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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/09/09

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Bernalillo Metro Detention Center Service SM 63

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center (BCDC) is a state-of-the-art center that opened in December 2002 and is currently capable of housing 2,236 inmates and alleged offenders. The detention center utilizes a modern pod design that enhances efficiency and effectiveness by permitting direct visual and physical access to, and supervision of, all inmates and alleged offenders. The center is equipped with advanced technological video surveillance to further enhance awareness of the movement of inmates and alleged offenders, thereby reducing the opportunity for contraband to be brought into the center. The center is staffed with more than 300 highly trained correctional officers, all of whom are expected to have high-level leadership and communication skills. The center has an interest in promoting good relations with the families of inmates and alleged offenders, as demonstrated by a Christmas celebration held in December 2008, at which 875 five children of inmates and alleged offenders received gifts.

The mission of the BCDC is "to protect the public and provide a safe and secure environment for both inmates and alleged offenders and staff under the principles of direct supervision and in accordance with American correctional association standards. The security and protection of the public is considered to be the primary focus of its mission, the center believes that ensuring quality operations and inmate services in a fiscally sound manner is essential. One aspect of quality operations is providing safe and easily navigable access to inmates and alleged offenders by family members who wish to visit an inmate or who are seeking the release of an alleged offender. Visitors to the center certainly include the friends and family members of the inmates and alleged offenders.

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Although visiting hours are posted on the center's web site, navigating a system that is primarily designed for the incarceration of inmates and alleged offenders can be confusing. Visiting an inmate can be an emotionally trying and upsetting situation, one that would benefit from a clear and accessible process and from personnel available to support and assist visitors. Having a family member arrested is a traumatic event for all concerned, and family members have a need to know the rights and responsibilities of the alleged offender, the process for seeking the release of that offender and how long such a process is expected to take. In all situations, the friends and family members of inmates and alleged offenders are entitled to courteous, helpful and timely attention from the staff of the BCDC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the BCDC be requested to develop a plan to improve access and service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the BCDC.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to the state but there could be some operating costs for BCDC.

MW/svb