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Release Date: June 10, 2009
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

RENO GROUP CARE HOME FINED \$2,300 for VIOLATIONS INCLUDING FOOD SAFETY and KITCHEN CLEANLINESS CONCERNS

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance has issued a notice of intent to fine a Reno group home \$2,300 after an annual survey uncovered food safety and kitchen cleanliness concerns, among other state regulatory violations. The St. Joseph Care Home-Highland, 456 Highland Ave., is licensed to care for 53 residents with mental illness.

The survey conducted on May 21, 2009 resulted in the facility’s Food Establishment Permit being suspended and meals being provided to residents by an outside caterer. Kitchen deficiencies included meat, eggs and other potentially hazardous foods being stored at improper temperatures for several days, an insect infestation, failure to properly wash and sanitize dishes, a malfunctioning dishwasher due to rodents chewing through chemical lines, no back up refrigeration equipment, unlabeled and uncovered toxic chemicals, and an overall inability to safely prepare food for the residents.

Facility staff were cooperative with Bureau surveyors, who provided training on the food safety and kitchen cleanliness issues during the review. The Food Establishment Permit will be reinstated if a follow-up inspection shows no further concerns.

The Bureau has notified the facility that it will be fined \$800 for the food and kitchen deficiencies. Another \$800 fine is being sought for a separate issue involving the lack of a functioning auditory call system in 12 of 17 resident rooms and seven of eight bathrooms. Two other fines for less serious infractions bring the total to \$2,300, which can be appealed by the facility.

The survey that identified the concerns, along with the notice of intent to fine the facility, can be viewed at the Bureau’s website here: <http://health.nv.gov/Deficiencies.htm/>

(MORE)



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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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