the autism
18 oversight team, the New Mexico autism society, the university
19 of New Mexico center for development and disability, the New
20 Mexico state university special education and communication
21 disorders autism initiative and the interim legislative health
22 and human services committee. _____

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