

Behavioral health

Lack of services for behavioral health treatment is a national problem, but esp. acute in NM. In 2004 Sen. Linda Lopez sponsored a bill calling for a statewide behavioral health strategic plan. 19 years later; no plan has been drafted. The County of Bernalillo and the City of ABQ are not working as cooperatively as they might to provide mental health services. There needs to be a plan to determine what agency performs which services where and when. Too many agencies working in silos.

Replace oil and gas revenues

The national award winning LFC is predicting that oil and gas revenues will start to decline in 2030 . Several years ago Alicia Keyes, the very capable and former Secretary of Economic Development, commissioned a study to determine what industries and businesses the state should attempt to attract in order to replace the inevitable decrease in revenues from the oil and gas industries. There is a critical need for the legislature and the administration to cooperate on crafting a plan with a specific course of action re: the recommendations set forth in the study. I am not aware that any action is being taken to draft a plan. 2030 is only 6 and 1/2 years away. I detect no sense of urgency.

Education

I applaud the APS Board's recent adaption of a distinct wide comprehensive strategic plan to improve educational outcomes. Something similar is called for on a statewide basis. Sure, there are periodic efforts to implement specific programs to improve learning, however there needs to be a comprehensive plan to incorporate all phases of learning; not an effort to implement specific programs in a piecemeal fashion.

Water infrastructure

Another critical issue without a plan is water infrastructure. State Engineer John D'Antonio resigned in December 2021 due to lack of staffing and funding necessary to perform the work of his office.

The state is in the depths of a serious drought with no signs of improvement; only predictions of a continued decline in the amount of water available .

In all fairness, State Engineer Mike Hamman informs me that he and his staff are in the process of preparing a statewide comprehensive plan for water infrastructure.

Capital outlay *Governing* magazine ranks our system of planning and allocating capital outlay funding as the second worst in the nation behind only Alabama. Most well managed cities , counties and states have a 10, 15 or 20 year capital improvement plan which lists specific projects, including cost estimates, to be constructed over the life of the plan. Except for the General Services, DOT and Corrections Department, the state has no multi year capital improvement plans. . Individual legislators , who have been allocated millions of dollars in funding, chose from an extensive list of projects numbering in the hundreds. These projects have not been vetted, prioritized or made part of a multi- year coordinated capital improvement plan. Consequently, in lieu of a rational system of allocating the funding based on the greatest need and the greatest good, project funding decisions are often based on friendships, promises and granted to those who are the most persuasive and persistent. There is another huge problem. If the total allocations from individual legislators is not a sufficient amount to start construction, that money is simply placed in a reserve fund. As hard as it is to fathom, \$5.1 Billion sits idle due to this predicament. Under a different system most of this money would have been spent years ago and been circulating through out the NM economy. I believe the current method of allocating capital outlay is not responsible nor professional

For over 20 years Sen. Pete Campos has sponsored legislation to reform capital outlay. His efforts have failed to gain traction. For the past 6 years Sen. Joseph Cervantes and myself have been unsuccessful in our attempts to reform the system.

A failure to plan is a plan to fail.