

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

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



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
Release Date: August 25, 2011
Page 1 of 2

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION
NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY and COMPLIANCE
INVESTIGATES ABUSE AT A LAS VEGAS GROUP HOME AND
INTERVENES, PROTECTING RESIDENTS

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance issued a Summary Suspension of a health license to a Las Vegas residential care facility for verbal and physical abuse and financial exploitation of its residents.

The Bureau conducted a joint investigation of Las Vegas Home Sweet Home, 2615 Lindell Road, with Elder Protective Services and Aging & Disability Services on August 16 and 17, 2011. The facility is licensed for ten dependent care residents. The investigation resulted from a shouting match between one of the elderly residents and the onsite manager, and physical abuse of the same resident. The resident and two other witnesses observed the elderly resident being yelled at, grabbed and pulled down the hallway. Once on the floor, witnesses state the resident was dragged down the hall by her ankle, while she was kicking and screaming. The bruises on the resident matched the reported abuse. That resident was removed from the home by Elder Protective Services and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police for suspected physical abuse.

Financial exploitation of residents was also identified during the investigation. Social security checks and other funds up to \$3,000 were found being deposited in to the personal accounts of caregivers, in violation of state requirements. Caregivers were also found taking more money than necessary for grocery store purchases and not returning it to the residents.

Las Vegas Home Sweet Home has been investigated and fined repeatedly by the Bureau in recent years. Since it was determined that residents were not safe as a result of chronic, repeated non-compliance, and the facility was allowing practices dangerous to the health and safety of the residents, a Summary Suspension of the license was issued on August 17, 2011. All residents were moved from the facility on August 18, 2011.

The Bureau issues press releases about the facilities it regulates in limited circumstances: where major public health concerns are identified in licensed facilities; in significant cases of repeat violations in licensed facilities; in cases of the suspension or revocation of a license; in cases where patient harm has occurred; and in cases where unlicensed facilities are operating.

(MORE)



Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
NEVADA STATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation, enforcement and education. This mission is accomplished through the Bureau's two sections: Licensure and Certification, which regulates facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, hospitals, outpatient surgery centers and laboratories; and Radiological Health, which evaluates and responds to hazards from sources of ionizing radiation such as X-ray machines, sources of radiation to treat cancer and mammography units.

For health facilities, more than 900 surveys and 1,200 complaint investigations are conducted each year of Nevada's licensees.

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

###