

# 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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