

## DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

04/23 Testimony SB 83  
~~02/26/03~~ 1:30 pm Room 2135  
David A. Rosin, MD

Good Afternoon (Madam Chairwoman or Mr. Chairman)

For the record my name is David A. Rosin. I am the State medical Director for the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

I am here this afternoon to testify in support of SB 83. This bill was requested by the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

SB 83 extends psychiatric medication dispensing authority to registered nurses working in the MHDS Rural Clinics providing service to the severely mentally ill people living in Rural Nevada.

Under current NRS 454.215 registered nurses working in the rural clinics treating mentally ill patients do not have the authority to dispense psychiatric medications. This bill requests that these nurses be given dispensing authorization under NRS 454.215.

As of December 2002, there were over 1200 mentally ill patients residing in rural Nevada that required ongoing psychiatric medication for the treatment of severe psychiatric illness.

There are 2.23 FTE contract psychiatrists prescribing medication in 16 Rural Clinic sites through out Rural Nevada. In some of these rural locations, the psychiatrist is only able to come to the clinic once a month. The registered nurse is often the person that provides ongoing care between these psychiatric visits.

Because of the scarcity of psychiatrist scheduling, the psychiatric nurse is the only medical professional available to dispense these medications, most of which arrive by mail delivery to the clinics.

As an interim measure, the MHDS Rural Clinics negotiated an agreement with the DHR Health Division that allows MHDS Rural

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR 1002  
DATE: 4/23/03 ROOM: 4100 EXHIBIT C  
SUBMITTED BY: David A. Rosin, M.D.

Clinic nurses to act as Agents of the Health Division in performing their dispensing function in the rural area. The Health division nurses are currently allowed to dispense medications by the Board of Pharmacy. The interim agreement was crafted to be a temporary measure until the opportunity to change NRS was available. With the passage of this bill the agreement will terminate.

\* This bill extends ~~dispensing~~ <sup>prescribing</sup> authority for psychiatric medications permanently to MHDS nurses who work in the Rural Clinics.

Thank you for considering SB 83,

I would be happy to answer any questions.