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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/09

SPONSOR B. Sanchez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Behavioral Health Programs SB 124

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$145.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relationship SB 93 and House Bill 225

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 University of New Mexico (UNM)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 124 appropriates \$145.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the University's Health Sciences Center Behavioral Health Programs statewide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$145.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

This request was submitted by UNM as a component of the Community Health proposal to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review, and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies the Community Health project as a "would not oppose if funding available" project. Reasons for this classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p75.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM states:

Senate Bill 124 will partially support two positions from the Department of Psychiatry's Center for Rural and Community Behavioral Health (CRCBH) to liaison with the Office of Community Health's HERO Program. (Health Extension Rural Office) and provide support to community based behavioral health and primary care programs.

The overall goal of the Health Extension Rural Offices (HEROs) is to assure quality healthcare and effective responses to health-related needs throughout communities in New Mexico. Community-based Health Extension Offices and Agents link communities with HSC resources, and the HSC Office of Community Health is able to respond quickly to community-identified health needs. NMSU's Cooperative Extension Program provides a basis for health extension development, and the NM DOH Health Councils assist with development of community-based health priorities and requests.

In 2007, the CRCBH provided approximately 5200 hours of rural and community behavioral health services, training, consultation statewide both directly and via telehealth. CRCBH programs like the Rural Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Training Program, Telepsychiatry & Behavioral Health Program, Behavioral Health Services Research and Evaluation Program, Native American Behavioral Health Program, and Program for Integration of Primary Care and Behavioral Health are built on partnerships with communities, Native American tribes and pueblos, and private and public behavioral health organizations. This opportunity to coordinate, train and consult with the Office of Community Health and the local HERO's will much more efficiently provide programmatic development, workforce enhancement and improved access to services so needed by our communities.

The funds provided in this bill will support the HERO-UNM program to contribute programmatic and clinical staff to this statewide rural collaboration.

The HSD states that this appropriation request is not included in the Executive Budget requests for any NM Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) member agencies. SB 124 does not specify how this appropriation would be used. Any behavioral health services provided to Medicaid-eligible individuals would be eligible for federal match if all the following criteria are met:

- The service must be a benefit under the NM Medicaid State Plan;
- The provider must be credentialed as a Medicaid provider as part of the ValueOptions New Mexico provider network; and
- The provider is providing services in accordance with his or her licensure.

The HPC notes that the bill is not clear as to whether the funds appropriated in SB124 are independent of or to be used in conjunction with the behavioral Health Collaborative. It is unclear as to whether the UNMHSC receives other funding from Value Options.

According to the HPC, between one-fourth and one-third of New Mexicans who experience behavioral health disorders will require public payment for their health care (Medicaid, Medicare, Indian Health Service, and other sources of state and federal payment). Substance abuse and addiction disorders constitute a significant problem for New Mexicans. The Behavioral Health Needs and Gaps in New Mexico (Gaps Analysis) Report completed in 2002 estimated that 500,000 New Mexicans have behavioral health disorders, and that the number of people affected by each of those current or potential customers of behavioral health services is many times higher than that.

(SOURCE: NM Health Policy Commission, 2008 Quick Facts)

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 124 is related to Senate Bill 93 which would appropriate \$1,800.0 for a comprehensive rural health care outreach program, including health extension rural offices, to address more effectively local health priorities.

Senate Bill 124 is related to House Bill 225 which requires the Human Services Department to recruit and train quick response teams statewide for use with persons who are experiencing an urgent need for behavioral health support.

GH/mt