

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. F/S R-14-55 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa Peña

1 **RESOLUTION**

2 **COMMISSIONING A STUDY TO ASSESS THE GAPS IN THE CITY, COUNTY**
3 **AND STATE’S FUNDING FOR CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS;**
4 **APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

5 **WHEREAS, it is important that the City Council begins to restore the**
6 **public’s confidence in APD by resolving some of the underlying issues that**
7 **have plagued our community and that have led us to this point; and**

8 **WHEREAS, while not part of their formal recommendations, the DOJ**
9 **mentioned the need to address the mental health crisis we have in the city;**
10 **and**

11 **WHEREAS, we can longer use the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) to**
12 **house our residents with severe mental health and substance abuse issues;**
13 **and**

14 **WHEREAS, we *must* invest in prevention and intervention programs and**
15 **accessible inpatient and outpatient mental health services. Without**
16 **addressing these needs and the lack of other services such as services**
17 **relating to homelessness and to the developmentally disabled, the problems**
18 **in our community will persist; and**

19 **WHEREAS, families throughout the city struggle to find help for family**
20 **members who suffer from the above-mentioned issues and are forced to deal**
21 **with them alone. More often than not, the individual never receives the help**
22 **they need and families anguish over how best to help their loved ones; and**

23 **WHEREAS, there are only six psychiatric hospital beds available at UNM;**
24 **and**

25 **WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Detention Center is the largest mental health**
26 **institution in our state. 60% of the MDC population is either mentally ill, has**
27 **severe substance abuse problems or both; and**

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1 WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals released from the MDC receive only
2 three days' worth of medication and no other follow up assistance is provided;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, 70% of the homeless struggle with mental illness and/or
5 substance abuse issues; and

6 WHEREAS, we need to develop coordination efforts between
7 governmental, quasi-governmental, community based and non-profit mental
8 health providers with local law enforcement and incarceration
9 agencies/institutions to ensure the safety of the mentally ill and the public;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Councilors Winter and Benton have introduced a memorial (m-
12 14-5) calling for the formation of a Task Force to discuss joint funding
13 opportunities and to propose recommendations to address the issues
14 surrounding and concerning mental health issues within the State of New
15 Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, that Task Force would benefit from the assistance of a
17 consultant to help identify gaps in the existing services provided by the City,
18 County and State.

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
20 ALBUQUERQUE:

21 Section 1. The Director of Council Services is hereby authorized to enter
22 into an agreement with a consultant to assist the Task Force to be created
23 pursuant to M-14-5 in studying and assessing the gaps in the City, County and
24 State's provision of services for mental health service.

25 Section 2. Thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) is hereby appropriated
26 within the General Fund (110) to the Council Services Department in FY/14 to
27 carry out the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution.

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