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travel, supplies, postage and publishing. The LFC estimates these costs to be approximately \$25 thousand. These costs would have to be paid from the HPC FY09 and FY10 operating budgets.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

In the past year, HPC convened a task force and developed recommendations as a result of Senate Memorial 48, County Inmate Health Provider Reimbursement. It states this opened the dialogue on the provision of healthcare services to individuals in county detention. A challenge facing county detention facilities is to provide quality care at the lowest possible cost. States surrounding New Mexico are using some combination of the following strategies: managed health care; fixed payment; and inmate co-payments.

NMCD states the memorial will have minimal impact of the agency. However, it points out an issue at the state level that there is no agency responsible for insuring proper health care for inmates. It is considered a county responsibility. The Association of Counties did not reply to a request for an assessment of the joint memorial.

DFA expresses concern that “Budget constraints are a major issue for the commission that could hinder results of a new study.”

DOH expresses that “County detention facilities are legally and fiscally responsible for the health care of inmates” and each county independently enters into relations with health care providers.

GAC/mt

