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HOUSE BILL 151

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Karen C. Bash

AN ACT

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; REQUIRING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A BRIDGES ACROSS NEW MEXICO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] BRIDGES ACROSS NEW MEXICO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM--CREATION--MEMBERSHIP--DUTIES.--

A. The human services department shall convene a "bridges across New Mexico behavioral health consortium" that includes bipartisan representation from the house of representatives and the senate from the northern, central and southern regions of the state; representatives from the New Mexico congressional delegation; representatives from the administrative office of the courts; representatives from the business sector from the northern, central and southern

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1 regions, which shall include planners and architects, and
2 representatives from organizations whose primary functions are
3 behavioral health, housing and homeless services. The
4 consortium shall function from the date of its appointment
5 until December 1, 2022.

6 B. Members of the bridges across New Mexico
7 behavioral health consortium who are not paid with public money
8 are entitled to per diem and mileage as provided in the Per
9 Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation,
10 perquisite or allowance.

11 C. In carrying out its charge, the bridges across
12 New Mexico behavioral health consortium shall:

13 (1) review potential construction of
14 residential treatment facilities to help those with substance
15 use disorders and mental health issues;

16 (2) assess current youth and adult residential
17 treatment facilities, with a focus on those facilities serving
18 individuals currently in the court system for substance use,
19 behavioral health and homelessness, to determine if the current
20 facilities could be expanded or if new facilities will need to
21 be built;

22 (3) review current transitional housing, job
23 development and life skill centers regionally to determine if
24 these centers could be expanded or if new centers will need to
25 be built, which centers house those individuals coming out of

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1 incarceration, substance use treatment or homelessness due to
2 reasons other than behavioral health and for families who need
3 safer longer-term housing than a short-term shelter could
4 provide. A focus will be on centers that combine life skills,
5 educational and vocational support to ensure that individuals
6 will be successful and self-sufficient when those individuals
7 reenter community life;

8 (4) develop a drug prevention program for
9 first through twelfth grade public school students, which may
10 include volunteers from the community in a speaker series and
11 other age-appropriate programs;

12 (5) review current laws regarding driving
13 while intoxicated and compare them to cities and states that
14 have the lowest rates of driving while intoxicated and assess
15 if higher penalties will be needed for driving while
16 intoxicated offenders; and

17 (6) discuss availability of regional substance
18 use counseling programs for offenders.

19 D. The bridges across New Mexico behavioral health
20 consortium shall hold monthly regional meetings beginning after
21 the effective date of this act to discuss the items outlined in
22 Subsection C of this section. In August 2022, two statewide
23 meetings shall be held in Albuquerque to discuss findings and
24 recommendations from the regional meetings and approve a
25 statewide action plan.

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