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**Proposal to Provide Ethical and Health Policy Information and Training
Regarding the Human Aspects of Bioterrorism**
Nevada Center for Ethics and Health Policy/MS 339
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557

SUMMARY: The Nevada Center for Ethics and Health Policy (NCEHP) will train state and local leaders and health care providers regarding the human and ethical aspects of bioterrorism. NCEHP is a statewide program which focuses on ethics and policy throughout the life-span. Within that context, we propose a contracting project, utilizing our coalition consisting of 70 organizations throughout the state as well as Nevada's existing disaster preparedness resources.

Activities:

1. NCEHP will convene an ESI (Ethics & Social Issues) statewide forum for federal, state and local leaders and stakeholders during which the major human and ethically related issues regarding bioterrorism will be discussed and prioritized. Additionally, trainers will be identified to share the appropriate information on these issues to include but not be limited to the following:
 - In what ways can the ethical issues of confidentiality, privacy, civil liberties and law enforcement be addressed in a time of crisis?
 - In the interests of the community, how much truth can be told and how much communication can take place regarding a bioterrorism crisis?
 - What should be our major human concerns regarding the treatment of the frail elderly, the chronically ill and people with disabilities?
 - What family issues are of concern such as the quarantine of a family member?
 - What are the special human issues facing the care of children?
 - How will the already limited health care facilities and services (such as emergency rooms) be allocated?
 - How will health care providers be trained to deal with death and dying issues such as grief and bereavement and how will cultural and spiritual issues of populations of diversity be addressed in emergency situations?
 - Lastly, and most importantly, who will make these ethical and policy decisions and how will that information be delivered to the public?
2. An Ethics & Social Issues (ESI) resource book will be developed for current public health preparedness and future crises.
3. Establish and maintain a toll-free 800 telephone number for state and local leaders.
4. Assessment and evaluation will be conducted at every level of the project.

Funding Source: The likely funding source would be contracts and grants to NCEHP from appropriate federal and state funds such as the Homeland Security and other agencies such as the State Health Division.

Budget: The budget for personnel, materials, library resources, travel, training and education, facilitation, equipment and operating expenses for a two year period would be \$300,000.

	Year 01	Year 02	Year 01	Year 02	
	State Funds	State Funds	NCEHP Cost Share	NCEHP Cost Share	Total
Personnel	\$84,769	\$85,720	\$26,500	\$27,030	\$224,019
Operating Costs	\$65,231	\$64,280	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$143,511
Total	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$33,500	\$34,030	\$367,530

EXHIBIT D Senate Committee on Finance

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Q & A on S.B. 153 --- appropriation to the Nevada Center for Ethics and Health Policy for the training of state and local leaders and health care providers regarding human and ethical aspects of bioterrorism.

1. What is the Nevada Center for Ethics and Health Policy (NCEHP)?

NCEHP is a state-funded, free standing unit within the College of Human and Community Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno whose mission is to provide a statewide collaboration for the promotion of ethical and appropriate health care for all Nevadans through engagement, education and research. NCEHP has 7 faculty and staff in Reno, and Las Vegas. Their coalition includes some 70 organizations throughout the state, and their partners consist of the Sanford Center for Aging, Nevada State Medical Association, HealthInsight, and Nathan Adelson Hospice. The Center collaborates with the Public Health program at the UNR Department of Health Ecology, UNSOM, the schools of Nursing, Social Work, and, Human Development and Family Studies.

2. How do the Ethics & Social Issues (ESI) differ from the work of other public health preparedness groups?

The various groups/areas such as Risk Communication, Southern NV AHEC, Critical Incident, etc. are working on education and training for professionals in public health disaster preparedness and response, focusing primarily on clinical manifestation, public risk factors, medical risks, treatment, provider-protection, and survival for individuals and communities. ESI will seek to link with these groups, the State Health Division, the Health Districts of Clark and Washoe Counties, and concentrate on issues concerning *beneficence, allocation of resources, confidentiality, public information dissemination, justice, outreach to vulnerable populations, grief and bereavement.*

3. Why is this focus important?

- a. Given the short time that has passed since the 9-11 incidents and the anthrax letters, leaders have had to act without taking much time to step back and examine the consequences of all the proposed actions. For example, a decision was made to vaccinate health care workers for small pox, but few have chosen to participate in light of recent media reports on unwanted side effects. An ethical question might have been asked about how to allocate more effectively the vaccines, health care workers, and other resources.
- b. A framework for reasoned examination of issues and actions needs to be provided.
- c. The public is concerned about issues of individual civil liberties as well as the rights of the general public.
- d. Nevada can be a national leader in this arena.

4. What action plans are you proposing?

- a. NCEHP will conduct statewide meetings with state/local leaders, and health care providers regarding the human and ethical aspects of bioterrorism presented by state and national experts in ethics and policy.
 - i. Attendees will be certified as ESI Representatives and charged with bringing ethics and social issues back to their units.
 - ii. NCEHP will distribute an ESI workbook that enables attendees to assess ethical and social issues in their agencies.
- b. Through email and phone calls, NCEHP will follow up with participant concerns and implementation of process recommendations.
- c. Information will be incorporated into an "Ethics and Social Issues" resource book which will be designed for public preparedness even beyond the present crises.
- d. NCEHP will establish an 800 number for state leaders and professionals to request information and consultation, and provide resources and materials to the various state agencies.
- e. At the end of the two year period, the ESI Representatives will reconvene to evaluate the project, and identify future issues regarding public health preparedness in our state.