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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/09
 LAST UPDATED 02/20/09 HM 13/aHHGAC

SPONSOR Stewart

SHORT TITLE Gender-Responsive Girls' Justice Programs SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal		Minimal	Non- Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

No Responses Received From

Public Defenders Department
 Commission on the Status of Women

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HHGAC Amendment

The House Health and Government Affairs Committee amendment of House Memorial 13 clarifies the following: the federal agency within the Department of Justice; that there is one representative from the Children's Courts and also one from the Public Defender's office; and that there is one representative from the New Mexico District Attorney's Association.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Memorial 13 requests the Children, Youth and Families Department convene a task force to develop a sustainable plan for a continuum of gender-responsive services and programs for girls in the juvenile justice system. The task force is to include representatives from the staff of Children, Youth and Families Department that work directly with girls in the juvenile justice system, juvenile probation services and youth transitional services; the intervention team of the Bernalillo County girls probation unit; staff of the county juvenile detention system that have experience working directly with girls; the Children's Court of the Public Defender Department

to include one representative recommended by the New Mexico District Attorney's Association; the Women's Justice Project; a provider of gender-responsive services; and two girls previously served by the juvenile justice system who have successfully transitioned into positive adult lives.

The memorial requests the task force to conduct a review of current 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. The task force is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for implementation of a continuum of gender-specific services and programs for girls in the juvenile justice system in the state. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the interim legislative Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee by November 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

AODA stated the work of the task force would require the time of the various task force members in studying gender-responsive issues, and in developing a plan and report. The preparation of a report would involve some expenditure of financial resources although the exact amount is unknown. AODA noted the cost of the report would likely be minimal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD reported the department is working diligently to provide specific programming to girls. In the spring of 2007, CYFD implemented a specialized Girls Unit within the Albuquerque Juvenile Probation and Parole Office which was modeled after the female Intervention Team in Baltimore. This unit is a youth-centered and youth-driven community support model for girls on probation.

CYFD noted that the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee has an active Gender Responsive subcommittee which continues to support the initiatives of the Girls Unit and other state gender-responsive initiatives.

AODA stated it would be desirable to include a representative(s) chosen by the New Mexico District Attorneys Association in addition to a representative(s) from the Children's Court and a representative(s) chosen by the New Mexico Public Defender's Office. It may be that this is exactly what the memorial contemplates, but the language should clarify the composition of the task force. Additionally, specifying the number of representatives, from each group, or from each agency might help to ensure that no one agency or group's views or perspectives are given undue weight or influences.

AOC recommended the task force member include a district court judge from the Second Judicial District Court and a member from the Second Judicial District Court's Program for the Empowerment of Girls committee. The committee discusses the development of a female-responsive program for adjudicated girls on probation.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD noted the proposed legislation will impact performance measures regarding youth who recidivate and/or are recommitted to a state juvenile facility within two years of previous adjudication or discharge.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD stated it would absorb the administrative impact associated with the memorial with existing resources.

RPG/mt