



# HEALTH ACCESS WASHOE COUNTY

**HAWC Community Health Center**  
Presents to the  
**Legislative Committee on Health Care**  
On February 9, 2006  
By  
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Executive Director

- The HAWC Community Health Center has submitted its 2004 annual report with detailed explanation of programs and services. There are far too many programs to cover in this short time period.
- We are particularly proud of the fact that we are among the most cost effective community health centers in the nation. From a national study of all community health centers, for medical care HAWC ranked in the top 10% in productivity and the bottom 25% for cost. In dentistry we ranked in the top 4% for productivity and the bottom 50% for cost.
- Our Clinics combined now see approximately 5,000 visits per month and we are adding one dentist and one physician next year. 97% of our patients are under 200% of poverty, 55% are uninsured, 80% are women and children and nearly 60% are minorities.
- We estimate that in our 10 years of service to the Northern Nevada Community we have provided over 300,000 patient care visits.
- In one year alone, had our clients gone to the ER our community would have paid out approximately \$18,000,000. (This is based on 48,000 visits to HAWC rate \$100 avg. per visit – 48,000 ER visits rate \$475 avg. per visit).

**EXHIBIT I** Health Care

Document consists of 2 pages

☒ Entire document provided.

☐ Due to size limitations, pages \_\_\_\_\_ provided.

A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library  
(775/684-6827 or e-mail [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us)). Meeting Date: February 9, 2006

- Our primary concerns revolve around primary care capacity building and the lack of access to specialty care. When funding other successful programs such as 211, Family Resource, Covering Kids, among many others that provide great referral services, please do not forget that the many clients referred from these programs ultimately are provided health care at HAWC creating somewhat of a funnel, HAWC being at the end of the funnel. It is important to understand that if primary care is not funded appropriately, then, we cannot serve the clients in the community or from these other programs appropriately.
- Few private sector physicians accept Medicaid and Medicare due to the low and slow payments, and the high cost of multiple billings to secure payment.
- HAWC needs your support in funding infrastructure, not operations, so we may continue building access point for care and continue to expand to meet the needs of the community.

**GOALS: PRIORITY: Uninsured children**

**Purchase the building we currently operate in to build equity and reduce operating costs.**

**Partner with the County to build capacity in the North Valleys of Reno.**

**Stabilize the Medicaid cash flow via Health First.**

**Rebuild the specialty care network destroyed by the lack of timely Medicaid payments to the private sector.**