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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/25/09

SPONSOR Gonzales LAST UPDATED _____ HB 832

SHORT TITLE Taos Substance Abuse Services SB _____

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$90.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 832, Taos Substance Abuse Services, appropriates \$90 thousand from the general fund to DOH for the purpose of contracting for alcohol and substance abuse treatment services in Talpa in Taos County, including curriculum materials and professional and administrative services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$90 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC submitted a balanced general fund appropriation recommendation for fiscal year 2010. Any additional general fund expenditures appropriated by the Legislature must be off-set by an equal amount from the appropriation recommendation.

According to the February 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$575 million less than the FY09 appropriations before the 2009 solvency reductions. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Behavioral health responsibilities were transferred to the Human Services Department, Behavioral Health Collaborative (“The Collaborative”) in the 2007 session.

HSD reports Talpa is a residential community of approximately 800 people in Taos County, located about five miles south of the town of Taos. In Taos County, 43 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes involved alcohol (Office of New Mexico Vital Records and Health Statistics, 2003 data is most recent.) No data specific to Talpa are available. Taos County residents have high rates of alcohol and substance use related consequences. Taos County rates eighth highest in the state for alcohol-related (AR) deaths, seventh for alcohol related (AR) chronic disease deaths, fifth for AR motor vehicle crash deaths, eighth for adult binge drinking and chronic/heavy drinking, third for adult drinking and driving, sixth for youth binge drinking, fifth for youth drinking and driving, and first for youth drug use (New Mexico SPF-SIG State Epidemiology Profile, spring 2005). HB 832 would be strengthened by clarifying the entity that will be involved in delivering alcohol and substance abuse treatment in the town of Talpa. The target population, specific type of services to be contracted, and the specific curriculum to be used are not identified. Currently, all behavioral health treatment resources are administered by the Human Services Department through a single behavioral health entity. Tri County Community Services is the agency that provides outpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment services and social detoxification services in Taos County.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HSD assess the administrative implications may be substantial if the Collaborative is to ensure the effectiveness of any services provided. The majority of New Mexico’s public behavioral health funding is directed through the Human Services Department, including General Fund appropriations for treatment services through the Behavioral Health Services Division. The Department of Health may also have administrative implications if it is required to license the facility through which the services are provided.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HSD is responsible for behavioral health issues; on line 17 strike “department of health” and insert “human services department”

GAC/svb