

**Richard Whitley, MS
Administrator**

**Mary Guinan, M.D., PhD
Acting State Health Officer**



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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division Announces Primary Care Advisory Council

Seven-Member Panel to Assist with J-1 Physician Visa Waivers

Carson City -- Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) Administrator Richard Whitley appointed seven members to serve on the new Primary Care Advisory Council for the Health Planning Unit's Primary Care Office. The Council provides guidance and counsel to the Administrator and the Health Planning Program Manager, who are responsible for the federal J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Program in Nevada. Council membership consists of six members from the private sector, one member from Nevada Medicaid, four non-voting ex-officio members from NSHD, and one non-voting ex-officio member from the Office of the Attorney General.

"I am pleased that these seven members are willing to share their experience, expertise, and insights to assist the Health Division with more effective administration and enhanced oversight of the J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Program," said Richard Whitley. "Their guidance regarding the Division's primary care development activities will be important, as we increase our efforts to recruit and retain primary care providers for greater access to health care services here in the Silver State."

The seven Council members are:

- * Gabriel Bonnet, M.D., Retired Pediatrician/Neonatologist and Former Medical Director, Renown Health, Reno, NV
- * Senator Maggie Carlton, Community Development Director, Great Basin Primary Care Association, Las Vegas, NV
- * Caroline Ford, M.P.H., Assistant Dean/Director, Center for Education and Health Services Outreach, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, NV
- * Carl Heard, M.D., Interim CEO and Chief Medical Officer, Nevada Health Centers, Inc., Carson City, NV
- * Lawrence P. Matheis, Executive Director, Nevada State Medical Association, Las Vegas, NV
- * Amir Z. Qureshi, M.D., Infectious Diseases Specialist, Las Vegas, NV
- * Mary Wherry, R.N., M.S., Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Carson City, NV

(MORE)



Richard Whitley, Administrator

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The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Friday, April 11, 2008, from 9:00 am to noon, at the **Las Vegas Medicaid District Office, 1210 South Valley View, Suite 104, Las Vegas, NV 89102**. Amir Qureshi, M.D. will chair the meeting, which will also be **videoconferenced** to:

- Carson City (Division of Health Care Financing and Policy Main Office, 1100 East William Street, Suite 101, Carson City, NV 89701)
- Elko (Division of Health Care Financing and Policy Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 103, Elko, NV 89801)
- Reno (Division of Health Care Financing and Policy Reno Office, 1030 Bible Way, Reno, NV 89502).

All Council meetings will be conducted in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 241, known as “Nevada’s Open Meeting Law.” The public is invited to attend the meetings, and offer public comment on the agenda topics.

For more information, please contact Martha Framsted, NSHD Public Information Officer: 775-684-4014.

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