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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/07

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Respite Services for Mentally Ill SB 484

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: SB 280

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 484 would appropriate \$100,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) to provide respite services for the mentally ill and their families. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that the funding in SB 484 is not in the executive budget for DOH or for HSD.

DOH notes that 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

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 Value Options 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.

SB 484 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.

RELATIONSHIP

SB 484 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/nt