



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS J. KINTIGH AND SENATOR MARY KAY PAPAN



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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 the states worst afflicted with drug dependency and misuse; and

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

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico's interagency purchaser of behavioral health services, the interagency behavioral health purchasing collaborative, expends nearly four hundred

1 million dollars (\$400,000,000) a year for behavioral health
2 services; and

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

5 WHEREAS, in recent years, the legislature has passed
6 many bills and memorials demonstrating the legislature's
7 concerns regarding behavioral health matters; and

8 WHEREAS, to address the intense need for legislative
9 oversight of the many ways in which mental illness has an
10 impact on health care needs, public safety, the courts,
11 economic development and many other factors, the New Mexico
12 legislative council created in 2011 an interim behavioral
13 health services subcommittee of the legislative health and
14 human services committee; and

15 WHEREAS, the behavioral health services subcommittee met
16 twice during the 2011 interim; and

17 WHEREAS, in the short time allotted to the behavioral
18 health services subcommittee, it attempted to cover myriad
19 behavioral health issues: it reviewed the status of
20 behavioral health services delivered through the interagency
21 behavioral health purchasing collaborative's contract with the
22 single statewide behavioral health managed-care entity; it
23 considered the reintegration of medicaid behavioral health
24 benefits with physical health benefits in the medicaid
25 modernization plan; it devoted substantial attention to the

1 state's substance abuse epidemic; it heard extensive testimony
2 on criminal justice diversion programs for individuals living
3 with mental illness; it reviewed behavioral health care
4 delivery and finance innovations; and it studied the state's
5 behavioral health care work force needs; and

6 WHEREAS, behavioral health in New Mexico requires a
7 considerably greater amount of legislators' time and attention
8 in order to properly address the substantial need for
9 behavioral health services in the state;

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
15 council be requested to draw upon membership in both the house
16 of representatives and the senate and from both political
17 parties in appointing members to the behavioral health
18 services committee; and

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

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
23 council be requested to charge the behavioral health services
24 committee with the oversight and continuing study of the
25 programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to

1 behavioral health statewide; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
3 council be requested to charge the behavioral health services
4 committee with reviewing the statutes, constitutional
5 provisions, agency rules and court decisions governing
6 behavioral health programs, agencies and issues; and

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

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
20 council.

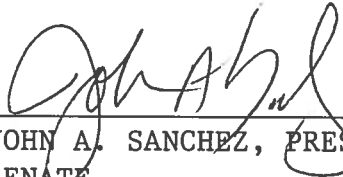
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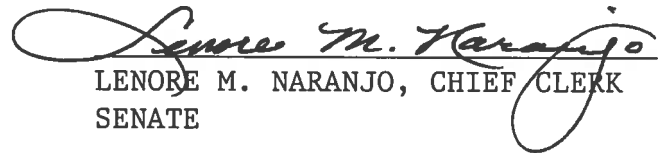
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN A. SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT
SENATE



LENORE M. NARANJO, CHIEF CLERK
SENATE