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**Page 1 of 1**

## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Chief Biostatistician Appointment Announced**

*Carson City* – Jay Kvam, a Nevada resident, was recently named Chief Biostatistician for the state of Nevada. The State Biostatistician works within the Nevada State Health Division.

Jay, a Carson City native, attended Claremont McKenna College in Los Angeles for his undergraduate studies, and holds a Master of Science in Public Health from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University located in New Orleans. He is currently enrolled in the Public Health doctoral program at the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Jay served as an intern with the Health Division in 2006, and has been with the state of Nevada since 2008.

In his former position as a Healthcare Facilities Epidemiologist, the focus area of his position was on healthcare facility data and reporting, particularly with respect to inspections, complaints, sentinel events, and healthcare-associated infections. Jay's work included re-developing the Sentinel Events Registry to make it more accurate, robust, active, and provider-engaged and initiating the roll out of the National Healthcare Safety Network for healthcare-associated infection tracking among mandatory reporting facilities. For both of these activities, Jay has sought to improve the Division's web posting and reporting, yet much improvement lies ahead to make information more accessible and useful.

"I am really enthusiastic about this opportunity," said Jay. "Sometimes government can get bogged down, but Nevada is just the right size to be nimble, which is a strength we can play to. Also, our Health Division has the resources to be effective in producing innovative reports and web services the public will be pleased with."

Biostatistics refers to applying statistical processes and methods to the analysis of biological phenomena. Among Jay's duties will be developing statistical analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of various state health care programs, and identifying which health problems require research and resolution.

"Jay is a dedicated, hard-working individual," said Richard Whitley, Administrator of the State Health Division. "We are fortunate to have him on our team."

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



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Richard Whitley, Administrator

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