

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 34

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

14  
15 WHEREAS, according to the national alliance for mental  
16 illness, mental illness has an impact on the lives of sixty  
17 million Americans; and

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

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

25 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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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
3 council.

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