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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEVADA PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden and Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS) Administrator Harold Cook proudly announced today that a program created by the Desert Regional Center (DRC) was recently showcased in a national publication for its positive affect on the community.

Capstone, a publication of The Council on Quality and Leadership (CLQ), a national accreditation organization that has been at the forefront of the movement to improve the quality of services and supports for people with intellectual disabilities and people with mental illness for three decades, included an article in its spring edition entitled, "What Happens in Vegas...Should Happen Everywhere," which highlights DRC's Value Added Work Groups program. The lead sentence in the article states:

In a town that elicits visions of lights, stage singers, Elvis weddings and high rollers, Desert Regional Center (DRC) is looking beneath the glitter to the elements that make it a community for the people who live there.

To improve service to the community, DRC developed Value Added Work Groups in seven categories: Education/Self Improvement, Transportation, Employment, Housing, Recreation and Leisure, Responsive Services®, and Social Capital. Each Work Group is comprised of community members, DRC staff, people with disabilities, and family members of people with disabilities.

"I am very proud of the effort and work that went into this outstanding program, which we know will have a positive outcome for the community we serve," Cook said.

DRC Director Nancy Knox added, "I am very fortunate to lead such a hard working and dedicated staff."

To view the entire CLQ article, go to <http://www.thecouncil.org/capstone/capstonespring2008.pdf>.
To learn more about services available through MHDS, go to <http://mhds.nv.gov>.

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