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HOUSE BILL 32

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan P. Cote

AN ACT

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; REQUIRING 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; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Quick Response Team Act"."

Section 2. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Quick Response Team Act:

A. "peer support specialist" means a person who has

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1 previously experienced urgent behavioral health needs and  
2 recovered and who has successfully completed training  
3 qualifying that person to work with a person who experiences an  
4 urgent need for behavioral health support;

5 B. "quick response team" means a team consisting of  
6 at least one trained peer support specialist or community  
7 health care worker, a licensed behavioral health professional  
8 and a paramedic; and

9 C. "urgent need for behavioral health support"  
10 means a need predicated on an incident in which a person  
11 experiences a critical need for emotional, psychological or  
12 behavioral health intervention."

13 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA  
14 1978 is enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.--

16 A. The department shall recruit, train and certify  
17 peer support specialists and health care workers for quick  
18 response teams statewide and shall match them throughout the  
19 state with behavioral health professionals and paramedics on  
20 contract with the department. Qualifications and certification  
21 of quick response team members may be detailed in rule by the  
22 department.

23 B. The department shall train members of a quick  
24 response team in:

25 (1) recognizing mental and behavioral health

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1 disorders, which include:

- 2 (a) schizophrenia;
- 3 (b) schizoaffective disorder;
- 4 (c) bipolar disorder with or without  
5 psychotic features;
- 6 (d) brain injury and associated  
7 disorders;
- 8 (e) post-traumatic stress disorder; and
- 9 (f) major depressive disorder with or  
10 without psychotic features;

11 (2) nonviolent, noncoercive de-escalation  
12 techniques;

13 (3) cultural competency and race relations;

14 (4) techniques that foster reconciliation  
15 between persons in crisis and their families and friends;

16 (5) using safe, humane and effective  
17 approaches to treating or coping with mental and behavioral  
18 health disorders; and

19 (6) how to access and cooperate with available  
20 health, social service and emergency resources in the area.

21 C. The department shall offer intervention through  
22 a quick response team, where appropriate, for a person  
23 experiencing an urgent need for behavioral health support,  
24 especially when the presence of an armed law enforcement  
25 officer may cause alarm or an escalation of tensions.

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1           D. The department shall provide by rule for  
2 qualifications for certification as a quick response team  
3 member and for continuing education requirements.

4           E. The department may coordinate quick response  
5 teams from a base in a safe house or other community-based  
6 center."

7           Section 4. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA  
8 1978 is enacted to read:

9           "[NEW MATERIAL] EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.--The department  
10 shall extend information on quick response team availability  
11 and services to "warm lines", suicide hot lines and 911  
12 operators so that responders may elect to use a quick response  
13 team rather than a law enforcement officer in an initial  
14 contact with a person experiencing an urgent need for  
15 behavioral health support."

16           Section 5. APPROPRIATION.--One million dollars  
17 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the human  
18 services department for expenditure in fiscal year 2010 to  
19 recruit and train quick response teams pursuant to the Quick  
20 Response Team Act and publicize their existence statewide. Any  
21 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
22 fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.