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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0071 Date: February 1, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Michaelson Jenet; Roberts; Sen. Fenberg Bill Status: House Public Health Care Max Nardo | 303-866-4776 Fiscal Analyst: Max.Nardo@state.co.us

Bill Topic: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION & SUICIDE PREVENTION

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires the Department of Education to create a mental health resource bank, and allows children between the ages of twelve and fourteen years old to access psychotherapy services without parental consent. It increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2019-20, the bill requires an appropriation of \$116,550 to the Department of Education.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1120

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to create and maintain a resource bank of program materials and curricula pertaining to mental health. Resources must be available to elementary and secondary schools in the state free of charge, and must be available in both English and Spanish. The resource bank can include internet links to existing resources provided by other entities that the CDE finds reliable. The CDE must solicit input from a variety of sources, including existing state entities with subject matter expertise, mental health professionals, and youth. The resource bank must be available by July 1, 2020. The CDE may contract for the development of curricula, provision of curricula to schools, training for educators, and the enhancement of the resource bank.

Upon request, the CDE must provide technical assistance to a school district, charter school, institute charter school, or board of cooperative services in designing age-appropriate curricula pertaining to mental health. These entities are encouraged to report to the CDE on the effectiveness of the resource bank and curricula and to recommend improvements. The bill also requires the Colorado State Board of Education to adopt standards that identify the knowledge and skills that an elementary through secondary education student should acquire related to mental health, including suicide prevention.

Lastly, the bill permits a registered psychotherapist or licensed social worker to provide psychotherapy services to a minor who is between the ages of twelve and fourteen years old, at the minor's request, with or without consent of the minor's legal guardian. The psychotherapist or social worker may advise the minor's legal guardian of services provided with the consent of the minor. The bill specifies that treatment without parental consent does not apply to inpatient treatment and that current law concerning liability and duty to warn for mental health professionals applies when a minor communicates a threat or intent to harm themselves or others.

Assumptions

It is assumed that the comprehensive health education standards adopted by the State Board of Education in 2018 satisfy the bill's requirement that the standards identify knowledge and skills that students should acquire related to mental health and suicide prevention.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase state General Fund expenditures by \$130,273 and 0.9 FTE in FY 2019-20 and \$55,389 and 0.6 FTE in FY 2020-21 and future years for the CDE. These costs are shown in Table 2 and described below. It will also increase costs and workload for other agencies.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 19-1120

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Department of Education		
Personal Services	\$76,897	\$46,138
Operating and Capital Costs	\$5,653	\$570
Contractor Costs	\$30,000	-
Stakeholder Meetings	\$4,000	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$13,723	\$8,681
Total Cost	\$130,273	\$55,389
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	0.6 FTE

*Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Department of Education. Prior to the resource bank becoming publicly available by July 1, 2020, the CDE will require staff to assemble materials, develop curriculum, conduct a stakeholder process, and to work with contractors toward these ends. Contractors will assist with various aspects of preparing resources and facilitating their use at schools. After the resource bank is initially created and available to schools, there will be a smaller amount of ongoing workload to gather and incorporate feedback, update and maintain the resources, provide technical assistance, and generally administer the program. To accomplish this the department will require 0.9 FTE in FY 2019-20 and 0.6 FTE FY 2020-21 and beyond. Costs and FTE in FY 2019-20 are prorated to account for the General Fund payday shift.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. The state's 59 school-based health centers are commonly used access points for adolescents to receive behavioral health services. Psychotherapy is a covered benefit under Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). While the bill does not create a new benefit, to the extent that parental consent is a barrier to covered individuals obtaining psychotherapy services, utilization could increase. It is assumed that added costs and workload will be minimal and can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Other Agencies. The Office of Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Commission in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Youth Advisory Council in the Legislative Department will experience a minimal increase in workload to provide assistance to CDE in creating and maintaining the resource bank.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$13,723 in FY 2019-20 and \$8,681 in FY 2020-21.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$116,550 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education
Human Services
Public Health and Environment
School Districts

Health Care Policy and Financing
Law
Regulatory Agencies