

WELLNESS CHECK-UP:

Boosting Social-Emotional Screening for Young Children in New Mexico

SCREENING MATTERS



Social-emotional wellness in young children profoundly impacts long-term success.



Early screening is the BEST investment we can make for young children.

\$ **68**
MILLION

The annual cost for NM of treating the five most expensive child behavioral health disorders: PTSD, MOOD DISORDERS, ADHD, ADJUSTMENT DISORDER, & OPPOSITIONAL DEFIANT DISORDER.³



\$ **8**
BILLION

The amount of money NM loses in lifetime earnings for children currently affected by substance abuse & psychological disorders.⁴



18% Number of NM children who have experienced at least three ACEs. Highest rate in the nation.¹



46% Percentage of spending on behavioral health of New Mexico's children for acute out-of-home treatment *without* evidence of its effectiveness.²

¹ Child Trends, 2018. | ² Results First: Children's Behavioral Health. LFC, June 7, 2017. | ³ Results First: Children's Behavioral Health. LFC, June 7, 2017. | ⁴ Results First: Children's Behavioral Health. LFC, June 7, 2017.

THE PATH FORWARD



What tool do I use?

POLICY GOAL

Legislate a list of approved screening tools to give providers clarity and confidence.



Tools like the Survey of Well-Being of Young Children (SWYC) and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ: SE) help providers detect behavioral health issues for children and families.



Where do I send families once they screen positive?

POLICY GOAL

Improve referral structures by ensuring MCOs meet their mandate of service delivery, care coordination oversight, and a two-generation health model.



Pass legislation in 2019 to improve MCO referrals and link children to medically necessary services.



1. Assign a single care coordinator to all members of a family.



2. Lessen burden on doctors & community providers to ensure their patients are connected to necessary services.



3. Focus on rural provider gaps.

For a more in-depth analysis and expanded recommendations, please read our full report, **HERE:** <https://goo.gl/Tq84ti> * **EMAIL:** mbernstein@pegasuslaw.org * **CALL:** (505) 244-1101