

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION OF THE  
3 HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORK GROUP TO CREATE  
4 GENDER-SPECIFIC TREATMENT STANDARDS AND RULES FOR WOMEN AND  
5 GIRLS SEEKING TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS.

6  
7 WHEREAS, research clearly demonstrates that women and  
8 girls face unique barriers when seeking and receiving  
9 treatment for substance abuse disorders as compared with men;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, women and girls face personal and systemic  
12 barriers that prevent them from seeking and receiving  
13 treatment for substance abuse disorders; and

14 WHEREAS, personal barriers include the fear of reprisal  
15 from family members, the fear of not being able to care for  
16 their children or losing custody of their children, the fear  
17 of making life changes and the fear that treatment may not be  
18 kept confidential; and

19 WHEREAS, systemic barriers include a lack of health  
20 insurance or other financial assistance to pay for treatment,  
21 a lack of linguistic and culturally accessible services,  
22 being placed on waiting lists for treatment, the absence of  
23 treatment options for women and girls who are pregnant and  
24 the inability to obtain child care and transportation while  
25 sustaining employment and managing the requirements of other

1 systems of which they may be eligible, such as temporary  
2 assistance for needy families; and

3 WHEREAS, despite evidence that gender-specific treatment  
4 provides better outcomes for women and girls with substance  
5 abuse disorders, most traditional treatment is designed for  
6 men; and

7 WHEREAS, in recognition of the unique needs of women and  
8 girls, many states are now establishing gender-specific  
9 treatment standards; and

10 WHEREAS, a comprehensive model for the treatment of  
11 women, girls and their families has been developed to be used  
12 as a flexible guide that can be adapted to address community  
13 needs in building comprehensive treatment programs for women  
14 and girls with substance abuse disorders and to develop  
15 gender-specific treatment programs that will encompass all of  
16 a woman's or a girl's needs when recovering from a substance  
17 abuse disorder; and

18 WHEREAS, the development of gender-specific treatment  
19 best practices will help meet the unique needs of women and  
20 girls to overcome the barriers they face when seeking  
21 treatment for and recovering from substance abuse disorders;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, gender-specific best practices will move New  
24 Mexico toward a vision that all women and girls can receive  
25 individualized, high quality, research-based treatment for

1 substance abuse disorders that will improve the chances of  
2 successful recovery and cultivate the healthy development of  
3 children and families; and

4 WHEREAS, the development of gender-specific treatment  
5 best practices will build on the existing capabilities and  
6 strengths of New Mexico's services to women and girls; and

7 WHEREAS, creating gender-specific treatment best  
8 practices for women and girls with substance abuse disorders  
9 will allow better communication to health care providers  
10 regarding concrete expectations and a general vision for  
11 improved services to women and girls; and

12 WHEREAS, gender-specific treatment best practices are  
13 necessary to address the needs of New Mexico women and girls  
14 seeking treatment for substance abuse disorders, including  
15 clinical treatment, clinical support and community support  
16 services; treatment services that are culturally fluent,  
17 female-specific and family-centered; and treatment methods  
18 that are individualized, nonjudgmental, trauma sensitive,  
19 respectful and based on a woman's or a girl's unique  
20 strengths as well as her needs, preferences, experiences and  
21 age; and

22 WHEREAS, gender-specific treatment best practices will  
23 help provide guidelines for New Mexico to help women and  
24 girls with substance abuse disorders find pathways to  
25 successful recovery that can last throughout their lifetime;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the behavioral health services  
3 division of the human services department be requested to  
4 convene a work group to create gender-specific treatment  
5 standards and rules for women and girls seeking treatment for  
6 substance abuse disorders; and

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group research,  
8 recommend and implement best practices; and

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be requested  
10 to submit a report with recommendations to the legislative  
11 health and human services committee by December 1, 2011; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the secretary of human services and the chair  
14 of the legislative health and human services committee. \_\_\_\_\_

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