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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/07/07

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 635

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Outreach Family Services Center SB _____

ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 635 appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for the purpose of an Outreach Family Services Center and Student Training Clinic at NMHU School of Social Work.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall not revert to the General Fund.

HED maintains that this proposal was not submitted to them by NMHU and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED states that the appropriation shall be used to fund additional staff for the Center, clinical supervision of Social Work students, as well as training for Social Work professionals who provide counseling, treatment, and education services to clients impacted by substance abuse in Bernalillo County.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD contends that the availability of this Center could help Protective Services work with families affected by substance abuse to prevent repeat maltreatment, children's removal from their homes, and/or expedite reunification of children with their families.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

CYFD asserts that, although House Bill 635 specifies that the training clinic is intended for Clinical Social Workers in NMHU's School of Social Work, working with substance abuse affected families is a critical responsibility of Child Welfare Social Workers as well. Those students participating in CYFD's stipend program through NMHU would benefit by the training offered through the Center.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

How will clients be identified and prioritized?
What will client eligibility requirements be?

AG/csd