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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 42**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Gail C. Beam

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THAT THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT LEAD A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.**

**WHEREAS, many adults with serious mental illness lack necessary support and services to live in their communities and are at risk of grave neglect, homelessness or institutionalization in hospitals or jails; and**

**WHEREAS, many children and youth with serious mental illness lack adequate services that are community-based and family-based and are at risk of suspension, expulsion or dropping out of school, removal from their biological families to residential treatment, acute hospitalization, therapeutic foster care, incarceration and sometimes homelessness; and**

**WHEREAS, state-supported services to low-income adults**

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1 with mental illness who are not currently eligible for medicaid  
2 are funded largely by the state general fund; and

3 WHEREAS, a medicaid waiver could leverage federal dollars  
4 by making many such adults eligible for medicaid services and  
5 enable the state to draw federal matching funds for these state  
6 expenditures; and

7 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has already demonstrated  
8 success and cost-effectiveness in serving children and adults  
9 with other disabilities in home- and community-based settings  
10 through the developmental disabilities medicaid waiver, the  
11 disabled and elderly medicaid waiver, the medically fragile  
12 medicaid waiver and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome  
13 medicaid waiver;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be  
16 requested to lead a task force to study and make  
17 recommendations for the development of a medicaid waiver  
18 program to serve persons with serious mental illness in New  
19 Mexico; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include  
21 representation from the department of health, the children,  
22 youth and families department, agencies and professionals  
23 providing services to children or adults with serious mental  
24 illness, a statewide alliance for the mentally ill, an  
25 organization of parents with behaviorally different children,

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1 an organization for protection and advocacy of persons with  
2 disabilities, adult consumers of mental health services and  
3 family members of adults, children or youth with serious mental  
4 illness; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider  
6 options for consumer and family self-directed services and that  
7 the task force consider the option of a separate mental health  
8 waiver as well as the option of including appropriate mental  
9 health services within a broader waiver program; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, through the  
11 human services department, report its findings and  
12 recommendations to the legislative finance committee and to the  
13 interim legislative health and human services committee at  
14 their respective October 2003 meetings; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretaries of health, children, youth and  
17 families and human services and to the chairs of the  
18 legislative finance committee and the legislative health and  
19 human services committee.