

For Immediate Release
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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

TOMORROW, MARCH 14, 2013

Senate HHS Committee to Hold Hearing on Sen. Justin Jones' Mental Health/Firearms Legislation

Committee Will Also Hear from DHHS Officials Regarding Recent Allegations of Patient Dumping

Carson City, NV – Tomorrow, March 14, 2013, the Nevada Senate Health and Human Services Committee will hold a hearing on SB221, State Senator Justin Jones' legislation correcting glaring holes in the reporting of those with severe mental illnesses to criminal background check services. Jones' legislation would also implement background checks for all gun purchases, a measure that enjoys broad support in Nevada and nationwide in the wake of recent tragedies.

Tomorrow the committee will also hold two presentations on the state of mental health care in Nevada. The first presentation will focus on appropriate discharge plans for individuals leaving a state mental health facility and address recent allegations of improper discharge. Presenters include Richard Whitley, the administrator for the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS) and MHDS Medical Director Dr. Tracey Green. The second presentation will be from Dr. Joseph McEllistrem, the Director with the Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team (FASTT) regarding a new program recently implemented in Carson City to break down the silos that exist between the mental health and corrections systems.

What: NV Senate HHS Committee to hold hearings on Senator Justin Jones' mental health legislation, presentations on the state of mental health in Nevada

Where: Nevada Senate Health and Human Services Committee Room, Room 2149

When: TOMORROW, March 14, 2013, at 3:30 pm.

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