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Lynn O'Mara Appointed Health Information Technology Project Manager

(Carson City, NV) – Department of Health and Human Services Director Michael Willden today announced the appointment of Lynn O'Mara as the state's Health Information Technology Project Manager.

O'Mara will coordinate and manage activities to develop a statewide health information exchange that will improve health care in Nevada through better coordination between physicians, quicker access to laboratory and medical test results, enhanced e-prescribing and the broader use of electronic health records, among other tools.

"Ms. O'Mara brings a wealth of knowledge to this newly created position," Willden said. "Her experience as a health care provider and in high tech, public health, corporate communications and strategic planning will be important as we move forward with Nevada's health information exchange implementation."

In early 2010 states will be receiving federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants to plan and develop a statewide health information exchange. O'Mara will work with the Governor's Health Information Technology Task Force to submit Nevada's grant application and oversee the planning and implementation.

The first meeting of the task force will be held Friday, Oct. 9 at 9 a.m. in room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas. It will also be video conferenced to the Legislative Building in Carson City, Room 2134.

With the State Health Division since April 2004, O'Mara has provided program management for various initiatives related to medical facilities and health plans, including improving access to services and quality of care. In January 2008, management of the state's Primary Care Office was added to her responsibilities, and she led a much-needed reengineering of the J-1 Visa Waiver program for foreign-born physicians.

(more)

O'Mara has also served as a division legislative liaison, and co-authored legislation passed during the most recent session of the Nevada Legislature.

“There are numerous possibilities for using HIE and technology to achieve cost-effective, high quality health care for all Nevadans,” O'Mara said. “The critical challenges will be establishing a sustainable statewide health technology infrastructure, leveraging the investments already made by the health care community and ensuring the privacy and security of personal health information. I look forward to working with the Task Force and stakeholders to resolve the issues and meet state needs.”

O'Mara earned a Bachelor of Arts from Rosary College and spent ten years working as a Registered Dietitian providing direct patient care and managing clinical staff at both large teaching and small community hospitals in Chicago and southern California. During that time, she earned her Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. Prior to moving to Nevada, Ms. O'Mara spent over ten years in high tech corporate communications and marketing. She has also been an instructor at the Reno campus of the University of Phoenix.

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