

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 103

A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING SANTA FE COUNTY 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
RELATED TO HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

WHEREAS, legislative pre-filing for the 2023 Regular Legislative Session will occur between January 2, 2024, and January 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County (County) Board of County Commissioners (Board) discusses and approves support for legislative priorities as an important step in assuring the preservation and provision of exemplary services and policies; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Board take action to maintain revenues, programs, and services at the current or a higher level; and

WHEREAS, the Board would like to demonstrate strong support to the state legislature for legislation with respect to health and community services; and

WHEREAS, CONNECT, implanted by Santa Fe County in 2018, now in partnership with the City of Santa Fe and United Way, is a nationally recognized program to provide residents with the resources they need for health and wellbeing, including housing, food, transportation, and utilities, often referred to as the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program, known as **engage**, which was initially funded through the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division with a United States Department of Justice grant, and which has superlative relationships with and the support of the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office, the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, and the Office of Public Defender, and has shown positive outcomes for individuals who come in contact with law enforcement and who have substance use and behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, there is an alarming increase in the severity of behavioral health symptoms among children and youth in Santa Fe County as well as nationally, with a dire shortage of providers willing and able to provide needed treatment; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans are dying of alcohol-related harms at nearly three times the national average, and one in five deaths of working age New Mexicans is attributable to alcohol, and increased alcohol taxes have been shown to decrease drinking, including underage drinkers, as well as to decrease many alcohol-related harms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County hereby supports the legislative priorities related to health and community services as set forth above, and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the State Legislature during its 2024 session.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/03/2023

1. Funding for Santa Fe County for CONNECT in the amount of \$800,000, to be used as flexible funds to contract with providers within the CONNECT network, for them to assist residents with resources to support the social determinants of health.

2. Funding for Santa Fe County's LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program, known as **engage**, in the amount of \$400,000.

3. An increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for providers of behavioral health services for children and youth, with specific attention to children and youth involved with the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

4. An increase in alcohol taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager is directed to forward this resolution to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the leadership of the New Mexico Senate and House, Senators and Representatives in the New Mexico Legislature representing Santa Fe County, and New Mexico Counties Board of Directors and Executive Director.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 10th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: *Anna Hansen*
Anna Hansen, Chair

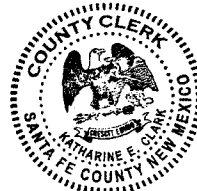
ATTESTATION:

Katharine E. Clark
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 10/11/2023

Approved as to form:

Jeff Young
Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 3RD Day Of November, 2023 at 11:28:36 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2022837
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Deputy *Katharine E. Clark* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM