

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/13/07

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Needs of Certain Mentally Ill Adolescents SB 569

ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$250.0	recurring	general fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 569 appropriates \$250 thousand from the General Fund to DOH for expenditure in FY07 and FY08 to pay for planning support to address the needs of severely mentally ill adolescents in the third judicial district.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

The appropriation of \$250 thousand to DOH is not included in the Executive Budget Request for FY08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reports that southern New Mexico currently lacks sufficient psychiatric services for severely mentally ill adolescents and the population continues to increase. The population of Doña Ana County alone increased by nearly 10,000 people, or about 5%, from 2000 to 2005.

There are no publicly funded inpatient mental health services for adolescents in southern New Mexico, requiring residents to travel 225 miles to Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center in Albuquerque. This is an issue that impedes access and continuity of care, as well as creating undue hardship for families.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Children Youth and Families Division (CYFD) is responsible for child and adolescent mental health, so it may be more appropriate to appropriate the money to CYFD.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

There should be an emergency clause for any expenditure request in the bill for FY07.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The adolescents served by this bill can be experiencing symptoms of a mental illness such as hearing voices, delusional beliefs, unusual and unsubstantiated fears, illogical and/or fragmented thinking, significant depression and/or suicidal thoughts and behaviors, intense anxiety or extreme elation. Their thinking is so disordered that they have substantially lost touch with reality. There is usually a high degree of dysfunctional behavior associated with these symptoms, i.e., loss of employment, inability to carry out normal activities of daily living, major family discord, etc.

Another major category of this crisis population is that of severe mental disorders. These are people who are not severely mentally ill. They are usually suicidal or experiencing a major emotional crisis that has temporarily disabled their ability to cope. Anyone can experience a severe mental disorder under the right combination of stress, severe loss or lack of support. Many have underlining personality disorders. A personality disorder is defined in the DSM-III-R), "as traits that are characteristic of the person's recent and long term functioning. The constellation of behaviors or traits causes either significant impairment in social or occupational functioning or internal, subjective distress." These people have long standing characteristics that were developed mostly to cope with life. The characteristics developed are maladaptive and extremely hard to change.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 will not be appropriated to DOH for planning support to address the needs of severely mentally ill adolescents in the third judicial district.

AMENDMENTS

Page 1, line 20, delete “severely mentally ill adolescents” and replace with “adolescents with severe mental illness or severe mental disorders”.

AHO/csd