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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/11

SPONSOR Griego, P. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Create Office of Community Health Workers SJM 2

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$1.0-\$5.0		\$1.0-\$5.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 2 requests of DOH an analysis of state statutes for the purpose of recommending legislation to create in statute an office of community health workers (OCHW).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began in 2008 in other states to allow fee-for-service MCO-enrolled CHWs to be paid for diagnosis-related patient education when provided under the supervision of a nurse.

DOH staff and resources will be needed to oversee the development of OCHW in statute.

DOH notes that the role of DHWs has not been formally recognized in state statute, nor has the profession been subject to a certification process in New Mexico. CHWs have contracted under federally funded grant programs and/or have served as part-time volunteers.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SJM explains that New Mexico continues to experience critical shortages of providers in primary, oral and behavioral health care. PED provided the following chart displaying current information regarding healthcare professionals in New Mexico.

Health care license	No. in NM	Rural communities with no licensees
Physicians	4,689	Hidalgo County
Physician Assistants	499	Catron, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Mora, Quay, Union County
Certified Nurse Practitioners	804	Catron, Harding
Registered Nurses	17,694	
Certified Nurse Midwives	140	
Dentists	961	Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Mora, Union County
Social Workers	3,333	Harding

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH has created an OCHW by executive appointment. However, this office does not reside in statute and has no permanent authorization.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In December of 2008, DOH established an OCHW. This new office is housed within the Health Systems Bureau of Public Health Division. The primary responsibility for the OCHW is the development of a statewide training program and certification process for CHWs.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

A CHW provides patient education in clinics, outpatient and community settings to increase access to health care and promote health and disease prevention.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

An analysis for the purpose of creating in statute an OCHW will be at DOH’s discretion whether or not to conduct it with existing staff and resources.

AHO/bym