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Division of Public and Behavioral Health

NEWS RELEASE

Awards from the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) Presented to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Carson City – The Division recently received awards from NPHA at their annual conference held this month. This year the Division received the 2013 Public Health Program of the Year and Julia Peek, manager of the Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology received the 2013 Public Health Leadership award.

The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health has taken great strides over the past few years in aligning programs to make a greater positive impact on the health of Nevadans. The recent merger of the Nevada State Health Division and the State Mental Health Division is one such step. Another important step is working towards national voluntary public health department accreditation for the organization to position itself to meet the future health challenges in Nevada. Accreditation of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health by 2016 will open the door for better resources including funding and quality public health professionals. In addition to this, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health is a leading employer of graduates of the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and University of Nevada Reno's (UNR) public health programs, at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels.

Over the past few years, Julia Peek has become an invaluable asset to the Nevada public health community by taking on an extensive mentorship role for Master of Public Health (MPH) students at UNR and UNLV as a preceptor for multiple students each year. This year, she took on six interns from the UNR MPH program covering a variety of topics. She has quickly become a "go to" and preferred preceptor for the MPH program. Not only are MPH students given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience at the state government level under her tutelage, oftentimes, she works tirelessly to provide them post-internship employment opportunities as well. Peek plays a vital role in mentoring and preparing the next generation of public health professionals to make significant impacts on the overall health status of the state of Nevada.

The Division also received recognition certificates from Senator Reid's and Senator Heller's offices.

For more information about the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, go to:
<http://health.nv.gov>.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Whitley".

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