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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/11/13

SPONSOR Wooley LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 233

SHORT TITLE PTSD Services for Veterans SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Esquibel

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Human Services Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 233 (HB 233) appropriates \$250 thousand in general fund revenue to the Department of Health (DOH) to contract for services to treat veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder with modalities used to treat anxiety, pain and other medical problems associated with post-traumatic stress disorder.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 233 contains a recurring general fund appropriation of \$250 thousand to the DOH. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY14 shall revert to the general fund.

The DOH indicates it would use a minimum of 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the department's administrative overhead costs associated with administration of the program.

The Human Services Department's (HSD) Behavioral Services Division indicates it is the single state authority for mental health and currently expends general fund revenue to provide PTSD services for veterans.

For FY14, both the LFC and Executive budget recommendations for the Veterans' Services Department (VSD) include an additional \$106.4 thousand in general fund revenue and 2 FTE for healthcare outreach services for veterans returning with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries.

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

The HSD's Behavioral Health Services Division currently funds a program called the "Veterans First Jail Diversion Grant" administered by Presbyterian Medical Services. The goal of this program is to divert people with trauma spectrum disorders, particularly veterans, from the justice system by increasing recognition of serious mental illness and reactions to trauma by law enforcement agencies and courts.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The VSD indicates the U.S. Veterans Administration uses prolonged exposure therapy to treat veterans suffering from PTSD. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, prolonged exposure is one therapy that works for many people who have experienced trauma. Veterans may also be interested in other types of therapies such as dog therapy/adoption, massage, outdoor, equine, drum circles, and other modalities. The VSD is supporting the Angel Fire PTSD treatment group that brings in 10 couples at a time for treatment. As of November 2012, there have been 164 couples who have participated in this program funded by VSD.

As an example of the mental health burdens facing these veterans and their mental health service providers in New Mexico, the VSD estimates there are 30,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a 20 percent rate of PTSD among these veterans (NMDVS, 2011).

RAE/svb