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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR MHDS HIRED
Position will be moved to Southern Nevada**

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 announced today that Richard Failla (FI-ee-lah) has been hired as the Division's Deputy Administrator, effective May 1, 2008.

Cook said that Failla was chosen following a national search to fill the number two position within MHDS. Cook added the position is being relocated to Southern Nevada after historically being housed in Carson City to increase the Division's presence in Clark County and to provide for better networking between the agency's four mental health hospitals.

"We are very fortunate to be able to bring someone of Mr. Failla's knowledge and background to the state as we continue our efforts to improve the quality and care provided to those who need mental health care," Cook said. "I want to place a greater emphasis on the services we provide in Clark County. Mr. Failla's experience in running private psychiatric hospitals over a number of years will certainly enable MHDS to better move in that direction."

Failla served as Chief Executive Officer for several psychiatric hospitals, including stints in Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, and Texas. He most recently held the position of Regional CEO for Prairie Saint Johns Behavioral Healthcare Systems of Woodbury, Minnesota.

Failla earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Northeastern State University, and a Masters of Science in Applied Behavioral Studies from Oklahoma State University. His professional memberships include the American Hospital Association and the national Association of Psychiatric Healthcare Systems. Failla will earn a salary of \$103,332.

MHDS is one of the largest state government agencies in Nevada, employing more than 1,900 in eight locations in Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, and in each rural county. In addition to directly providing mental health and developmental disability services statewide, the Division

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oversees the state's substance abuse and treatment programs. MHDS has an annual budget of more than \$320 million.

For more information about MHDS and the services the agency provides, go to <http://mhds.nv.gov>.

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