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SENATE MEMORIAL 79

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SEEK FUNDING THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 FOR A MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS TRIAGE FACILITY IN DONA ANA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, interested parties in Dona Ana county have been advocating for increased access to health and human services, especially behavioral health services, for more than fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Dona Ana county health and human services alliance was created as an advisory body to the Dona Ana county health and human services department; and

WHEREAS, according to the alliance, thirty-three percent of the detention center population in that county is in need of behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, individuals experiencing a mental health crisis

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1 often only have access to services provided in a detention
2 center, a situation in which there are limited options for
3 appropriate interventions and the individuals are separated
4 from family and community supports; and

5 WHEREAS, although community-based services are available,
6 they lack systematic coordination and are seriously
7 underfunded; and

8 WHEREAS, a study conducted pursuant to Senate Memorial 34,
9 passed in 2006, concluded that the south central part of New
10 Mexico lacks the infrastructure to sustain a state-operated
11 behavioral facility; and

12 WHEREAS, this study recommended an increase in recurrent
13 funding for inpatient mental health services of more than two
14 million dollars (\$2,000,000) to cover unfunded inpatient mental
15 health services in Dona Ana county; and

16 WHEREAS, the alliance and the Dona Ana county health and
17 human services department have concluded that the key to
18 addressing behavioral health problems is through a
19 community-oriented, integrated service delivery system; and

20 WHEREAS, a crisis triage center is the centerpiece of such
21 a system; and

22 WHEREAS, a crisis triage facility is able to house, in a
23 safe environment where appropriate assessments and treatment
24 can be administered, individuals who have been taken into
25 protective custody or who are in severe psychological distress;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, the development of enhanced behavioral health
3 crisis triage capacity is part of the Dona Ana county health
4 and human services plan designed to promote access to health
5 care services, address chronic diseases, prevent injuries and
6 illness and address maternal and child health, oral health and
7 teen pregnancy; and

8 WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
9 2009 contains many opportunities to address health care, law
10 enforcement and community services needs;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
12 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to seek funding
13 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for
14 a mental health and crisis triage facility in Dona Ana county;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the governor and to the director of the Dona Ana
18 county health and human services department.

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