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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/28/14
LAST UPDATED 01/28/14 **HM** 12

SPONSOR Garcia

SHORT TITLE Community Health Specialists Task Force **SB** _____

ANALYST Chabot

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Could be significant			Nonrecurring	General and other funds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 12 requests the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center convene a task force to study the potential for using community health specialists to meet unmet health needs in the state. The task force is to consist of experts in health professional education, regulation and licensing, public health, health care service utilization, health care economics, health care disparities, employment law, immigration law, state government and community health care as well as stakeholders from underserved communities and health professionals licensed in other jurisdictions to study the possibilities for creating community health specialist positions in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial does not have an appropriation; however, all task forces incur expenses. UNM will have to determine whether sufficient funding is available to convene the task force. Due to the size of the task force and issues involved, the costs to all participants could be \$50 thousand; it is presumed, non-UNM task force members would be responsible for their own expenses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Community health specialists have been used in other jurisdictions to provide health care in underserved areas of the world. The discussion to use such personnel has continued in New Mexico for years without a determination of whether use of community health specialists could help meet the health needs of the state. Issues of licensing, payment, and scope of practice have been discussed in the past without resolution.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

UNM Health Sciences Center would have to determine membership, meeting schedules and locations and develop a time-line to meet the reporting requirements of November 1, 2014.

GAC/jl