

LFC Requestor: CHENIER, Eric

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 115

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 1/23/25

Sponsor(s): Ferrary

Short Title: Funding one residential treatment program in Dona Ana

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation Contained | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY 25 | FY 26 | | |
| \$0 | \$0 | Nonrecurring | General |
| | | | |

The \$859,000 appropriated in this bill is specific for one residential treatment services in Dona Ana County that “uses a soteria model”. This model of care is rare and is likely meant to provide funding to one specific organization and would not impact NMDOH.

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY 25 | FY 26 | FY 27 | | |
| \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | N/A | N/A |
| | | | | |

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY 25 | FY 26 | FY 27 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Non- recurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | N/A | N/A |
| | | | | | | |

No expenses for DOH.

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 115 proposes to provide \$859,000 to the Health Care Authority to fund one residential treatment facility in Dona Ana County. This facility must use the “soteria” model when providing services.

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

- Unknown if there is a need for this program. NMBHI has never discharged to a residential treatment facility in Dona Ana County so this appropriation likely would not benefit NMDOH directly.
- The “Soteria model”, implemented in Soteria Houses, are based on a recovery model. The common elements of the Soteria approach include the use of primarily nonmedical staff, who do not prescribe or administer antipsychotic medication to patients, and the preservation of residents' personal power, social networks, and communal responsibilities.
- There is a need for residential level of care for people with behavioral health diagnoses in the state, but without knowing specifics about this program such as its capacity, revenue, average census, admission and discharge criteria, it is difficult to determine the broad impact of the model.
- In addition to the above criteria there are concerns this method of treatment is lacking in evidence for effectiveness. While there is some limited evidence to suggest the “Soteria Model” may be as effective as standard treatment protocols there, there is a lack of randomized clinical trials which conclude the treatment is effective ([A Systematic Review](#))

[of the Soteria Paradigm for the Treatment of People Diagnosed With Schizophrenia - PMC](#)).

- If the program is insufficiently evidence-based, it is most likely not eligible for funding from the Health Care Authority and will not be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for services.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes No

If yes, describe how.

- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

Goal 1: We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans

Goal 2: We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments

Goal 3: We improve health status for all New Mexicans

Goal 4: We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?

Yes No N/A

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?

Yes No N/A

- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No

- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

None

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

- Given that it is in Dona Ana County and is not a state resource, it is likely that this program prioritizes people from that one specific county.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

None

10. ALTERNATIVES

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If this bill is not enacted the organization providing these services funding will not be provided for the intended program.

12. AMENDMENTS

None