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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM FUNDING
SOLUTIONS BEING EXPLORED**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that staff is working diligently to find additional sources of income to defray a previously announced 25 percent reduction in grant money to statewide domestic violence programs. The reductions, scheduled to be effective July 1, 2007, were announced in a letter to domestic violence programs in May. The anticipated shortfall for fiscal years 2008-2009 is approximately \$800,000.

The reduction was based on a significant drop in the number of marriage licenses being purchased across the state, which receives \$20 from each marriage license purchased from a county clerk and an additional \$5 from each ceremony performed by a Justice of the Peace. This money is by statute (NRS 122.060 and NRS 4.060) sent from the counties to the State Controller's Office, who in turn deposits that money in the Account for Aid for Victims of Domestic Violence in the State General Fund.

“The Legislature provided around \$230,000 through the passage of AB 629 to help fill this gap, and I am confident that we can find additional existing funding sources that will provide domestic violence organizations across the state with this much needed grant money.”

Willden said his office is looking at several short-term fixes, including using existing Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) monies, to sustain domestic violence program funding to current levels.

Willden, who said he hopes to announce the plan and the funding sources by the end of next week, added, “It is imperative that we do everything in our power to assist these organizations with meeting the needs of battered and abused people who rely on the assistance these programs provide to often stay out of harms way.”

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