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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/29/13

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 217

SHORT TITLE Native American Youth Suicide Prevention SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 162, HB 174

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
Human Services Department (HSD)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 217 would appropriate \$300,000 from the general fund to the Human Services Department (HSD) for expenditure in FY14 to fund three culturally-based Native American youth suicide prevention initiatives, each receiving \$100,000, to focus on the continuum of suicide prevention, intervention, and post-event assistance to Native Americans living in rural, frontier, and urban communities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$300,000 general fund appropriation contained in HB 217 to the Human Services Department is to be used by the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to fund three suicide prevention programs. The bill specifies that each site would receive \$100,000. This is a recurring appropriation. All unexpended or unallocated funds remaining at the end of FY 2014 would revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Department of Indian Affairs notes that data from the Clearinghouse on Native American Suicide Prevention shows that suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth in New Mexico and suicide rates for Native American youth are nearly twice as high as for other races and ethnicities. In 2010, it is estimated that nearly two dozen Native American youth attempted suicide and another 18 fatalities were documented in western New Mexico. Data shows that 24 of the 54 youth suicides documented in New Mexico between 2008 and 2010 were Native American youth (a rate of 10.7/100,000, compared to an overall rate of 2.1/100,000 for white youth).

Unrecognized and untreated mental illness is a main culprit for all youth suicides. Approximately 34.8 percent of Native youth in New Mexico in grades 9 through 12 reported feeling sadness and hopelessness. Isolation, poverty, loss of cultural and individual identity, historical trauma, substance abuse, and self-esteem issues all play into the increased risk for our Native American youth to take their own lives. In 2008, NM Voices for Children reported that 39.2 percent of Native children live in poverty - more than three times higher than white children. While effective culturally-based prevention and wellness programs are being developed, New Mexico tribal communities lack critical mental health resources and technical assistance to support community, family, and individual assistance when suicide attempts and completed suicides occur.

DOH notes that a lack of access to culturally appropriate and sensitive mental health services outside of Albuquerque continues to be a problem affecting Native American youth and their families. The lack of mental health providers and counseling services in rural, frontier and tribal areas, as well as the societal level factors that are associated with suicide, such as poverty, unemployment, cultural isolation, and hopelessness, need to be systematically addressed in order to have an impact on this problem in New Mexico, especially in American Indian communities.

The Department of Health, Office of School and Adolescent Health's (OSAH) Youth Suicide Prevention Program has been working on adolescent suicide prevention since 2005, and culturally appropriate interventions and evaluations for Native Americans have been well established through this program. OSAH has a Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator assigned to specifically address youth suicide prevention.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 217 is related to SB 162 and HB 174. SB 162 and HB 174 are companion bills, and they both make an appropriation of one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars to the Veterans' Services Department for a suicide prevention program that employs counselors who are Native American veterans in fiscal year 2014. SB 162 and HB 174 will be used to train Native American veterans as counselors and administer a suicide prevention program involving youth and their families in Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan counties.

GG/svb:bm