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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEVADA MEDICAID AWARDED \$1.4 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT**

**Carson City**—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden and Division of Health Care Financing & Policy (DHCFP) Administrator Charles Duarte announced today that Nevada Medicaid has been awarded a two-year federal Medicaid Transformation Grant of \$1,488,033. The grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will assist DHCFP in developing a statewide interoperable health information technology platform, which will enable the exchange of clinical data to create greater efficiencies in health care delivery by reducing redundancy and enabling the sharing of data to improve health care quality.

The Medicaid Transformation Grant program was funded by Congress as a part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to assist states in transforming Medicaid programs primarily through the use of health information technology.

The Building Value Through the Nevada Partnership for Value Driven Health Care proposal submitted by the State in partnership with *HealthInsight* (the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Nevada and Utah) includes private and public health care insurers, health care providers, and consumer groups. The goal of the partnership is to use health information technology to improve transparency of health care price and quality information, and to use incentives to promote improvements in cost-efficiency and quality.

“The partnership will enable Nevada Medicaid and other stakeholders in improving the efficiency of health care services delivered to the more than 174,000 Nevadan’s in the program, as well as serve as a springboard for improving health care for all Nevadans,” Duarte said.

Marc Bennett, President & CEO of *HealthInsight*, said, “This funding will provide huge leverage for the partnership in its mission to transform health care in Nevada, and will provide the electronic infrastructure to do so. We are proud to work with Nevada Medicaid to spearhead this statewide activity.”

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Under the Building Value Through the Nevada Partnership for Value Driven Health Care plan, a statewide data warehouse that will enable the partnership to collect and analyze health care data at multiple levels will be developed. That information will be used to create comparative reports on quality, price, and utilization of services. Ultimately, the data will be used to assist health care providers in improving overall cost and efficiency. Part of the grant funding may also be used to develop strategies to reward providers that achieve improvements in the overall quality and cost of health care services they provide.

For more information on the Division of Health Care Financing & Policy and Nevada Medicaid, go to <http://dhcfp.state.nv.us>.

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