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Page 1 of 1

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

LAS VEGAS ALZHEIMER'S FACILITY FINED \$1,600 for FAILURE to PROVIDE APPROPRIATE CARE to RESIDENTS

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance has issued a notice of intent to fine the Good Samaritan Group Home, 3696 S. Pecos Road in Las Vegas, \$1,600 for failing to provide the staffing levels needed for the proper care of its residents. The facility is licensed to care for up to 10 residents suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

During an annual survey of the facility on April 28-29, 2009, it was discovered that there was no caregiver on the premises to watch over the seven residents as required by state regulation. A volunteer was present and cooking breakfast. A resident who was in bed required assistance but there was no one available to help her. Residents who were interviewed indicated they had occasionally been left alone. The survey also disclosed that a caregiver was not always awake and on duty as required by state regulation.

The Bureau has notified the facility that it will be fined \$800 for each of the two staffing violations. The facility can appeal. The facility has submitted a plan to the Bureau to correct the identified deficiencies, which has been found acceptable.

The survey that identified the staffing issues, 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/>

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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