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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/12

SPONSOR Martinez, R. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Overdose Prevention Campaign SB 90

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

Response Not Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 90 appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) to fund an overdose prevention and awareness campaign and to fund an evaluation of the state's current overdose prevention programs. The bill would have the public health division of the DOH develop a campaign to raise awareness of (i) the availability of the overdose reversal drug naloxone through DOH, (ii) the grant of limited immunity for those persons requesting medical assistance in the event of an overdose pursuant to Section 30-31-27.1 NMSA 1978 and (iii) the availability of suboxone and methadone treatment and to evaluate the effectiveness of the state's current overdose prevention programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY13 shall revert to the general fund.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The HSD indicates it and DOH are both members of the Behavioral Health Collaborative.

The New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative's FY 11-FY14 Strategic Plan, 'Positioning Behavioral Health for Health Care Reform' relates to SB 90, specifically:

Chapter 5, 'Holistic Service Array': Prevention Programming must be effectively directed to populations who are at all levels of risk.

HSD's Strategic Goal 4, 'Improve Behavioral Health' relates to SB 90, specifically:

Task 4.2: Reduce adverse impacts of substance abuse and mental illness on individuals, families and communities.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Human Services Department (HS) indicates New Mexico has the highest rate of unintentional fatal opioid overdose in the country with a rate in 2008 of 27 per 100,000 according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). New Mexico adolescents are using drugs at younger ages than other youth in the United States (age 12), and are more likely to have tried heroin than their national counterparts (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, 2011). An increasing number of high school students report using painkillers to get high: in 2007, 11.7% of students reported this usage, and the percentage increased to 14.3% in 2009 (YRRS, 2011). In a study conducted in 2009 by the CDC, 4.7% of New Mexico high school students reported lifetime heroin use, compared to 2.5% of students in the United States. Confirmed unintentional fatal drug over doses in Albuquerque alone have increased from 5 in 2005 to 20 in 2009, with the number still increasing (Shah, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the Department of Health's Harm Reduction Program to reduce drug-related harm while enhancing individual, family, and community wellness, primarily through the provision of linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services to injection drug users. The Harm Reduction Program's role includes educating participants on ways to reduce the potential for harm associated with their substance use and other high-risk activities, including the appropriate uses of naloxone -- which has proven to be an effective tool to reduce the fatal overdose rates -- and the availability of medication assisted treatment and recovery support services funded through the Behavioral Health Collaborative.

Treatment and prevention of opioid addiction is a priority for the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) of HSD. BHSD serves as the adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse State Authority for the State of New Mexico. In this role, BHSD has recently collaborated on three important task forces that directly address opioid overdose:

- House Memorial 77 (2011) established the New Mexico Prescription Drug Abuse and Overdose Task force and developed recommendations.
- Senate Memorial 18 (2011) established the New Mexico Drug Policy Reform Task Force and developed recommendations.
- Senate Memorial 56 (2011) developed a comprehensive, statewide plan for treatment of opioid addiction among adolescents.