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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEVADA'S RURAL REGIONAL CENTER RECOGNIZED WITH ACCREDITATION

**Carson City**—Marcia Bennett, Ph.D., the Director of Nevada's Rural Regional Center (RRC), today announced that following the completion of a 19-month process, RRC has been awarded a 4-year accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). The distinction confirms that RRC shares CQL's vision for person-directed solutions to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and people with mental illness.

"Rural Regional Center is excited to partner with CQL to embrace a community-focused service model that breaks down the barriers between community members, builds bridges based on common goals, and enhances the quality of life for all people living in rural Nevada," Bennett said.

James F. Gardner, Ph.D., President and CEO of CQL, stated, "CQL commends Rural Regional Center for its success in increasing the quality of life for the people it supports. Our accreditation signifies organizational excellence in promoting a common vision of community participation and quality of life for all people."

The accreditation received by RRC meets the new standards announced by CQL in May 2005 as part of its "*Quality Measures 2005<sup>SM</sup>*" initiative. The new measures support strategies that enable service providers to develop a fully integrated quality management system. *Quality Measures 2005<sup>SM</sup>* represents a major breakthrough in how organizations can evaluate their own effectiveness at providing quality supports for people with disabilities and people with mental illness.

*Quality Measures 2005<sup>SM</sup>* combines many of CQL's existing innovative quality management practices into one core document that provides a blueprint for moving an organization forward. The measures call for service providers to integrate the assets of the social environment where they are based, an approach CQL calls *Community Life<sup>SM</sup>*.

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RRC is a Nevada state agency that supports children and adults living in 14 rural counties in Nevada. The main office is located in Carson City, with satellite offices located in Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, Silver Springs, and Gardnerville. Through service coordination and quality management, RRC supports people and families to take a leadership role in their personal and community lives by expanding natural support systems and partnering with a variety of providers and community-based services.

Headquartered in Towson, Maryland, CQL is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to the definition, measurement, and improvement of personal and community quality of life for people with disabilities and people with mental illness. Known as innovators in the human services field, CQL has for more than 35 years challenged “conventional wisdom” while pioneering the concept of “person-directed solutions” for service and support organizations, state and national government agencies, regional systems and networks, and professionals and self-advocates.

To find out more about Nevada’s Rural Regional Center, go to <http://mhds.state.nv.us/rrc/>. For information on the Council on Quality and Leadership, visit [www.thecouncil.org](http://www.thecouncil.org).

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