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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“WALK IN MEMORY, WALK FOR HOPE”
CALLS ATTENTION TO SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that on Saturday, September 15, 2007, four Nevada communities will take part in the first annual “Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope” event as part of National Suicide Prevention Week. The purpose of the walk is to call greater attention and awareness to the devastating effect suicide has on our communities, and to remember loved-ones lost to suicide. Memory walks will take place in Elko, Las Vegas, Minden/Gardnerville, and Reno.

In the United States, someone dies by suicide every 16 minutes, accounting for more than 30,000 deaths annually. In fact, in the U.S., more people die from suicide than homicide. In Nevada, more than 432 people died as a result of suicide in 2004.

The Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, a nonprofit organization that supports research, education, survivor bereavement, and awareness programs throughout Nevada, is hosting the various events. Individual “Walk” participants are asked to donate \$20, teams \$150, although a donation is not required to take part in the event. All donations will be used to help fund various Coalition programs.

For more information about sponsorship of or participation in the “Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope” event go to http://www.active.com/page/Event_Details.htm?event_id=1467774, or call the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention at (775) 684-3475 or (702) 486-8225.

Nevada Suicide Prevention Coordinator Misty Vaughan Allen said, “Suicide greatly impacts all of our communities. The concerted efforts of the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention and events such as the ‘Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope’ will help make Nevada a healthier and safer place to live.”

In May 2007, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Suicide Prevention, released the first Nevada Suicide Prevention Plan, a 65-page comprehensive guide and tool that outlines best-practice suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention measures, includes 11 goals and 35 objectives with multiple action steps. The plan can be viewed at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/SuicidePrevention.htm>.

For more information on suicide prevention, including information on learning the signs of suicidal behavior and a Prevention Resource Directory, go to <http://dhhs.nv.gov/SuicidePrevention.htm>. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the Nevada Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-877-885-HOPE (4673), or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

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