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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/21/08

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJM 10

SHORT TITLE Female Inmate Issues Task Force SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Peery-Galon

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HM3  
Relates to SJM14

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Central New Mexico Community College  
Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)  
Commission on the Status of Women  
New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

#### No Responses Received From

Human Services Department  
Children, Youth and Families Department  
Adult Parole Board  
New Mexico Corrections Department

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 10 calls for the secretary of the New Mexico Corrections Department to assemble a task force consisting of the warden of the New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility, the warden of the Camino Nuevo Correctional center, representatives from Corrections Corporation of America, correctional medical services, the adult probation and parole division of the New Mexico Corrections Department, the Children, Youth and Families Department, the New Mexico Women's Justice Project, the Commission on the Status of Women, the archdiocese of Santa Fe, the judiciary, Central New Mexico Community College, a rape crisis center, the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office, community practitioners in behavioral

health and substance abuse treatment, former women inmates who have completed their sentences, including probation or parole, and other interested and appropriate parties to implement the recommendations of the Senate Joint Memorial 48 task force.

The task force is to review the environment, programs, services, policies and procedures at the two female correctional facilities, including intake, classification, screening and assessment, discharge planning, vocational skill development, mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse services, interpersonal violence and trauma, parenting and family connections, visitation, gender-informed training protocols, staff training, sexual misconduct and compliance with the federal prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. The task force is to implement the recommendations of the National Institute of Corrections and work with a representative of the institution, if feasible. Also, the task force is to encourage community collaborations and partnerships to create innovative and unique solutions for the female inmate population and to improve the readiness of women to reintegrate back into their communities.

The members of the task force are to report to the appropriate interim legislative committee during the 2008 interim on the progress of the task force; the implementation of recommendations made by the 2002 Senate Joint Memorial 48 task force and the national guidelines for gender-responsive facilities and services; and any further findings, recommendations and solutions that may be effective for the female prison population.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

AODA states there would be costs associated with any implementation of new and/or different programs with the New Mexico Corrections Department; however, without specifics provided in the proposed legislation the exact implications are hard to assess. AODA notes in addition to start-up costs for the guidelines and potential programs, there would be costs associated with compensating members of the newly organized task force, hiring and compensation of any additional personnel needed to carry out the solutions proposed by the task force.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Central New Mexico Community College reports it plays an active role in assisting female inmates with reintegration into the community. The college offers the Placebound Program to female inmates at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Albuquerque. During the 2006-2007 academic year, about 390 female inmates participated in the program. The program offers GED training and testing to inmates without a high school diploma, and offers courses that can lead to career and technical certificates and associates degrees to those who qualify. Heavy emphasis is placed on advising and mentoring female inmates about lifestyle changes. Once a Placebound Program participant is released, she is eligible for a Making the Future Bright scholarship that will allow her to transition to Central New Mexico Community College.

AODA states if in fact New Mexico implements the national guidelines and establishes new or different programs for female inmates that are better suited to address the issues of females specifically, the long-term result may be a reduction in the number of female inmates. The implementation of such programs may also lead to better alternatives for female offenders who might not otherwise be placed on probation in lieu of incarceration.

NMCD reports it is working with and seeking technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), a nationally recognized group comprised of correctional experts, to ensure

that NMCD's female correctional facilities are operated in a gender specific fashion. NMCD reports if NIC makes recommendations to the secretary regarding changes to the operation of Camino Nuevo or the New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility, the secretary will follow those recommendations to the extent feasible.

NMCD notes Secretary Williams is scheduled to attend a 36-hour NIC training program regarding the operational practices in women's prison. Helen Carr, NMCD's Deputy Director of Female Offender Services, will also be attending the NIC gender specific training. The training will include, among other things, gender differences as those related to treatment, classification, programs and services. NMCD notes that Ms. Carr has received intensive NIC training entitled "An Agency Approach to Gender Specific Programming", and her article "A Women-Centered Approach for Female Offenders in New Mexico" was published in the August 2007 issue of ACA's Corrections Today Magazine. Also, NMCD reports that Gender Specific Trauma Informed Training is already being provided to staff working with female offenders.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

AODA notes that if such changes are shown to be effective, the possible implications would be that there may be lighter case loads for prosecutors, fewer over-crowding issues within facilities, lighter caseloads for law enforcement, and overall lower recidivism rates among female offenders.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

AODA states members of the different departments and organizations mentioned in the proposed legislation would have to be available for membership on the task force. There would be added responsibility placed on the New Mexico Corrections Department to ensure the guidelines are implemented and to report the outcome of such change.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

House Joint Memorial 10 is a duplication of House Memorial 3 and has a relationship with Senate Joint Memorial 14.

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