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**State Names New Administrator for Public and Behavioral Health
Cody Phinney to move from clinic management to oversee statewide division**

Carson City, NV— The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has named one of its longtime employees as the new administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH).

Cody Phinney was appointed on Aug. 11, after having spent the last three years as the clinical program manager for Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, a 30-bed psychiatric hospital and community-based mental health clinic operated by DPBH. Phinney has worked in mental health for the state since 1998.

“I have dedicated my career to serving the health of Nevadans,” Phinney said. “I started my career with training in population health, then spent 15 years in direct service agencies working with Nevadans who have mental illness. I am so excited to be in this role that will allow me to put those two pieces together. I am truly honored to have been chosen to take on this challenge. There are so many opportunities for Nevada to build on our public health foundation.”

Phinney graduated from the University of California, Davis, with a bachelor’s degree in international relations and a minor in community nutrition in 1994. She then went on to earn a master’s of public health, with a concentration in health services administration, from San Diego State University in 1998. Afterwards, she started her career with the state of Nevada as a quality assurance specialist with the then-Nevada Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

“Ms. Phinney is already very familiar with Nevada’s behavioral health system and combined with her public health education she will be a benefit to the health and wellness of all Nevadans,” DHHS Director Richard Whitley said.

Phinney is set to begin in her new position on Aug. 24. She takes over for Marta Jensen, who has been the acting administrator since June 2015. Phinney is a Nevada native, having spent her youth in Tonopah, Las Vegas and Sparks. Currently, she is raising her own family in Reno.

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