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Guinn Center Provides Report to Help Inform Transformation of Nevada's Mental Health System

LAS VEGAS, NV— Nevada is exploring how to move from a governance system that is centrally controlled by the state to one that provides more local input and is responsive to community needs. To help inform transformation of Nevada's mental health system, the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities has released *Mental Health Governance: A Review of State Models and Guide for Nevada Decision Makers*.

"Before Nevada embarks on an effort to change how mental health services are delivered, it is important to review lessons learned in other states," said Victoria Carreón, Director of Research and Policy at the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. "Nevada is not alone in trying to restructure its mental health system to improve behavioral health outcomes. While every state has a unique history, Nevada can learn from what strategies have been more successful than others." The report reviews governance models throughout the United States and looks in depth at seven states: Arizona, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington.

The report recommends that the Silver State use four guiding principles for developing a quality governance system:

1. Provide the best care at the lowest cost;
2. Encourage savings across programs and agencies;
3. Ensure that money follows the client from the hospital to community; and
4. Hold providers accountable for positive outcomes.

Nevada will also need to consider several key decision points as it develops a new governance structure. The report analyzes the issues Nevada will need to consider in the following areas: overall structure, governing board structure, funding, and outcomes/ information technology.

The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities will be presenting its report to the Nevada Behavioral Health and Wellness Council on December 9, 2014 at 9:00AM at the Legislative Building in Carson City. More information is available at: <http://www.health.nv.gov/BHWC.htm>

The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, bipartisan, policy center focused on providing independent and data-driven analysis of critical policy issues facing Nevada and the Intermountain West. The Guinn Center engages policy-makers, experts, and the public with innovative, fact-based research and analysis to advance policy solutions and inform debate.

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