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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Steinborn _____ **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/12/07
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 717 _____
SHORT TITLE Respite Services for Mentally Ill _____ **SB** _____
ANALYST Geisler _____

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: SB 484

Relates to: SB 280

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 717 appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) to provide respite services for the mentally ill and their families. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that the funding in HB717 is not in the Executive Budget for DOH or for HSD.

Respite services for adults with mental illness are not part of the NM Medicaid benefit package except in limited exceptions (see discussion below under significant issues).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

If passed, HB 717 would appropriate \$100,000 to fund respite services for individuals with mental illness and their families. The NM Behavioral Health Collaborative defines respite care

service as “a program of care, in a supervised setting, for individuals with or at risk of serious emotional, behavioral, or neurobiological disorders or severe mental illness and/or serious addictive disorders. The purpose of respite is to sustain the family or other primary caregiver by providing those individuals with time limited temporary relief from the ongoing responsibility of care.” (Service Definition for HCPCS T1005, 4-14-05)

According to the ValueOptions New Mexico (VONM) report on behavioral health populations currently being served with BHSD funding, up to 7,439 individuals over the age of 18 and their families could be eligible for respite services. (DOH-02-B- diagnostic Groups (36 report - January, 2007)

HB 717 does not speak to whether the services to be covered by this appropriation are for adults, children, or both. Respite services for children are currently covered as a Medicaid enhanced benefit, through the Medically Fragile Waiver, and through CYFD as a wraparound service. Respite services for adults are not covered except through the Disabled & Elderly and Medically Fragile waivers, both of which rarely cover adults with mental illness.

DUPLICATION AND RELATIONSHIP

HB 717 is duplicated by SB 484 and relates to Section 8.4 of SB 280, Certain Agency Expenditures (DOH section). This section appropriates \$57,000 to DOH from the general fund for expenditure in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 to contract for unspecified behavioral health services in southern New Mexico.

GG/csd