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**Page 1 of 1**

## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **West Hills Hospital Status Update**

*Carson City* – The Nevada State Health Division announced today that BHC West Hills Hospital, located at 1240 E. Ninth St., Reno, NV, is showing improvement in many areas and continues to accept admissions.

Deputy Administrator Mary Wherry, the appointed temporary manager overseeing patient safety at the facility said, “West Hills Hospital’s local and corporate leaders have been investing immediate and significant fiscal and human resources to improve all aspects of quality, with the immediate focus on patient safety. The temporary manager and monitors, with almost daily presence in the facility, have confidence that this facility is providing safe patient care consistent with psychiatric standards of care in the community.”

Facility monitor Mary Wherry holds a baccalaureate degree in Nursing from San Jose State University in California, and Master of Science degrees in Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and Health Policy with a Policy Science Certificate from the University of Maryland. Ms. Wherry has significant clinical psychiatric nursing experience in private, for profit, and not for profit facilities, as well as a manager at the National Institutes of Mental Health. Her experience is broad based with all ages of clients (pediatric through geriatric), all psychiatric diagnoses, and in multiple states.

Dave Damschen, CEO, West Hills Hospital said, “We are pleased with the Health Division’s findings and appreciate the confidence they have shown in West Hills. We continue to be dedicated to providing quality patient care in the Northern Nevada community.”

Earlier this month, the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance notified the hospital of its intent to revoke the facility’s license after a patient admitted for observation on May 30 was able to overdose on pills brought into the facility. The patient, under observation following an attempted suicide, was found in her room several hours later in an impaired state and was sent to an area hospital emergency room for treatment. Pills the patient brought into the facility had been missed in a required search by facility staff.

Recent surveys of the facility, as well as related documents, can be found here:  
<http://health.nv.gov/Deficiencies.htm>

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