

(Judge McGroarty)

I am pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of coordination and implementation for the Mental Health Court here in the Eighth Judicial District Court. The Eighth Judicial District Court has been a strident supporter of specialty courts for the last decade, and the Mental Health Court will be no different. A sincere appreciation for all of those associated with the development of this court are in order, Judges Jackie Glass and Bill Voy from the Eighth Judicial District Court; Chief Judge Ann Zimmerman and Steven Grierson in Las Vegas Justice Court; Judge Cedric Cerns in Las Vegas Municipal Court; Judge Stephen Dahl in North Las Vegas Justice Court; Sheriff Bill Young, Kathryn Landreth, and Captain Marilyn Rogan from the Metropolitan Police Department; Clark County Commissioner Myrna Williams; Dr. Hoffman ,Dr. Craig Essex, Dave Luxner, Laura Lynch from Prison Health Services, Dr. Brandenburg, Dr. Triggs, and Ron Strickland from SNAMH, David Roger, Chuck Thompson and Owen Porterfield from the DA's Office, Phil Kohn from the Special Public Defenders Office, Marcus Cooper, Ralph Baker and many others who participated from the Public Defender's Office, and Amy Wright and David Sonner from Adult Parole/Probation. Again, thank you.

As you can see, we have assembled an incredible team to begin our Mental Health Court in Clark County. Two members of that team are here with me today, Dr. Jonna Triggs from the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health, and Steven Grierson, Court Education Coordinator for Las Vegas Justice Court and our Mental Health Court Coordinator. They will take you through the current state of our Mental Health Court.

EXHIBIT G MentalHealth Document consists of 4 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.

Meeting Date 11/20/03

(Dr. Jonna Triggs)

Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, the state facility that provides mental health care to approximately 15,000 Clark County residents a year, is pleased to be a participant in the development of a Mental Health Court in Clark County. We in the mental health field know that with the appropriate medications and therapeutic support those diagnosed as severely mentally ill can become productive, tax paying members of society. Criminalizing the mentally ill is expensive and inhumane. The Mental Health Court will give this community another option. Once accepted into this program, participants will be provided necessary treatment including medications, psychotherapy, supportive housing and job training, with encouragement to continue making progress provided by the Court system.

Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services will be taking on this commitment with existing resources because we know, in the long run, this program will save the tax dollars currently used to incarcerate the mentally ill. Our sister agency in Northern Nevada has had a Mental Health Court for 2 years and they report significant decreases in incarceration rates for the participants. According to the most recent statistical information approximately 16% of the inmate population is identified as having a mental illness. In Clark County, where approximately 3000 individuals are in the local jails, this translates into approximately 480 people. We plan to begin our pilot program with 35 individuals, since this is an unfunded project, but we are optimistic that once we present the data documenting lower rates of incarceration and inpatient hospitalization we will obtain support to fully fund the Mental Health Courts in Clark County during the next legislative session.

We are excited about the possibilities this new program offers individuals with mental illness and are especially grateful to Judge McGroarty for spearheading this innovative approach in treatment services. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the courts & correctional system in providing the mentally ill an alternative to the often-repetitive incarcerations that drain our tax dollars and fail to address the underlying problems of mental illness and the need for treatment.

(Steven Grierson)

I would like to give you a brief synopsis of the proposed case flow of client referred into mental health court. As you have heard earlier, the beginning program is intended to be a pilot project of 30-35 incarcerated felons in the Clark County Detention Center. Upon identification of the defendant's by jail social workers, the psychiatrist will evaluate and provide a provisional diagnosis. This information, along with a consent and release of information will be forwarded to the mental health coordinator for review of the criminal history. Once reviewed and the consumer meets the minimum requirements, the referral will be made to the Public Defender for pursuit of Mental Health Court, the matter will be set for the next review team committee meeting court date, and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health will be notified for evaluation. The Public Defender will interview the consumer, advise and educate them accordingly and begin discussions with the District Attorney for the plea agreement and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health will prepare a formal mental health evaluation and screen for appropriateness. All information will be presented to the Review Team prior to entry into Mental Health Court. Again, this process is proposed for the pilot project. We understand that if at any time we are able

to expand this program, the procedures will have to be modified somewhat to fit the case flow process that currently exists in our courts.

We are currently in the process of developing a case management system that will allow us to track the critical variables such as time in jail prior to MHC, return to the criminal justice system before, during, and after MHC, and equally as important the tracking of those that “opt-out” and their continued contact with the criminal justice system. This information, along with Dr. Triggs’ information, we hope to be able to provide a clear picture of the significant fiscal and humane advantages of targeting treating for consumers with mental illness rather than incarceration.

(Judge McGroarty)

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to share with you our current status of Mental Health Court here in Clark County. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.