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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR HIRES
BEN KIECKHEFER AS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Director Mike Willden today announced the hiring of Ben Kieckhefer as the department's new public information officer.

Kieckhefer most recently served as communications director to Governor Jim Gibbons and before that worked for a private advertising and public relations firm in Reno. Kieckhefer previously worked as a reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal, the Associated Press and Copley News Service, among other organizations.

"Bringing in someone with Ben's background will be invaluable to the department," Willden said. "He has a strong knowledge of state government, the legislative process and has good working relationships with reporters throughout the state. I'm sure he will be an excellent PIO for our department."

Kieckhefer is taking over a post most recently filled by Steve George, who left the position to take the job of senior deputy treasurer.

"It's truly an honor to be working in the Department of Health and Human Services," Kieckhefer said. "This department touches nearly every person living in Nevada in one way or another, and I'm excited by the opportunity."

Kieckhefer's first day is today.