32-1070A-99   See HB

1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to children and families;

3   creating the Families First program

4   demonstration project to provide home visiting

5   by nurses to first-time parents and their

6   infants, for a specified period; providing for

7   integration and coordination of services with

8   existing programs; providing for expected

9   outcomes and critical elements; providing for

10   specialized services; providing duty of the

11   Department of Health to develop, implement, and

12   administer the program; authorizing application

13   for a federal Medicaid waiver; specifying

14   criteria for implementation; providing an

15   effective date.

16

17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18

19   Section 1. Families First program.--

20   (1) CREATION.--There is hereby created the Families

21 First program for first-time parents and their newborns. This

22 program is a primary prevention approach that offers a

23 postdelivery birth facility visit, a home visit, and linkages

24 to family supports for families and their newborns. The goal

25 of the program is to reinforce parenting skills in order to

26 improve normal child development and child health outcomes.

27 This service delivery approach must be community-based,

28 collaborative, and nonduplicative with the intent of

29 integrating and coordinating services with Florida's Healthy

30 Start Initiative, Healthy Families Florida, and other home

31

1 visiting and family support service delivery systems already

2 in place in communities.

3   (2) EXPECTED OUTCOMES.--The Families First program is

4 designed to increase newborn care skills, to promote normal

5 child development, to improve rates of initiation of

6 immunizations and well-child-care utilization, to impart

7 information regarding planning for future pregnancies, and to

8 reduce unintentional injuries.

9   (3) CRITICAL ELEMENTS.--This program shall provide

10 home visiting using a nurse provider model. The Families

11 First program must:

12   (a) Begin with one postdelivery birth facility visit

13 and include one followup home visit within 14 days after

14 delivery.

15   (b) Provide visits with the consent of families.

16   (c) Offer information regarding available community

17 services ranging from minimum basic information to ongoing

18 services of an intensity and duration to meet the needs of

19 families and their newborns.

20   (d) Provide culturally competent services.

21   (e) Provide services that focus on supporting the

22 parent as well as supporting parent-child interaction and

23 normal child development for all children in the family.

24   (f) Link families to medical providers to ensure

25 optimal health and development, including timely

26 immunizations, well-child care that includes developmental

27 assessment and is consistent with the standards and

28 periodicity schedule recommended by the American Academy of

29 Pediatrics. If eligible for Medicaid, children are referred

30 for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

31 (EPSDT) now known as Child Health Check-Up.

 1   (g) Select home visiting nurses because of their
 2   interpersonal skills, their knowledge of community resources,
 3   their willingness to work in or their experience working with
 4   culturally diverse communities and families, and their job
 5   skills.
 6   (h) Ensure that home visiting nurses have core service
 7   delivery competencies in areas such as: cultural diversity,
 8   substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, parent-child
 9   interaction models, normal child development,
10   substance-exposed infants and children, and health and social
11   services in their community.
12   (i) Ensure that home visiting nurses have preservice
13   and ongoing training specific to their role and have
14   supervision for assurance of quality and coordination with
15   other home visiting programs.
16   (4) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.--The Families First
17   program shall incorporate: referral to specialized services
18   to accommodate for the needs of substance abusing families;
19   referral for ongoing risk reduction services for families with
20   risk factors that make them eligible for Healthy Start or
21   Healthy Families Florida; referral for other needs as
22   appropriate; and phone numbers to call for further assistance.
23   (5) IMPLEMENTATION.--The Department of Health shall
24   develop, implement, and administer a single-site demonstration
25   project for the Families First program by choosing a
26   collaborative site. Preference shall be given to a site with a
27   federal home visiting program or which has secured grant funds
28   to target the home visiting needs of newborns and their
29   families. The department shall:
30   (a) Work jointly with the Agency for Health Care
31   Administration to seek a federal waiver to secure matching

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

1 funds under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid)

2 for the Families First program. The federal waiver

3 application shall include allowance to use new and existing

4 general revenue and local contributions. Families First

5 program services are not to be considered an entitlement under

6 this waiver.

7   (b) Implement the Families First program using the

8 criteria provided in this section.

9   (c) Implement the Families First program in

10 collaboration with local Healthy Start coalitions, Healthy

11 Families Florida, and family preservation and support planning

12 entities.

13   (6) The Families First program shall include the

14 following criteria for implementation:

15   (a) The program shall be integrated with Healthy Start

16 and other home visiting and family support programs.

17   (b) The program shall provide outcome and performance

18 data on the number of births, the number of families served,

19 the number of visits provided, the number of families refusing

20 visits, the relationship with other community home visiting

21 providers, and key health outcomes for the community to

22 include immunization initiation rates, injury rates, SIDS

23 deaths and other infant mortality rates, and other information

24 that the program deems to have been affected by the program.

25   (c) Services provided include a brief assessment of

26 strengths and needs, encouraging linkage to other

27 risk-reduction services as appropriate, anticipatory guidance,

28 and information on a range of topics, including brain

29 development, infant care, sleep position, child care provider

30 selection, parent-child interaction, home safety, and other

31 supportive skills.

 1   (d) The department shall link with other statewide

 2   home visiting evaluation projects to assess the demonstration

 3   project, using the outcome and process data collected by the

 4   project.

 5   (e) Quality assurance and performance improvement must

 6   be an integral part of the local program.

 7   (7) Subject to specific appropriation, the Families

 8   First demonstration project shall be implemented beginning

 9   January 1, 2000. No part of this act shall be implemented

10   unless funding is appropriated therefor.

11   Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a

12   law.

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14   ***

15   HOUSE SUMMARY

16
     Creates the Families First program demonstration project,
17   under the Department of Health, to provide for home
     visiting by nurses to first-time parents and their
18   newborns, for the purpose of strengthening families,
     improving newborn care skills, promoting normal child
19   development, and improving child health outcomes.
     Provides for integration with existing programs, such as
20   Healthy Start and Healthy Families Florida, and for links
     to other family preservation and support services in the
21   community and to medical providers. Directs the
     department to work with the Agency for Health Care
22   Administration to seek a federal waiver to utilize
     Medicaid funding for the program. Provides for
23   implementation of the demonstration project beginning
     January 1, 2000, if specific appropriation is provided.

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