



UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF NEVADA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

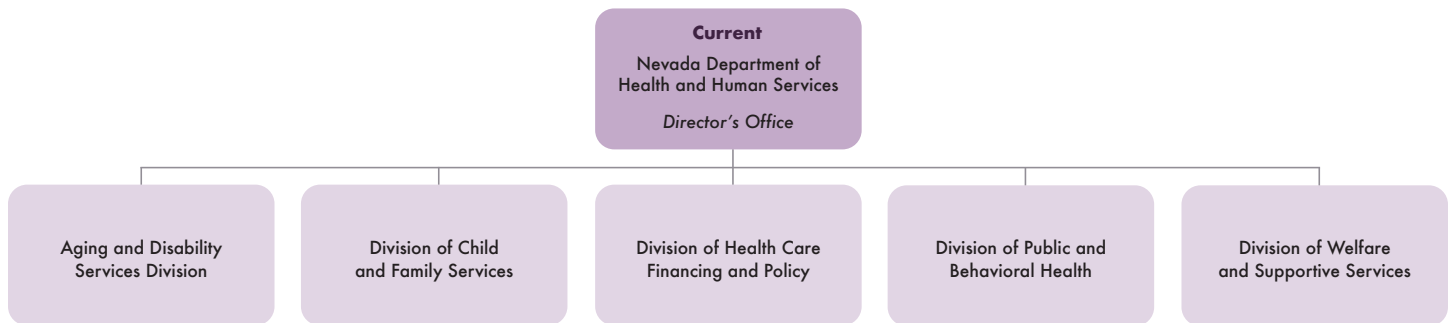
BASED ON THE 2025-2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR JOE LOMBARDO

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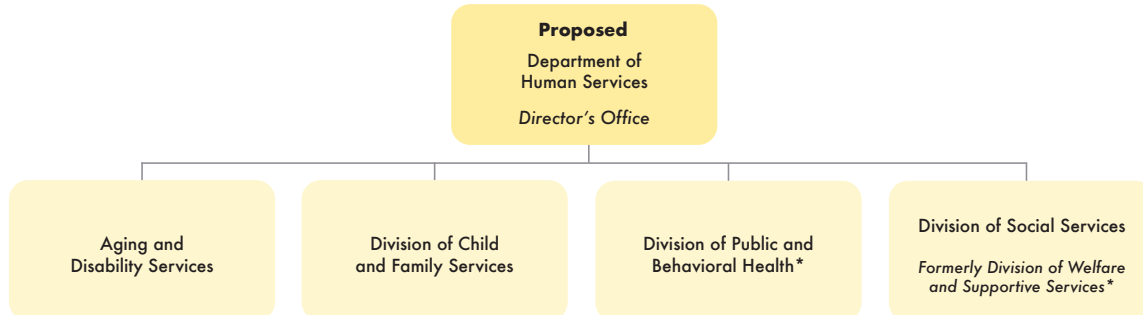
This publication provides an overview of the proposed restructuring of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as described by Governor Joe Lombardo in his January 15, 2025, State of the State Address and as detailed in the Governor's Proposed 2025-2027 Executive Budget. As illustrated on the next page, the Governor aims to split DHHS into two separate state agencies: the Department of Human Services (DHA) and the Nevada Health Authority (NHA). This document includes key considerations for policymakers to contemplate when reviewing legislation and budgets related to this restructuring.



