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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEVADA ACADEMY OF HEALTH MEETS FOR FIRST TIME Appointees will help shape future of health care in Nevada**

**Carson City**—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that the Nevada Academy of Health, created during the 2007 legislative session by Senate Bill 171 ([http://leg.state.nv.us/74th/Bills/SB/SB171\\_EN.pdf](http://leg.state.nv.us/74th/Bills/SB/SB171_EN.pdf)), met for the first time this afternoon. Willden said the meeting was very productive, and that at the next meeting (yet to be determined), the members would solidify short and long term goals for improving health care in Nevada.

“The discussion centered around establishing short term goals that would produce the quickest ‘bang for a buck’ by determining the cost allocation benefits of adapting more immediate measures, while also creating long term recommendations to be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature for consideration,” Willden said.

Already produced studies—such as the 2006 Governor’s Medical Education, Research, and Training Study and the 2007 Nevada Strategic Health Care Plan—were also a focus of the discussion at today’s meeting.

The Nevada Academy of Health is tasked with performing duties as assigned by SB 171, including:

- Studying issues related to health care in Nevada, including medical education and training of providers.
- Establishing standards and goals concerning the provision of health care.
- Analyzing and evaluating data related to health care.
- Providing recommendations concerning the establishment of a statewide biomedical and health research program.

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The Nevada Academy of Health will also provide assistance and technical expertise that will be used to improve health care in Nevada, and secure advice and recommendations from consumers, as well as experts in the field of health care.

Academy members, six appointed by the Governor and six appointed by legislative leadership, include:

**Governor Appointees:**

- Kathleen Conaboy, Government Affairs Director, McDonald Carano
- Dr. Daniel Goodenberger, University School of Medicine (UNSOM) Chair, Dept. of Internal Medicine
- Elena Lopez-Bowlen, APN
- Dr. Michael Rodolico, Executive Director, Health Access Washoe County (HAWC)
- Bill Welch, Executive Director, Nevada Hospital Association
- Cynthia Kiser Murphey, President and COO, New York, New York

**Legislative Appointees**

- Mike Uboldi, President, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center
- Dr. Linda Ash-Jackson, Medical Director for Hometown Health/Care Coordination at Renown Health
- Bobbette Bond, Culinary Union Health Fund
- Dr. John Ellerton, Chief of Staff, UMC
- Dr. Mary Guinan, Nevada State Health Officer and Dean of UNLV's School of Public Health
- Dr. Weldon Havins Jr., President, Clark County Medical Society

In addition, Willden represents DHHS on the Academy Board, and Dr. Maurizio Trevisan, Vice Chancellor and CEO of the University of Nevada Health Sciences System, represents the Nevada Board of Regents.

At today's meeting, Cynthia Kiser Murphey and Dr. Mike Rodolico were unanimously elected Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

For more information about the Nevada Academy of Health, go to the "What's New" box on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.nv.gov>. The website contains various reports, agendas and minutes, and other pertinent information relating to the Nevada Academy of Health.

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