

Fiscal Highlights

Autism Pilot in the Department of Health: Past and Future - Russell T. Frandsen

After two years of two pilot programs providing autism services, the Department of Health received \$1.8 million ongoing from the General Fund for FY 2015 to serve about 260 children in Medicaid. The legal authorization came from H.B. 88, Autism Program Amendments, from the 2014 General Session.

Report on the Two Pilot Programs

1) Medicaid Waiver

- Received \$4.5 million one-time General Fund in each of FY 2013 and FY 2014 to serve up to 500 children for an estimated cost of \$35,000 per child;
- Spent \$0.4 million in FY 2013;
- Will spend about \$2.5 million in FY 2014 \$2.5 million: the Legislature removed \$2.0 million one-time during the 2014 General Session since caseloads were lower than originally anticipated;
- Served 317 children at an average cost of \$23,300 per child.

2) Autism Treatment Restricted Account

- Received \$1.8 million one-time in FY 2013 (\$1.0 million from the General Fund and \$0.8 million in private donations);
- Allowed to spend up to 9% on administration;
- Through June 11 have spent \$1.6 million with \$122,000 or 7.8% for administration;
- Served about 35 children annually at an average cost of \$29,500;
- One-time funding runs out soon and services will not continue.