

Richard Whitley, M.S.  
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.  
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO  
Phone Number: 775.684.4014  
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## NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

### Marla McDade Williams Receives Award from the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC)

*Carson City* – The Health Division’s Deputy Administrator, Marla McDade Williams has been awarded the Lois Johnson Administrative Advocate award by NDALC. Williams will be presented with the award during the Advocacy Awards ceremony on June 24, 2010.

Williams is being honored for her work on the chemical restraint issues that occurred in southern Nevada and for improving the quality of care for people with mental illness. This honor has been awarded to three people previously and is named for Lois Johnson, a long time and respected NDALC employee who passed away in 2006.

“This is truly an honor,” said Williams. “Protecting the rights of all Nevadans, especially those with disabilities is something that I take very seriously.”

The NDALC is a private, non-profit organization that serves as Nevada’s federally-mandated protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities. Since 2001, NDALC has hosted the Advocacy Awards to honor extraordinary efforts of individuals and agencies that have protected the right of Nevadans with disabilities. NDALC has offices in Las Vegas, Reno/Sparks, and Elko with services provided statewide.

“Ms. Williams’ dedication to protecting the rights of all Nevadans with mental illness is something to be recognized,” said Jack Mayes, NDALC Executive Director.

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

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Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211  
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