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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RICHARD WHITLEY NAMED
NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that he has appointed Richard Whitley as the Administrator for the Nevada State Health Division, effective January 28, 2008. Whitley will replace Alex Haartz, who is leaving DHHS to join the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

“Richard is well respected by those he works with, is very experienced in a wide variety of public health issues, and has extensive knowledge about the Health Division, having served as Deputy Administrator,” Willden said. Whitley has been the Deputy Administrator of the Health Division since November 2004.

As Administrator, Whitley will have direct oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Health Division, which is responsible for promoting and protecting the health of all Nevadans and visitors to the state through leadership in public health initiatives, coupled with enforcement of the public health laws and regulations. The Health Division, guided by the State Board of Health, consists of six bureaus, more than 600 full-time and temporary state employees, and has an annual budget of \$160 million.

Previous to becoming Deputy Administrator, Whitley served as the Chief of the Bureau of Community Health where he was responsible for administering state and federal chronic, communicable, and vaccine preventable disease programs in the state.

Whitley began state service as the senior psychologist for the Nevada Women's Correctional Facility in 1986.

Whitley holds a baccalaureate degree from Willamette University in Oregon, and a Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Western Oregon State College.

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Of his appointment, Whitley said, “I appreciate the opportunity to serve Nevada’s residents and visitors in this capacity, and look forward to continuing the efforts of the Health Division to provide the people of Nevada with the best health protection possible.”

Whitley will earn a salary of \$112,529. However, he opted to take a 4.5 % salary reduction to show his personal commitment to helping the Division through the budget challenges now being faced by the state.

For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, go to <http://health.nv.gov>.

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