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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodella ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/14
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB 277

SHORT TITLE Reduce Rio Arriba Substance Abuse and Overdoses SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 277 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Human Services Department, for the Rio Arriba County Department of Health and Human Services to implement a program of education and case management services for individuals in or recently released from the county detention center or substance abuse treatment centers in order to reduce their ongoing substance abuse and their risk of overdose death. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY15 will revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HSD notes that this appropriation request was not included in the executive budget. However, the House Appropriations Committee recently added funding for this program to the HAFC version of the general appropriation act.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HSD notes it is already working on two initiatives in Rio Arriba County to address substance abuse issues.

- A. HSD is expanding the I-CARE (Intensive Case Management, Employment and Recovery) program from Albuquerque to Rio Arriba County in FY2015. The I-CARE program was implemented as a pilot in Albuquerque in FY14. I-CARE provides intensive case management services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol use to TANF recipients and TANF eligibles. The goals of I-CARE are recovery and employment.
- B. The Total Community Access (“TCA”) initiative consisting of Pathways Care Coordination is designed to reduce hospital readmissions at Espanola Hospital by diverting frequent users who exhibit drug-seeking behavior into an appropriate venue from primary and behavioral healthcare.

DOH Provided Background on Substance Abuse Crisis

Rio Arriba County had the highest total drug overdose death rate among New Mexico counties in 2008-2012, with a rate of 67.7 deaths from overdose per 100,000 population (ibis.health.state.nm.us). This rate is five times the most recent national rate for total drug overdose death and two and a half times the overall New Mexico rate. In Rio Arriba County, deaths related to illicit drugs exceed those from prescription drugs (<http://www.health.state.nm.us/ERD/SubstanceAbuse/NMDOH-ERD-SubstanceAbuse-SEOW-2013-EN.pdf>).

Recent data documents a significantly increased risk of overdose death among inmates newly released from correctional facilities, especially in the first two weeks after release (Binswanger IA, Stern MF, Deyo RA, Heagerty PJ, Cheadle A, Elmore JG, Koepsell TD, (2007) Release from prison – A high risk of death for former inmates. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 356, 157–165). A study of New Mexico prison inmates found similar results. Inmates who had recently been released from prison who died in the first two months after release were more likely to have used opiates and sedatives than those who did not die (Krinsky CS, Lathrop SL, Brown P, Nolte KB. *Drugs, Detention, and death: a study of the mortality of recently released prisoners. American Journal of Forensic Medical Pathology*. 2009;30:6–9).

Drug addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing disease of the brain. As such, persons living with addiction face a lifelong risk of relapse episodes interspersed with periods of living in recovery (without using). Among persons living with the chronic disease of addiction, risk of relapse tends to occur in a context of poor social support. Interventions to prevent overdose after release from incarceration may benefit from including structured treatment (Binswanger, IA, Stern, MF, Deyo, RA, Heagerty, PJ, Cheadle, A, Elmore, JG, Koepsell, TD (2007). Release from prison – A high risk of death for former inmates. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 356, 157–165).

The Rio Arriba County Health and Human Services initiative to implement case management and other substance abuse services in association with the detention center is one of multiple efforts occurring in the community in response to the epidemic of drug overdose death. The City of Espanola Department of Public Safety has implemented a policy whereby law enforcement

officers are trained and carry naloxone (rescue medication used to revive person who is experiencing an opioid overdose) in their vehicles for use in reviving an overdose victim should the DPS officer arrive prior to other emergency responders. County, municipal and state representatives, along with area service providers and community-based organizations have been meeting monthly since August of 2013 to collaborate on community-based overdose prevention efforts, including expanded access to naloxone across the county. If enacted, this appropriation would support an expansion of substance abuse and social support services for persons released from the county detention facility, in a context of a mobilized community-wide response to the epidemic of overdose death in the community.

DUPLICATION

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for HB 2, the General Appropriation Act, includes funding to implement the program proposed by HB 277.

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