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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/11

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Off-Reservation Native Americans in ABQ SB 516

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Human Services Department
 Indian Affairs Department
 Department of Health

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 516 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Human Services Department to provide, through the interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative, services in Albuquerque for off-reservation Native Americans.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2012 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative, through its contract with OptumHealth NM, provide direct services to Native Americans. Some providers in Albuquerque are also focused on serving Native American populations – in particular, First Nations Community Healthsource, Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos Incorporated, and the Albuquerque Indian Center.

DOH provided the following demographic and healthcare information:

American Indians constitute 9.3% of the New Mexico (NM) population. American Indians in NM bear a disproportionate burden of disease and poor health status than the general population. Of the 20 indicators included in the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Report Card, American Indians have the highest rates for eight. Specifically related to substance abuse, American Indians have high death rates related to alcohol. During 2007-2009 the alcohol related death rate for American Indians in New Mexico was 98.9 per 100,000 compared to a rate of 41.4 for Whites and 57.6 for Hispanics (2010 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Report Card).

More than 45,000 of this population are urban Indians residing in Albuquerque. According to a 2004 report "The Health Status of Urban American Indians and Alaska Natives: An Analysis of Select Vital Records and Census Data Sources" by the Urban Indian Health Institute," Urban Indians not only share the same health problems as the general Indian population; their health problems are exacerbated in terms of mental and physical hardships because of the lack of family and traditional cultural environments. Urban Indian youth are at greater risk for serious mental health and substance abuse problems, suicide, increased gang activity, teen pregnancy, abuse, and neglect.

The Bernalillo County Off-Reservation Commission Comprehensive Strategic Plan states that the impact of mental health on physical health cannot be overstated. Substance abuse and alcohol addiction have been documented as major health disparity indicators for Native Americans, leading to deaths related to alcohol and youth suicide. Suicide, violence, self-injury, and behavioral problems in children are linked to physical well being or lack thereof. Chronic diseases and obesity trigger depression – forming a perfect storm unless managed in a coordinated manner. Severe mental illness coupled with lack of access to care leads to poverty and to a spiral of other health problems. Early diagnosis and treatment can have positive, long term impacts on people with risk for mental and behavioral health problems.

BE/mew