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Governor



STATE OF NEVADA

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March 14, 2003

Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation- Senate-Assembly Sub-committee

Budget Account 2561

Southern Nevada Veterans Nursing Home.

My Name is Chuck Fulkerson, Director, Office of Veterans Services

I will try to dispel some blatant disinformation about the Nursing Home and Veterans' Benefits that have been floating these halls the last several weeks.

1. The statement has been made that "VA is providing nursing home beds for 10% Disabled Veterans at no co-pay cost". This is true only for 70% and more Disabled Veterans. VHA Directive 2002-065 dated October 21, 2002, titled "Implementation of Co-Payments for Extended Care Services Provided to Veterans by VA", states there are 5 services that are not subject to co-payment requirements for extended care. These services are very restricted and apply to a very small number of Veterans. Extended care provided to all other Veterans are subject to co-payments on a daily scale from \$5.00 to \$97.00.
2. The issue of one shower per 36 residents is false. There are showers for every 12 residents. The Federal and State design codes restrict the number of showers in the construction. We must remember that most of the residents require assistance for bathing.
3. There are also 4 Arjo Carousel tubs that open up so the resident can slide from a wheel chair into the tub. There are also 2 Arjo Rhapsody full length tubs, both of which have water jets. From my experience of my mother being in a Nursing Home for six years, the older she got the bigger deal assisted bathing was. My point is the building is not designed for private bathing.

EXHIBIT D Senate Committee on Finance
Date: 3/14/03 Page 1 of 2

I want to announce that Tom Feedback resigned as Administrator effective April 9th. I would like to introduce his replacement, Mr. Gary Bermeosolo. Mr. Bermeosolo has all the qualifications that we have been searching for in an administrator. He is retired after 20 years as Director, Idaho Veterans Affairs and has extensive experience in veterans nursing home operations. Mr. Bermeosolo has been under contract to Nevada to assist in the VA certification process so he knows our problems and our team players. We are very fortunate to have him on board. May I present, Gary Bermeosolo.

The budget presented today is basically the same budget that has been approved for 02-03. With the guidance of an experienced administrator in the home this budget will be managed to ensure that the very best staffing levels and positions are put into place to provide the highest quality of care and life for the Veterans. We will also be looking at several functions within the home that may well be less costly if operated by the private sector. We will be presenting these management decisions to this body or the Interim Finance Committee at a later date.