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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Harrison ORIGINAL DATE 2-10-06
 LAST UPDATED 2/11/06 HB 781

SHORT TITLE MCKINLEY COUNTY CYFD JUVENILE CENTER SB _____

ANALYST Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB63, SB125, SC1044, HC167

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Health Policy Commission (NMHPC)

Department of Health (DOH)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 781 appropriates \$100.0 from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for the purpose of operating a juvenile substance abuse crisis center in McKinley County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation is not part of the CYFD budget request and is not included in the Executive recommendation for CYFD.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill does not specify the type of substance abuse treatment or program model intended for the appropriation. However, the Governor has requested that the San Juan County model for treatment of adult DWI offenders be replicated in pilot counties across the state, including McKinley County. The San Juan Model is a 28-day in-patient treatment center that provides a court-ordered alternative to jail time for DWI offenders that have either an alcohol or substance abuse dependency. The Safer New Mexico Performance and Accountability Contract lists as its number one goal to “Reduce Death and Injury due to DWI in New Mexico” with activities under Task 1.1 of exploring the possibility of duplicating the San Juan County model in other counties.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, McKinley County had the highest composite index of alcohol-related problems of all 3,106 counties in the United States in 1998. Gallup, in McKinley County, nationally known for its struggles with alcohol-related problems, has been described as a “drunk town” due to an abundance of liquor outlets, few restrictions on the sale and use of alcohol, and alcohol morbidity and mortality rates far above the national average. (www.cnetco.com)

The rate of alcohol-related traffic accidents is seven times higher and the rate of deaths from alcohol-related causes is four times higher in McKinley County than the national average. Forty percent of all deaths in McKinley County are alcohol related. (www.rwjf.org)

Alcohol and substance abuse are increasingly becoming problematic in the juvenile population in McKinley County. According to a 1997 study of 14,400 students of the Gallup-McKinley County School District conducted by the Department of Health, nearly 50% had consumed an alcoholic beverage in the past month; nearly one-third used marijuana. (www.schoolgrants.org)

Due to its location on Interstate 40, there has been an increase in gang activity in McKinley County as members of the infamous Los Angeles gangs, the Bloods and the Crips, have begun recruitment in the county. The increase in gang activity, violence and drug abuse has prompted the increased concern of the Juvenile Probation and Parole Office that sees that the region is unprepared, referring even kindergarten students to the local police agencies. (www.schoolgrants.org)

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Safer New Mexico Performance and Accountability Contract Task 7.3 is to “Provide effective treatment for substance abuse” and includes increasing harm reduction efforts and expanding services under primary activities. From July, 2005 through December, 2005 McKinley County had 149 referrals to the Juvenile Probation and Parole office for drug and alcohol related offenses, comprising nearly 49% of all referrals from the county in that time.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD will absorb any additional administrative impact associated with passage of the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HC167 MCKINLEY CO JUVENILE SUBSTANCE ABUSE CTR VEHICLES

SC1044 MCKINLEY CO JUVENILE DETENTION FCLTY.

One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to plan, design, and construct a juvenile detention facility in McKinley County

HB63 REGIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

TECHNICAL ISSUES

House Bill 2 contains a recurring \$40.0 for a McKinley County Juvenile Center.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Behavioral Health Collaborative is charged with coordinating all substance abuse and mental health treatment services statewide through a contract with Value Options New Mexico (VONM).

McKinley County had the highest rate of alcohol-related deaths, the highest DWI arrest rate, the highest alcohol-involved automobile crash rate, the second highest youth marijuana use rates and the highest youth cocaine use among all New Mexico counties according to the 2004 New Mexico Social Indicator Report.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Stigma; linguistic, ethnic, and cultural differences; rural location and cost may continue to be barriers to McKinley County juveniles who might otherwise be helped to manage their substance abuse crisis. The need for prevention programs and treatment services targeted on the juveniles of McKinley County will continue to be substantial; there are currently insufficient counselors to provide adequate counseling and education programs. Further, there are few outside intervention or treatment services available for McKinley County youth. Additional financial resources will be required to effectively combat substance abuse among McKinley County juveniles.

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