

Proposal for full time LHHS Committee and Staff

Background:

- Health care expenditures by the state of NM are larger than the entire state budget
- In the vast majority of categories and measurements of health, healthcare, mental health, substance use, disparities and poverty, NM is at or very close to the bottom when compared to other states.
- Almost half the state population is on Medicaid, next closest is 35%.
- The NM health professional infrastructure is rapidly crumbling.
- The legislature has minimal staffing to support health data acquisition, health policy analysis and proposals, health economics, population health development; as such it is shirking its fiduciary accountability to the people of NM.

Proposal

- “interim” LHHS to become a fulltime committee to oversee policy direction and execution consisting of 4 Representatives and 4 Senators drawn from respective chamber health committees
- LCS to hire full time staff to support the committee as follows:
 - Director – Masters/PhD level Health Policy professional
 - Associate Director – Master/PhD level health economist
 - Other Professionals with post graduate degrees:
 - Mental Health/Substance Use
 - Health Care Delivery and financing
 - Epidemiology/Health Data-IT
 - Grant writer/manager
 - 4 Analysts including financial analyst
 - 2 Administrative support staff
- Funding for contract support services
- Appropriation of 2 M recurring
- Staff to support House and Senate Health Committees as well

Attachment – see sample legislation creating above-will be reworked

First Draft as assigned to Senator Hickey for LHHS meeting – October 7, 2022