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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A
PERMANENT INTERIM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE
LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, according to the national alliance for mental
illness, mental illness has an impact on the lives of sixty
million Americans; and

WHEREAS, the national alliance for mental illness reports
that one in ten children in the United States lives with mental
illness; and

WHEREAS, behavioral health is an area of policy that
encompasses not only mental illness and behavioral health
wellness programs, but policies regarding alcohol and drug
dependency and misuse; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is facing a severe crisis as one of

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1 the states worst afflicted with drug dependency and misuse; and

2 WHEREAS, with adequate support and treatment, individuals
3 living with mental illness or substance dependency can avoid
4 much suffering and live full lives as contributing members of
5 New Mexico society; and

6 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico's interagency purchaser
7 of behavioral health services, the interagency behavioral
8 health purchasing collaborative, expends nearly four hundred
9 million dollars (\$400,000,000) a year for behavioral health
10 services; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexicans depend for their well-being and
12 safety upon a strong behavioral health services network; and

13 WHEREAS, in recent years, the legislature has passed many
14 bills and memorials demonstrating the legislature's concerns
15 regarding behavioral health matters; and

16 WHEREAS, to address the intense need for legislative
17 oversight of the many ways in which mental illness has an
18 impact on health care needs, public safety, the courts,
19 economic development and many other factors, the New Mexico
20 legislative council created in 2011 an interim behavioral
21 health services subcommittee of the legislative health and
22 human services committee; and

23 WHEREAS, the behavioral health services subcommittee met
24 twice during the 2011 interim; and

25 WHEREAS, in the short time allotted to the behavioral

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1 health services subcommittee, it attempted to cover myriad
2 behavioral health issues: it reviewed the status of behavioral
3 health services delivered through the interagency behavioral
4 health purchasing collaborative's contract with the single
5 statewide behavioral health managed-care entity; it considered
6 the reintegration of medicaid behavioral health benefits with
7 physical health benefits in the medicaid modernization plan; it
8 devoted substantial attention to the state's substance abuse
9 epidemic; it heard extensive testimony on criminal justice
10 diversion programs for individuals living with mental illness;
11 it reviewed behavioral health care delivery and finance
12 innovations; and it studied the state's behavioral health care
13 work force needs; and

14 WHEREAS, behavioral health in New Mexico requires a
15 considerably greater amount of legislators' time and attention
16 in order to properly address the substantial need for
17 behavioral health services in the state;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
20 requested to create a permanent interim behavioral health
21 services committee of the legislature; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
23 council be requested to draw upon membership in both the house
24 of representatives and the senate and from both political
25 parties in appointing members to the behavioral health services

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1 committee; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
3 council be requested to approve monthly meetings each interim
4 for the behavioral health services committee; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
6 council be requested to charge the behavioral health services
7 committee with the oversight and continuing study of the
8 programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to
9 behavioral health statewide; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
11 council be requested to charge the behavioral health services
12 committee with reviewing the statutes, constitutional
13 provisions, agency rules and court decisions governing
14 behavioral health programs, agencies and issues; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
16 council be requested to charge the behavioral health services
17 committee with reviewing and making recommendations regarding
18 the full continuum of programs and services available for
19 individuals who need behavioral health services, including the
20 treatment of mental illness and substance abuse; public
21 programs such as medicaid and the statewide behavioral health
22 services contract that provide behavioral health services;
23 treatment guardianships, jail diversion and other public safety
24 matters; and the state's behavioral health service provider
25 work force needs; and

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