



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Telephone (775) 684-4000 • Fax (775) 684-4010
<http://dhhs.nv.gov>

December 31, 2015

Jeff Fontaine, Chairperson
Grants Management Advisory Committee
c/o Nevada Association of Counties
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Fontaine:

Thank you for the letter you recently sent to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Richard Whitley on behalf of the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC). He appreciates your committee's perspective on the utilization of data collected through the 2016 Statewide Community Needs Assessment and asked me to respond.

As DHHS Director, Mr. Whitley's vision is to eliminate the silos that exist in the State system and encourage agencies to partner in ways that reduce duplication of effort and maximize resources. Your recommendation to more broadly apply the information collected for the development of the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) spending plan is very much aligned with that vision. Statutory compliance may be the driving force behind the needs assessment, but the data can most certainly serve a larger purpose.

This approach makes sense not only from a progressive standpoint but also as a practical matter. FHN dollars are often co-mingled with other funding sources to support projects. A good example of this is under the purview of the GMAC. FHN and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG/Title XX) money are combined to finance Hunger One-Stop Shops. Using the FHN needs assessment data to build a budget that recognizes how various funding sources are intertwined can only strengthen the overall effort.

Again, thank you for conveying the GMAC's perspective about the 2016 Statewide Community Needs Assessment. It was a valuable message and will help us enter into the New Year with high ideals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dena Schmidt".

Dena Schmidt
DHHS Deputy Director of Programs