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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino ORIGINAL DATE _____
LAST UPDATED 1/23/15 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Behavioral Health Warmline & Clearinghouse SB 45

ANALYST Chavez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
\$1,911.3		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

For the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
Relates to House Bill 108 and Senate Bill 154

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

University New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM-HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 45 appropriates \$1.9 million from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of maintaining and evaluating a statewide behavioral health warmline and clearinghouse at the UNM Health Sciences Center's (UNM-HSC) Brain and Behavioral Health Institute (BBHI). This bill has an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.9 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. As stated in the bill, any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund. However, should the appropriation be included in Section 4 of the General Appropriation Act as a line-item to the institution, the funds would not revert to the general fund.

Although this appropriation is nonrecurring, if the program outlined in the bill is successful, it may lead to recurring appropriations beginning in FY21.

The university did request funding for this program in its FY16 request as part of the research and public service project (RPSP) budget review process. Neither the LFC nor the executive FY16 recommendations included funding for this program.

DOH notes two other sources of funding for suicide prevention. The Office of School and Adolescent Health at DOH receives a federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA) Garrett Lee Memorial Act grant for \$472 thousand ending July 31, 2015. In September 2014, SAMSHA also awarded the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) of the Human Services Department (HSD) a three-year \$470 thousand grant to implement provisions of the 2012 National Suicide Prevention Plan.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to DOH, a warmline is a telephone line that provides assistance for people whose need is not urgent. There are three existing statewide behavioral health crisis lines and clearinghouses currently operating in New Mexico. Agora Crisis Center is a warmline that has been operated by University of New Mexico students for 40 years. The New Mexico Crisis and Access Line, operated by OptumHealth New Mexico, are staffed with professional counselors and serve both hotline and warmline functions. Crisis Response Santa Fe, operated by Presbyterian Medical Services, operates from a psychologist's office, and is a warmline directing callers to community service providers. All three lines are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and all accept calls from the national suicide hotlines. The New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition calls each line on a random basis to assure that coverage is indeed universal, and that referrals are accurate.

It is not clear from the bill what additional services the BHHI warmline and clearinghouse would provide beyond existing resources. UNM-HSC notes that BHHI could provide an up-to-date list of resources that would be of benefit to those with behavioral and/or neurological issues by collaborating with existing phone lines and share any resource directories developed. UNM-HSC also notes the proposed warmline and mapping initiative would provide support and assistance with resource navigation to all New Mexicans experiencing brain and behavioral health symptoms. However, the warmline as proposed in the bill has not been included in any requests for research and public service projects (RPSPs) or other proposals. The Legislature may wish to consider a proposal with more detailed information, as well as a performance framework, before funding a new initiative.

DOH adds there is no known evidence that another warmline and clearinghouse is needed in New Mexico, since these existing services appear to function well. Funding may be more effective if directed at evidence-based suicide prevention interventions rather than funding another warmline or clearinghouse. UNM-HSC argues the proposed BBHI warmline and mapping project is not a duplication of previously existing services since it will focus on the identification of existing resources, and care navigation rather than crisis response. However, without a more in-depth proposal, it is unclear whether this is the case.

DOH notes the BHHI began dedicated community outreach 18 months ago through conducting community awareness sessions about brain functioning and brain injury and by facilitating

referrals to community-based services. DOH also notes BBHI has an informal, two-way relationship with both the Agora and Crisis and Response Hotlines.

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 108 provides for the creation and ranking of investment zones statewide for the prioritization of behavioral health service delivery and appropriates \$1 million for that effort.

Senate Bill 154 appropriates \$12 million to expand access to behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment through training and support of the primary care work force in community clinics.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to DOH, suicide rates in New Mexico are steadily rising, from a low of 18.1 completed suicides per 100,000 population in 2009 to a high of 21.2 in 2012. The US suicide rate for 2012 was 12.9 per 100,000 population. New Mexico ranked fourth highest among the states for suicide deaths in 2012.

KC/aml