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State Opens Stein Forensic Unit in Las Vegas

Stein Forensic Unit will serve patients who need treatment in their communities

Las Vegas, NV — Nevada health officials have opened the Stein Forensic Unit on the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health campus after extensive renovations to the building in an ongoing effort to improve the state's delivery of mental health services.

Stein will house 47 psychiatric patients who are undergoing evaluation and treatment to establish their mental competency to proceed in the legal system. Full capacity is expected to be reached in February 2016. The opening of Stein will help the state provide treatment to these individuals within seven days of the court order in their individual cases.

"The opening of the Stein Forensic Unit is a critical step to ensuring Nevada maintains a strong mental health system that provides quality care," said Governor Brian Sandoval. "By increasing funding, modifying our delivery of care, and expanding services, Nevada is better positioned to care for some of the most vulnerable in our communities. I remain committed to working with stakeholders, advocates, and medical professionals to find additional solutions to better serve the individuals living with behavioral health conditions in Nevada."

"We are excited about the opening of the new forensic unit at the Stein building," said Dr. Tracey Green, the state's chief medical officer. "The Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Department of Health and Human Services are committed to providing timely, quality care to the state's residents. The Stein Forensic Unit will help residents of Southern Nevada receive care in their home community as well as expand available statewide services."

Renovations to Stein included the installation of a security control room, improvements to the plumbing systems and modernizing the treatment facilities. To support the operation of the Stein unit, the Nevada Legislature approved approximately \$23 million in funding over the biennium, including \$9.3 million for new personnel, \$10.3 million for current personnel and \$3.4 million for operating costs.

The Stein building, which is nearly 40 years old, has been closed since the opening of Rawson-Neal Psychiatric Hospital. In recent years, Nevada health officials have evaluated and treated all individuals needing to restore mental competency at the 86-bed Lakes Crossing facility in Sparks. The opening of Stein adds to the state's capacity to help the population needing forensic mental health treatment and represents significant progress in ensuring adequate service is available.

“The need for this service is increasing rapidly,” said Cody Phinney, administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, which operates the Stein facility. “Opening this capacity is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to keep up with that increase while maintaining the health and safety of staff and patients.”

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