



SPONSOR:

BILL: _____

ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND FUNDING MECHANISMS TO MORE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY FUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING

The 2012 report of the task force formed pursuant to House Memorial 45 for the review of behavioral health gaps in the state identified one of the problems facing New Mexico as:

Deficiencies in funding of the behavioral health prevention and treatment systems in communities increases costs to communities, costs in the healthcare system, costs of mental health care in jails, costs in courts, and costs to individuals and families.

Its recommendation was:

Increase understanding of the flow of funding including the cost of using emergency care systems and expenditure for corrections, criminal justice and behavioral health. Review the use of city, county, state and federal dollars to develop flexible funding streams to create and support community based services.

And, specifically, the task force recommended that a study be conducted on the flow of local, state and federal funding with the goal of developing flexible funding streams to support community based systems of care to reduce the burden on other systems.

The prior year, House Joint Memorial 17 had produced a report more specifically on the availability of crisis services. It also identified problems related to funding mechanisms stating:

Community mental health centers, Core Service Agencies, and other entities that provide behavioral health safety net services throughout the state cannot bill for providing outreach treatment services in a range of settings throughout the community. Payment mechanisms thus create a disincentive for providers to offer the needed services to address and prevent mental health crisis.

Numerous studies have recommended expansion of Medicaid and non-Medicaid dollars to help fill the service gaps for individuals with mental health and co-occurring issues. Many other states have designed their Medicaid reimbursement systems to take full advantage of federal dollars in filling behavioral health service gaps. See, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Medicaid and Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Individuals: Literature Synthesis and Environmental Scan, 2011*; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Crisis Services: Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Funding Strategies, 2014*.

The proposed memorial implements the recommendation of the prior two legislative task forces by creating a task force to study and make recommendations regarding funding mechanisms, and particularly Medicaid funding mechanisms, to fully utilize available funding sources to develop and sustain behavioral health services needed in New Mexico.

Fifty Second Legislature, First Session, 2015

AR 2014 -
House #
Senate #
Commission #

