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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

RENO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL LICENSE SUSPENDED, FACES CLOSURE

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance has today notified BHC West Hills Hospital, a Reno psychiatric facility for adults, children and adolescents, that it intends to close the facility within 30 days. The Bureau has also immediately suspended the license of the hospital, a 95-bed facility located at 1240 E. Ninth St., after a patient admitted for observation was able to overdose on pills she had brought to the facility with her. The Bureau has concluded the facility cannot ensure patient safety following three serious incidents identified over the past eight months.

The 30-day notice will give the hospital time to relocate the patients currently residing at the facility before license revocation. The notice of summary license suspension prevents the facility from accepting any new patients. There are currently 53 patients at the facility, including 20 adolescents.

Complaints investigated and substantiated at the facility in recent months include:

- On April 4 and 5, 2009, the Bureau determined that an adolescent patient hit another patient.
- On March 6, 2009, a Bureau survey team identified a serious threat to patient safety in which all the doors in the adolescent unit were locked and staff did not have the keys to unlock the doors, creating a major safety issue in the event of a fire.
- On Dec. 25, 2008, two adolescent patients attempted suicide. The patients were not being monitored as required.

The hospital had a three-day ban on new admissions imposed in April, and was assessed a \$5,800 fine, relating to the Dec. 25, 2008 attempted suicide by the two juveniles and other numerous violations of state regulations identified in surveys by Bureau investigators in March and April of 2009.

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Recent surveys of the facility, along with today's Order of Summary Suspension and Revocation of License, can be found here: <http://health.nv.gov/Deficiencies.htm>

The facility can appeal the revocation action being sought by the Bureau but the suspension will not be lifted during any appeal process.

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.

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, ambulatory 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 are conducted each year of Nevada's licensees. More information about the Bureau may be found at: <http://health.nv.gov/>

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