



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

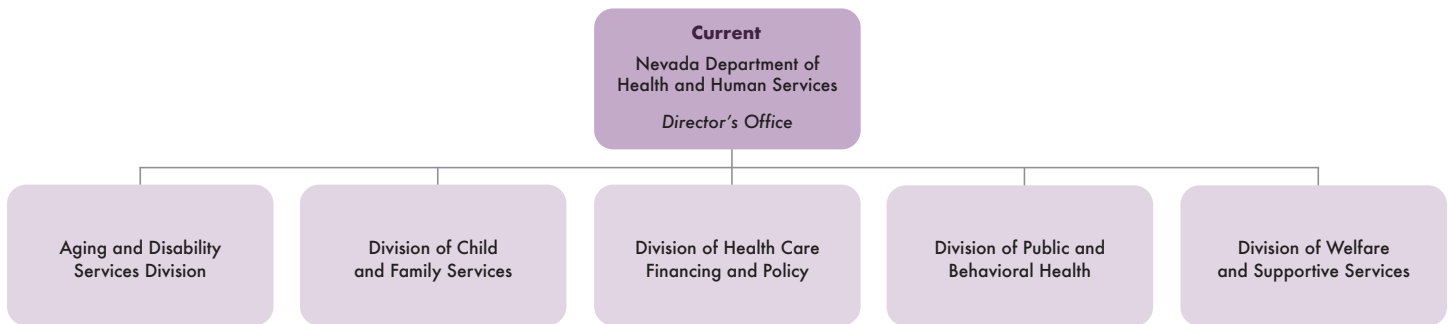
BASED ON THE 2025-2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR JOE LOMBARDO

By Pierron Tackes, Director of Health and Social Policy
Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

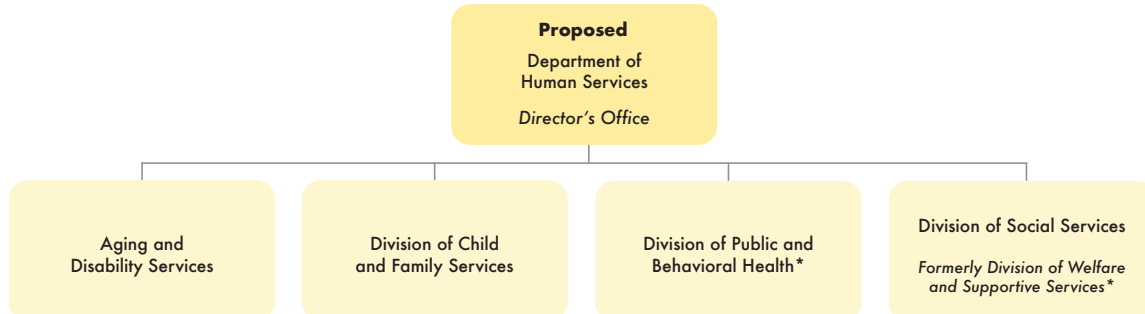
This publication provides an overview of the proposed restructuring of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as described by Governor Joe Lombardo in his January 15, 2025, State of the State Address and as detailed in the Governor's Proposed 2025-2027 Executive Budget. As illustrated on the next page, the Governor aims to split DHHS into two separate state agencies: the Department of Human Services (DHS) 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.*



OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

In addition to a DHS Director's Office, the proposed DHS will include a majority of the programs housed within the Aging and Disability Services Division, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Division of Child and Family Services, as they currently exist in DHHS.



Director's Office

Administration

Grants Management Unit

Fund for Resilient Nevada

Grief Support Trust Account

Private Hospital Collaborative Upper Payment Limit (UPL)

Office of Minority Health

Office of Food Security



Aging and Disability Services Division

Administration

Tobacco Settlement Program (Independent Living Grants)

Family Preservation Program

Commission for Persons who are Deaf

Healthcare Support and Assistance (HSA) Program

Rural Regional Center Office of Consumer Health Assistance (OCHA)

Communication Access Services (CAS)

Autism Treatment and Assistance Program (ATAP)

Home and Community Based Services

Facility Outreach and Community Integration Services (FOCIS)

Early Intervention Services

Planning, Advocacy and Community Services (PAC)

Desert Regional Center

Sierra Regional Center

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)

State Independent Living Council

Office of Community Living (OCL)

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

Medicare Assistance Program (MAP)

State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program



Division of Social Services

(formerly Division of Welfare and Supportive Services)

Administration

Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Child Support Federal Reimbursement

Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) Eligibility

Child Care Licensing

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Welfare Field Services

Child Support Enforcement Program

Child Care and Development Program (CCDP)

Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

Assistance to the Aged and Blind (Supplement Assistance Program)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, CONT.



