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HOUSE MEMORIAL 21

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN, DEVELOPED BY THE TASK FORCE FORMED IN RESPONSE TO HOUSE MEMORIAL 40 OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, FOR A CONTINUUM OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the task force formed by the children, youth and families department in response to House Memorial 40 of the second session of the forty-ninth legislature conducted a review of gender-responsive risk assessment tools, existing treatment options for gender-responsive services and programs and best practice models for implementing and sustaining gender-responsive services and programs in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, the task force concluded that full implementation

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1 of a continuum of gender-responsive services and programs is
2 needed to meet the goals and objectives outlined in its report;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in response to House Memorial 40, the task force
5 has recommended the continuation of, and an enhanced
6 partnership between, the children, youth and families
7 department, the judiciary, the statewide single entity for
8 behavioral health services and the interagency behavioral
9 health purchasing collaborative; and

10 WHEREAS, the task force has concluded that a strategic
11 juvenile justice plan must include children who are not yet
12 involved but who are at risk for school failure, acting out and
13 delinquent behavior; and

14 WHEREAS, the statutory juvenile justice advisory
15 committee, appointed pursuant to the federal Juvenile Justice
16 and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, has received federal
17 juvenile justice and delinquency prevention funds to create a
18 sustainable and comprehensive system of support for young women
19 in the New Mexico juvenile justice system; and

20 WHEREAS, the juvenile justice advisory committee has
21 recognized that services for girls must be gender-responsive
22 and culturally sensitive and must address a wide array of
23 gender-related issues in order to be effective; and

24 WHEREAS, policies, practices and programs that are
25 relational, building on healthy connections with family,

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1 significant others and the community, are essential to the
2 success of services for girls in the juvenile justice system;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in order to improve the lives of girls in the
5 juvenile justice system there must be professional training for
6 all juvenile justice staff and juvenile justice system
7 stakeholders and heightened interaction between service
8 providers and the public education department; and

9 WHEREAS, a system for unified and standardized data
10 collection and analysis must be implemented using gender-
11 specific and culturally responsive tools that are sensitive to
12 race, ethnicity and culture to assess risks, needs and
13 strengths; and

14 WHEREAS, the juvenile justice advisory committee has
15 recognized that supporting girls in the juvenile justice system
16 requires prevention and early intervention within a restorative
17 justice framework and must include a continuum of services,
18 including community resources to support families; and

19 WHEREAS, effective prevention and early intervention
20 programs have been proven to lower the costs to law enforcement
21 and the juvenile justice system and to reduce the number of
22 young women who enter the adult justice system, thereby
23 resulting in a potentially significant fiscal savings to the
24 state; and

25 WHEREAS, the juvenile justice advisory committee has

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1 agreed to use its juvenile justice and delinquency prevention
2 funds to implement its recommendations; thus, it will not
3 require additional state funds;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the juvenile
6 justice advisory committee, the children, youth and families
7 department and the members of the task force formed in response
8 to House Memorial 40 implement the recommendations presented to
9 the legislature in a report on a sustainable plan for a
10 continuum of gender-responsive services and programs for girls
11 in the juvenile justice system; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the juvenile justice advisory
13 committee present a report to the appropriate interim
14 legislative committee by September 2011 that sets forth the
15 actions taken to implement the recommendations; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the juvenile justice advisory committee, the
18 children, youth and families department and the members of the
19 task force.