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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/24/09

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Pregnant Substance Abuse Services SM 19

ANALYST Chabot

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$.01	\$.01			General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Commission of the Status of Women (CSW)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 19 resolves that the Governor's Women's Health Council create a task force to develop a comprehensive plan to address the needs of pregnant and postpartum women with substance abuse problems and the well-being of their children and families that accomplishes the following:

- The plan should include guidelines for a continuum of care for pregnant women with substance abuse problems;
- The task force identify and prioritize short and long-term goals and develop an implementation timeline identifying responsible agencies;
- The plan should include performance measures developed for evaluation;
- The task force be composed of experts in the fields of ethics, law, perinatal medicine, behavioral health treatment, and social services, and representatives from DOH, the Interagency Behavioral Health Care Purchasing Collaborative, the drug policy alliance, the Women's Justice Project and at least one woman who recovered from perinatal substance abuse,

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- The task force use the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment as a vital resource; and
- The task force report to the appropriate interim legislative health committee by November 1, 2010.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained in this memorial but the scope of this memorial will result in considerable costs to participants including travel, room rental for meetings, miscellaneous staff time, and report printing and distribution costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Governor's Women Health Advisory Council was transferred by executive order to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2007.

CSW reports from a 2004-5 PRAMS report that in 12 months before baby was born, an estimated 17 percent of mothers reported someone close to them had a bad problem with drinking or drugs.

There is no known safe level of alcohol use during pregnancy. Children exposed to alcohol during fetal development are at risk for fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) and Alcohol-Related Birth Defects (ARBD). Nationally, women who binge drink (have 5 or alcoholic drinks on one occasion) in the preconception period are more likely to be unmarried white women, smokers, and to have experienced domestic violence. Among White (including Hispanic) women, preconception binge drinking is associated with unintended pregnancy and intimate partner violence. *Healthy People 2010 goal*: Increase abstinence from alcohol by pregnant women to at least 94 percent.

In a recently initiated Department of Health (DOH) assessment of prenatal care in New Mexico, many of the County Health Council Coordinators and other health professionals expressed concern about pregnant teenagers failing to initiate prenatal care early, resulting in preventable birth defects associated with inadequate folic acid and other factors. The fear of testing positive for drug use is noted as a factor for teens failing to receive timely prenatal care.

DOH would provide one or more representative to the task force probably a substance abuse epidemiologist and/or a maternal and child health epidemiologist.

NMCD assesses if the task force results in a successful program it could "help prevent pregnant and postpartum women from ever being sentenced to prison or placed on probation or parole." The department requests being invited to participate on the task force.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Page 4, Line 6 after the word "health", insert "advisory".

Page 4, Line 25 after the comma, insert "the New Mexico corrections department,".

Page 5, Line 15 after the second, comma insert “the New Mexico corrections department,”.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

CSW has a small staff and the Governor’s Women’s Health Advisory Council has a staff of one individual.

ALTERNATIVES

HSD suggests the concerns should be addressed as a FY10 priority for the Behavioral Health Planning Council’s Substance Abuse Subcommittee; however, this Memorial has not been identified as a current priority by any of the Local Collaboratives or the Behavioral Health Planning Council.

The sponsor could consider changing the task force organizer to HSD.

GAC/svb:mc