



### Our Mission

The Health Services Coalition is dedicated to improving the quality, affordability and accessibility of health care in Southern Nevada for its members and the community at large.

Better: [BetterCareNow.Org](http://BetterCareNow.Org)

March 6, 2024

Interim Health and Human Services

Regarding Agenda Item VII: Presentation on the Impacts of Health Care Consolidation

Dear Committee Members,

The Health Services Coaliton (HSC) represents 25 employer and union sponsored, self-funded health plans in Southern Nevada covering over 280,000 lives. As illustrated on our letterhead, our member groups include, construction workers, public safety entities, county municipalities, union and nonunion employees in gaming and hospitality employers, and more. We are writing today regarding agenda item VII: Presentaion on the Impacts of Health Care Consolidation.

The HSC is pleased to see the Committee is committing time to learn more about Health Care Consolidation and the impact it is increasingly having on patient access and community stability in Nevada. Data shows that when physician and hospital consolidation takes place, the cost of care rises, and patient choice and access can be diminished. Consolidation is upon us in Nevada. But there is nearly no reporting or tracking of the players involved in either private equity or health care consolidation. Transparency followed by policy action is overdue in the state of Nevada.

After attempting to hold entities to **existing** statute last session through AB11 (vetoed), consolidation is only gaining ground. Hospitals are hiring rather than contracting with doctors and physician practices – taking them out of the community and into one company. Expensive new free standing Ers are being built by hospital systems when what is needed is more urgent care and doctor access. Private equity is buying up large percentages of critical specialties, and then creating a return on investment by extreme pricing for care.

Multiple issues face doctors attempting to remain in independent practice, and the community faces growing challenges to a stable health care system as a result of industry consolidation. We appreciate the time you are dedicating to one issue in this growing problem.

We look forward to working with you and various stakeholders on solutions that will better inform the state decisionmakers, patients, and payers about what is happening in the Nevada market, protect patient access to needed care, and slow the rising prices for healthcare in Nevada that far exceed the actual cost of that care. Please consider the Coalition a partner in this work and reach out for any support we may be able to offer.

Sincerely,

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[www.lvpsc.org](http://www.lvpsc.org)

Boyd Gaming Corporation  
Bricklayers  
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Health and Welfare Trust  
City of Henderson  
Clark County Self-funded  
Clark County Firefighters  
Construction Industry and Laborers  
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Employee Painters Trust  
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IBEW 357 Electricians  
Las Vegas Firefighters  
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police  
Dept Health and Welfare Trust  
MGM Resorts International  
Nevada HAND  
NV Energy  
N. Las Vegas Firefighters  
Operating Engineers Local 501

Plumbers and Pipefitters Health  
and Welfare Fund  
Switch  
Teamsters Local 14 – Security Fund  
for Southern Nevada  
Teamsters Local 631 – Security Fund  
for Southern Nevada  
Teamsters Security Fund for So. NV - Hotel  
& Casino Workers (Formerly Teamsters 995)  
UFCW Local 711 and Retail Food  
Employers Benefit Fund