

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Governor



MICHAEL J. WILLDEN  
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(ADSD)  
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Carson City, Nevada 89706

Nevada State Health Division  
4150 Technology Way  
Carson City, NV 89706

Developmental Services  
c/o Mental Health and Developmental Services  
4126 Technology Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Carson City, NV 89706

RE: Agency Consolidation

Dear ADSD, EIS and DS Staff:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is continuing the consolidation of disability services into one agency. In 2009, DHHS combined the Office of Disability Services with the Division for Aging Services to form the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD). The Department is proposing to further consolidate disability services by transferring Developmental Services (DS) from the Mental Health and Developmental Services Division (MHDS), and Early Intervention Services (NEIS) from the Health Division to the Aging and Disability Services Division. The alignment of DHHS programs providing care across the life span will enhance Nevada's efforts to create a system that is accessible, flexible and sustainable.

Aging and Disability Services, Developmental Services and Early Intervention Services currently have a similar service delivery model. The model focuses on delivery of high quality, community based services that are person directed and provides the individual personal choice. The merger of these programs will allow consolidation of effort in areas such as staff training, grant writing, quality assurance, provider development, and contract monitoring. Additionally, the integration will reduce duplication of services, align provider requirements and expectations as well as, provide a seamless transition between service areas and across the life span.

The Divisions of Aging and Disability Services, Mental Health and Developmental Services and Health will continue to partner with consumers, staff, community providers and partners to assure input from all interested parties. Consumers, staff and community partners will have an opportunity to participate in facilitated focus groups, on-line surveys, and town hall style meetings throughout Nevada to assist in creating the vision for the integrated division and to develop a transition plan for implementation.

The integration will focus on developing a system of care which utilizes all available resources to deliver effective supports in a timely manner. DHHS will be utilizing all existing state positions in the Division of Aging and Disability Services, Developmental Services, and Early Intervention Services to support this consolidation effort.

Change can be stressful, but we are counting on you to assist the Department in its effort to improve our services and promote easier access for the children and families who rely on our services. In an effort to keep consumers, staff and community partners updated on the process and the opportunities to participate in the system change initiatives, a communication plan is being developed. The communication plan will include a web page located on the DHHS website which will be updated periodically to include opportunities for participation by interested parties. The web page should be available in mid-December. Directions for accessing the web page will be distributed by participating programs.

I am counting on your support as we move forward with this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Willden  
Director

cc: Jane Gruner, Deputy Director--Programs