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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Sen. Tallman/Reps. Reeb/Herndon</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
	ORIGINAL DATE <u>01/19/2024</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Academic Review on Behavioral Health</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 23</u>
	ANALYST <u>Chilton</u>

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY24	FY25	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Related to House Bill 70 and Senate Bill 41

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
 University of New Mexico (UNM)
 Health Care Authority (HCA)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Legislative Counsel Service (LCS)

Because of the short timeframe between the introduction of this bill and its first hearing, LFC has yet to receive analysis from some state, education, or judicial agencies. This analysis could be updated if that analysis is received.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 23

Senate Bill 23, Academic Review on Behavioral Health, appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Legislative Counsel Service (LCS) for the purpose of commissioning an academic (meaning done by someone outside LCS and acquainted with the field) study of behavioral health-related statutes in New Mexico, and recommendations for improvements, including considering the “intercept model of behavioral health care.”

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the

Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the general fund.

UNM indicates that the appropriation may not be sufficient to cover the cost of the study.

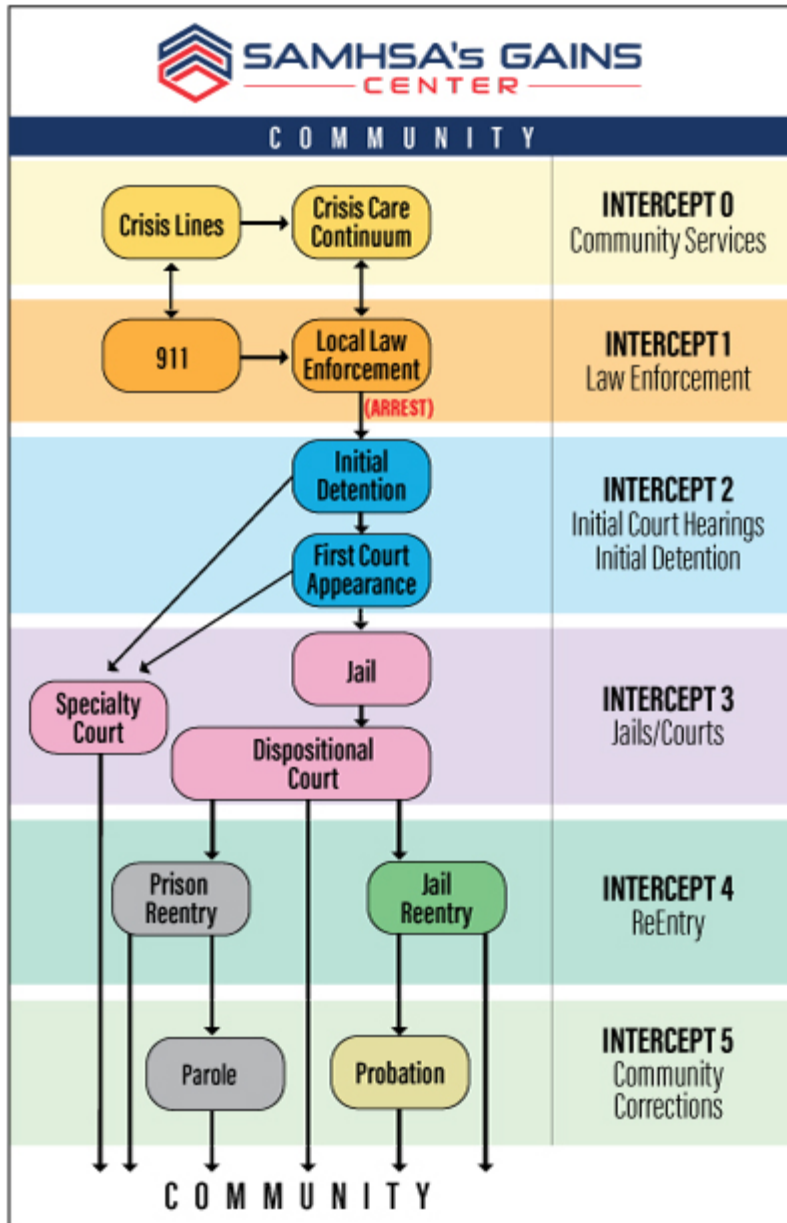
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to nmonesource.com, the term “behavioral health” occurs in 734 places within New Mexico’s laws and court rules. The term “mental health” occurs 1,403 times, “substance abuse” 868 times, and “substance use” 217 times in the same database of New Mexico statutes. Reviewing all of these references would be a major task; it would probably be useful to assure that there are no contradictions or omissions. At this point, there are no instances of the term “intercept model” in New Mexico’s laws and court rules.

According to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the “intercept model of mental health care,” sometimes called “sequential intercept model” or SIM “details how individuals with mental and substance use disorders come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system... The SIM helps communities identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept and develop local strategic action plans. The SIM mapping process brings together leaders and different agencies and systems to work together to identify strategies to divert people with mental and substance use disorders away from the justice system into treatment.”

SAMHSA goes on to identify components of the approach as in the following list and diagram:

- “Plot resources and gaps across the SIM.
- Identify local behavioral health services to support diversion from the justice system.
- Introduce community system leaders and staff to evidence-based practices and emerging best practices related to each intercept.
- Enhance relationships across systems and agencies.
- Create a customized, local map and action plan to address identified gaps.”



HCA indicates that, “HCA currently uses the intercept model of behavioral health care for 988 and the crisis continuum of care which is endorsed by SAMHSA.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

UNM states that, “There is opportunity to improve the function of the Behavioral Health system and to reduce administrative burden for regulators if there is consolidation and simplification of statutes.”

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HCA indicates that agency, “may be impacted as staff may need to provide technical assistance to the Legislative Council Service as they proceed with the review of the behavioral health statutes and based on the recommendations for amendments to behavioral health statutes,” but indicates no cost to that agency for providing such technical assistance.

RELATIONSHIP

Related to Senate Bill 41, which provides funds for mental health initiatives in institutes of higher learning, and House Bill 70, which provides funds for counselors in middle schools and high schools.

LAC/rl/ne/ss