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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 60**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Gail C. Beam**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO LEAD A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP PEER-RUN SERVICES AND OTHER NONPROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ASSIST PERSONS TO COPE WITH AND OVERCOME PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.**

**WHEREAS, adults with serious mental illness lack the necessary support and services to live in their communities; and**

**WHEREAS, adults with serious mental illness often relate more openly to their peers than to professionals; and**

**WHEREAS, peer-run services act as an adjunct to, rather than a substitute for, psychiatric treatment; and**

**WHEREAS, several peer-run services are currently available in various parts of the state; and**

**WHEREAS, peer-run services have been shown to divert**

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1 persons from potential crisis situations and hospitalizations  
2 that would otherwise burden the existing mental health service  
3 delivery system;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the behavioral health services  
6 division of the department of health be requested to lead a  
7 task force to develop peer-run services and other  
8 nonprofessional services to assist persons to cope with and  
9 overcome persistent mental illness; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include  
11 representation from the behavioral health services division of  
12 the department of health, a statewide alliance for the  
13 mentally ill, an existing consumer-operated drop-in center, an  
14 association for the depressed and manic-depressed, an  
15 organization that provides a "warm-line" telephone service and  
16 other appropriate participants as determined by the department  
17 of health; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the behavioral health  
19 services division of the department of health present its  
20 findings to the legislative finance committee and to the  
21 legislative health and human services committee by October 30,  
22 2002; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the department of health, the legislative  
25 finance committee and the legislative health and human

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