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Division of Public and Behavioral Health

NEWS RELEASE

The State Office of Vital Records Continues to Improve

Carson City – The Office of Vital Records (OVR) within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) recently received almost \$218,000 to improve the quality of cause of death information on mortality records. This is a two year endeavor.

The state OVR along with local partners will collect data on all deaths in a timely manner. The success will be measured by two goals:

- Eighty percent (80%) of coroner or medical examiner records submitted to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within 10 days of the date of death
- Less than 5% of death records having an un-specified drug for drug poisoning deaths


Another area of improvement that was recognized was the 2013 change to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) which requires Nevada's medical certifiers to submit the cause of death on each death they register and to sign their submission electronically. Nevada has had the Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) since 2006, however the new mandate was the tool that OVR needed in order to make the system fully electronic. Prior to the mandate, several hundred physicians were using the EDRS to certify deaths, and overall about 20% of death records were filed electronically.

Chad Westom, Chief, Bureau of Preparedness, Assurance, Inspections and Statistics (PAIS) said, "As of July of 2016, 93% of all death for the year had been registered, and 100% of those were registered electronically. The seven percent that had not yet been registered as of July were records that had just recently been entered into the system or coroner cases that were pending. Fax and paper are no longer used, which decreases the amount of time in order to process the death record."

The information about the second area of improvement was obtained from the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems' (NAPHSIS) article that was sent out to vital records offices throughout the country.

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