Division of Child and Family Services

Children, Youth and Family Administration Victim Services Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence Program
 Information Services (IS, formerly UNITY/SACWIS) Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)
 Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) Rural Region Child Welfare Children's Trust Account
 Child Welfare Trust Fund Transition from Foster Care Child Death Review Juvenile Justice Programs Office
 (JJPO) Family Programs Office and Programs Evaluation Office Children's Behavioral Health Authority
 Youth Alternative Placement (China Spring Youth Camp, Aurora Pines Youth Camp, and Spring Mountain Youth Camp)
 Summit View Youth Center (SVYC) Caliente Youth Center (CYC) Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC)
 Youth Parole Services Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services (NNCAS)
 Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services (SNCAS) Victims of Crime Program (VOCP)



Division of Public and Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Administration Primary Care Office (PCO) Nevada Central Cancer Registry
 Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
 (NNAMHS) Crisis Response Account (988) Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment Program
 Health Statistics and Planning (HSP) Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Fund Problem Gambling
 Immunization Program (IZ) Radiation Control Program Family Planning Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 Communicable Diseases (including HIV Prevention and Surveillance, Ryan White Part B, AIDS Drug Assistance
 Program [ADAP], and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Public Health Preparedness
 Program Office of Public Health Investigations and Epidemiology (OPHIE)
 Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH)
 Office of Health Administration (OHA) Community Health Services (CHS)
 Public Health Infrastructure and Improvement Program Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 Tax on Liquor Program Lakes Crossing Center Rural Clinics Nevada Marijuana Registry

NEVADA HEALTH AUTHORITY

In addition to an NHA Director's Office, the proposed NHA will include the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy and the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, currently housed within DHHS. The proposal also moves the Silver State Health Exchange and the Public Employees' Benefits Program into the NHA and creates a new Office of Mental Health.



Health Care Facilities Regulation (formerly the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance within DPBH)

Regulation over the following health facilities, including the imposition and collection of administrative penalties:

Medical Laboratories

Laboratory Personnel

Environmental Health*

Licensing for other professions and programs



Silver State Health Insurance Exchange

Provision of subsidized health insurance for Nevadans, per *Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 695I* and the federal Affordable Care Act.



Public Employees' Benefits Program

Administers group health and life insurance for active and retired state employees.



Office of Mental Health

Governor Lombardo announced during his January 15, 2025, State of the State Address that NHA would include an Office of Mental Health "to expand access to behavioral health services and ensure better coordination of care for Nevada's most vulnerable residents."

LEGEND

- Programs currently within the Department of Health and Human Services Director's Office
- Programs currently within the Department of Health and Human Services Director's Office
- Programs currently within the DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
- Programs currently within the DHHS, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
- Programs currently within the DHHS, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)
- Programs currently within the DHHS, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)
- Program currently with the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology
- Agencies currently outside of DHHS
- Proposed New Office



Director's Office

Nevada Patient Protection Commission

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Office of Analytics (will serve both NHA and DHS)

Indigent Hospital Care

Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act (IDEA) Part C

Public Option

Grants Management Unit



Medicaid (formerly Division of Health Care Financing and Policy)

Administration

Nevada Medicaid (Title XIX)

Increased Quality of Nursing Care Programs

Improve Health Care Quality and Access Program

Intergovernmental Transfer Program

Prescription Drug Rebate Program

Nevada Check Up Program

Graduate Medical Education

*The regulatory oversight pertaining to food establishments, bottled water, and shellfish distributors within the DPBH Environmental Health Section will move to the Department of Agriculture. The remainder of the Environmental Health Section will move into NHA.

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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Mailing Address:
1664 N. Virginia St.
M/S 0289
Reno, NV 89557

Physical Address:
190 E. Liberty St.
Reno, NV 89501



(775) 682-5083



info@guinncenter.org



guinncenter.org



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