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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REVIEW OF CLARK COUNTY CHILD WELFARE CASES COMPLETED

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden today announced that the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has completed its review of the information related to 53 Clark County Department of Family Services child welfare cases that were identified in a report authored by Ed Cotton. The review, which relied on information obtained from the UNITY child welfare reporting system, is available on the DCFS website at www.dcfs.state.nv.us, under the listing "Clark County Department of Family Services Review," located on the right-side of the page.

"It is important for the people of Clark County and the state to be able to see the results of this review," Willden said. "In keeping with my stated objectives of transparency and openness, we have provided this information on our website so anyone who wishes to see for themselves the status of the cases can read the information firsthand."

As a result of the review, DCFS informed Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) director Tom Morton that in the opinion of DCFS, eight cases required more information to determine whether or not the child(ren) were safe. Five of these cases lacked enough documentation in the UNITY system for DCFS to agree on the safety status of the child(ren). In two cases, CCDFS agreed that safety of the child(ren) could not be determined based on UNITY information and immediately initiated the assessment process, and in one case CCDFS disputed the need for an assessment of safety but determined the need for service referrals. CCDFS responded in each case by taking appropriate action to enable the state to agree to the safety conclusions for each child.

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