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Release Date: Friday, December 07, 2012  
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## NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

### Bureau Chief Appointment Announced

*Carson City* – Chad Westom was recently named chief for the Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology and Response (HSPER), a bureau within the Nevada State Health Division. He replaces Luana Ritch, who is now with the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

Chad earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management at the University of Houston. He is also a graduate of the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute, and is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

In his former position as manager within the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC), Chad oversaw all complaint investigations, including those involving unlicensed physicians and facilities and illness outbreaks. In that role, Chad developed a new team that focused specifically on health facility investigations. The program rapidly increased the satisfaction of consumers reporting concerns, as well as satisfaction of licensed facilities. Response times for the investigations improved dramatically. Systems were overhauled which generated substantial increases in the efficiency and effectiveness of the investigations.

Prior to that, Chad held other positions within the Health Division, including managing the Environmental Health Program. Other career highlights include a director of operations position for a nationwide quality assurance and training company, and a position held with NSF International.

“I am very enthusiastic about this opportunity,” said Chad. “My 20 years of experience administering and managing private and public health programs has provided a solid base for success in this position.”

“Chad is a dedicated, hard-working individual,” said Richard Whitley, Administrator of the State Health Division. “I’m proud of his accomplishments at HCQC, and I looking forward to working with him as the Health Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology and Response bureau chief.”

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



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