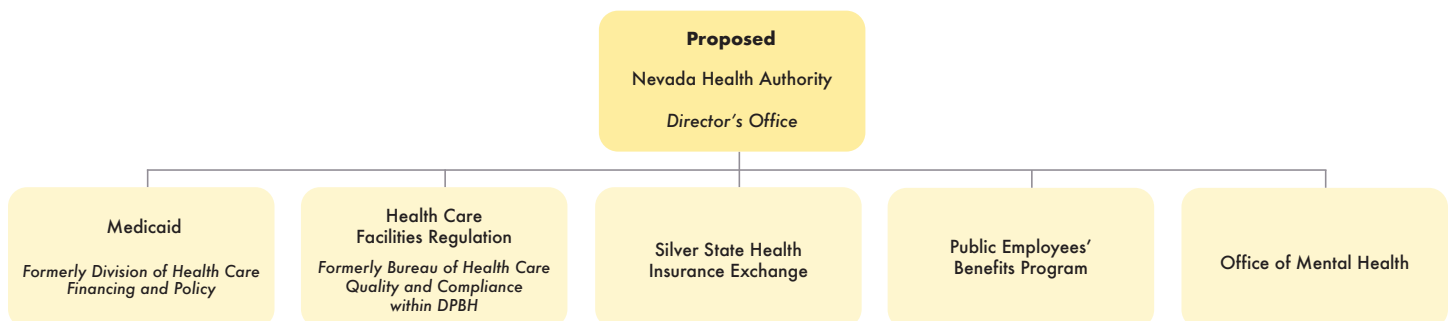
HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IS CURRENTLY ORGANIZED



PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING AND CREATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND NEVADA HEALTH AUTHORITY



**Portions of these Divisions will be moved to Nevada Health Authority in the proposed restructuring as detailed below.*



POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Medicaid Fiscal Health and Compliance

- How will the restructuring affect Nevada’s federal matching formula?
- To maintain federal compliance, Medicaid match dollars cannot pay for non-Medicaid activities. Does this reorganization reduce risk of federal non-compliance?

Data Sharing and Security

- Does restructuring provide an authorization for intra-agency data sharing (e.g. within NHA) and inter-agency data sharing (e.g. between NHA and DHS)?
- Will governance over data security and data sharing be uniform for both agencies? Will governance be tasked to the State’s Chief Data Officer, or the Office of Analytics?

Proposed Organization

- Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico have been cited as states that have taken a similar approach to this restructuring. What are the similarities and differences between those state models and the proposed reorganization here?
- What is the proposed relationship between Medicaid, which enrolls providers, and the Health Care Facilities Regulation Program, which regulates those providers? Are there proposed procedures in place to ensure appropriate coordination?
- Will the restructuring include changes to the State Purchasing Act, under Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 333, with regard to combined purchasing power for the entities under the Nevada Health Authority?
- The majority of regulatory programs (health facilities, medical laboratories, laboratory personnel, environmental health, emergency medical service licensees, child care facility licensing, and others) were under the authority of the Nevada State Board of Health. Will that oversight change as programs become split between the two agencies?

Effect on Nevadans

- Will the restructuring streamline the public’s interfacing with program enrollment and eligibility determination? Note: DHS and NHA both support benefits programs which assess benefit eligibility and disseminate benefits.
- Will the restructuring result in statutory changes to any program eligibility or coverage, whether Medicaid benefits or DHS benefit programs?

Administrative Capacity

- Will the programs moving to NHA be split into Divisions, under the supervision of appointed Administrators, similar to Department of Human Services?
- The Department of Health and Human Services reported a vacancy rate of 13.59 percent as of mid-January 2025. Will the program restructuring increase the need for additional administrative staffing, or other overhead costs?

Chapters of the Nevada Revised Statutes implicated: 31A, 62, 62A, 62B, 62I, 63, 175, 176, 178, 200, 202, 211, 217, 228, 232, 247, 287, 353, 414, 422, 422A, 425, 426, 427A, 428, 432, 432A, 432B, 433, 433A, 433B, 433C, 435, 439, 439A, 439B, 440, 441A, 442, 444, 446, 447, 449, 449A, 450B, 457, 458, 458A, 459, 583, 595, 596, 625A, 640D, 640E, 652, 653, 656A, 695I, and 702.

ABOUT THE GUINN CENTER

The Guinn Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent policy center that seeks to advance evidence-based policy solutions for Nevada through research, public engagement, and partnerships.

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Identify and advance sound policies and actionable solutions that support a thriving and prosperous Nevada.



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Advancing evidence-based policy solutions for Nevada through research, public engagement, and partnerships.