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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEVADA SENIOR CENTER RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE Mineral County center receives national honor

Carson City— The Mineral County Care and Share Senior Center has been recognized as a 2007 *Choices for Independence Program Champion* by the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA). Program Champions, chosen from AoA sponsored organizations from across the United States, have demonstrated streamlined access to information and services, evidence-based prevention and wellness projects, and consumer-directed service programs that help seniors avoid unnecessary placement in nursing home facilities. Further, Program Champions highlight programs and initiatives that demonstrate the principles of the AoA strategy to rebalance and modernize health and long term care for older persons and those with disabilities. For more information on the *Choices for Independent Program Champion*, go to http://www.aoa.gov/PRESS/oam/Program_champions/program_champions.asp.

Carolyn Gillis, Mineral County Care and Share Program Director, recently attended the AoA's Choices for Independence Summit. She returned to Nevada with a passion to integrate, collaborate, and share the lessons she observed with the entire Nevada Senior Center Network, a coalition of statewide senior centers of which she is the current president. To accomplish this goal, the Care and Share Center, along with the Mineral County Economic Development Authority, hosted an "Independent Living Summit" in Hawthorne that attracted over 50 partners from across the state.

Key partners in this new collaboration include the City of Hawthorne, Nevada Division for Aging Services, Nevada Department of Transportation, Mineral County Economic Development, Nevada Senior Center Association, and the Nevada School of Medicine.

Some of the results that have been achieved to date include new linkages between aging and disabled populations, increased participation in planning of transportation services for Mineral County, a computer literacy program in the Mineral County Senior Center, caregiver classes and Alzheimer's support groups, and a "You Can" program for walking.

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