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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
OFFICE IN WINNEMUCCA RELOCATING**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden and Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) Administrator Nancy Ford announced today that beginning February 4, 2008, the DWSS branch office located in Winnemucca will temporarily relocate to 3140 Traders Way. The new location affords DWSS the opportunity to provide uninterrupted services to Winnemucca residents while other community options to determine a suitable long term business location are explored. The same location presently houses the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services office.

DWSS staff will be available at the new location each business day from 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM to discuss public programs, accept applications, and to answer customer questions. Beginning on February 4, clients may contact the Winnemucca office at (775) 623-6580. Clients seeking specific information about their own case may also utilize the DWSS 24 hour computer voice response unit at 1-800-992-0900.

Willden said the move was necessitated by the loss of a lease at the agency's present location. He said the closure was not part of the Governor's Budget Reduction Plan, and that DHHS had been working with local leaders and the Nevada Division of Buildings and Grounds to find a suitable location for several months.

Willden and Ford both expressed their gratitude to the community for their overwhelming support in assisting with the identification of temporary space for the DWSS office to utilize before a more permanent location can be finalized. "We appreciate that several individuals and groups were working closely with us to find a location that would allow us to continue to provide the people of Winnemucca with the services needed in the community," Willden said. He added the long term goal of the Department is to add to additional staff members in the Winnemucca, bringing the total to four, which would allow for Medicaid cases now processed in Elko and Ely to be transferred back to Winnemucca.

For more information about DWSS and the various programs offered, go to <http://welfare.state.nv.us>, or call (775) 684-0500.

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