



**Cleveland Clinic Nevada State Appropriations Support**  
**SB341: July 2023 – June 2025**

Dear Chair Dondero Loop and Chair Monroe-Moreno,

We thank the Nevada Legislature and Governor Lombardo for their continued support of Cleveland Clinic Nevada (CCNV) through SB341.

As we reflect back on our accomplishments throughout the funding period, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025, we are reminded of the tremendous progress made in advancing our mission: *Caring for life, researching for health, educating those who serve.*

Since the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health opened its doors in Las Vegas in 2009, we've continued to search for innovative ways to touch more lives across the state. Recently, we expanded our presence up north by adding Barton Health, a rural community hospital in Lake Tahoe, to the Cleveland Clinic Connected network, which provides members with access to the highest standards of patient care, quality and safety. As a member, Barton seeks to elevate its care delivery through unique access to Cleveland Clinic's clinical expertise and specialized resources to help build comprehensive service lines in cardiology, oncology, and neurology. Barton clinicians will benefit from our best practices, training, and advisory services.

In this era of new treatments, we are hopeful that soon, another treatment option for Parkinson's disease – the fastest growing neurological disease worldwide – will be added to the list of FDA-approved therapies following the Phase 3 data from the [TEMPO 3 trial of tavapadon](#), which was presented by our researchers at the American Academy of Neurology Conference in April. The TEMPO 3 trial, conducted at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, showed that tavapadon, a once-daily pill, may significantly improve motor symptoms, while reducing side effects, a small but much needed improvement in patient burden and management of quality of life. FDA approval is expected later this year.

Building on the momentum of the first fully FDA-approved disease-modifying therapy for Alzheimer's, we recently celebrated a major milestone with [Dan Harrington](#), the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health's first patient to receive lecanemab in a clinical setting. After completing his 18-month treatment in May, Dan has shown improved cognitive scores and stable amyloid levels, marking a hopeful step forward in Alzheimer's care. He will now continue on maintenance therapy while enjoying making meaningful memories with his family.



From hosting community roundtables to support local neurologists in prescribing these new Alzheimer's treatments, to convening global experts at the [Leon Thal Symposium](#) to advance biomarkers for Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), we've remained committed to driving medical education forward. These efforts not only enhance diagnostics and therapeutics in our

local community, but also help to position Las Vegas as a growing hub for brain health safety in professional sports.

Caring for the community has always been a core value at Cleveland Clinic, and support from SB341 has brought us closer to our goal of becoming an anchor institution in Las Vegas— a major employer and provider of services in the community. In alignment with our enterprise-wide mission, we’re working to build the healthiest community possible through programs that heal, hire, and invest in the future. With the addition of our Community Champions, we’ve partnered with like-minded organizations to address pressing needs like housing and food insecurity, contributing over 22,000 CBISA hours — including a volunteer day with The Just One Project, where our caregivers served healthy food to 94 local households, totaling 770 people. Efforts are now underway to expand these partnerships and deepen our impact.



As you will see in the report below, the funds provided by SB341 played an important role in supporting the departments whose work is aimed at increasing Nevadans’ access to innovative approaches to research, care and educational, therapeutic and support options underway at Cleveland Clinic Nevada.

Category	Funding Total
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brittiney Westfield</li> <li>• Chakhan Dews</li> <li>• Evelyn Olivas</li> <li>• Kate Ingalsby</li> <li>• Kurt Hoff</li> <li>• Laura Cordes</li> <li>• LeeAnn Mandarino</li> <li>• Lucille Carriere</li> <li>• Mirza Trejo</li> <li>• Susan Farris</li> <li>• Verla Niebuhr</li> <li>• Samaria Jackson</li> <li>• Justen Watts</li> </ul>	<p>\$ 1,278,913.71</p>
<p><b>Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brook Hurd</li> <li>• Derick Aranda</li> </ul>	<p>\$ 107,072.97</p>
<p><b>Behavioral Health</b></p>	<p>\$ 745,884.89</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Claudia Segui Jimenez</i></li> <li>• Michelle Pester</li> <li>• Tawnya Caldwell</li> <li>• Tiarra Atkinson</li> <li>• Sandra Chapman</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Clinical Operations</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Zhi Baker</i></li> <li>• Sarah Kryst</li> </ul>	\$ 103,914.56
<b><i>Leadership</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dylan Wint</i></li> <li>• Erick Vidmar</li> <li>• Kim Washington</li> <li>• Le Hua</li> <li>• Odi Oguh</li> <li>• Zoltan Mari</li> <li>• Miller, Justin</li> <li>• Pienschke, Elaine</li> </ul>	\$ 485,913.63
<b><i>Public Relations + Marketing</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>MacKenzie Ruta</i></li> <li>• Nicole Wolf</li> </ul>	\$ 232,586.60
<b><i>Volunteer Services</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irene Newcomer</li> <li>• Katurah Hartley</li> <li>• Samantha Wright</li> </ul>	\$ 45,713.64
<b><i>Total</i></b>	\$ 3,000,000.00

## Departments supported:

### ***Education***

#### Program Description

The education and community outreach team is dedicated to providing high quality education and training to those serving our patients and families, from medical providers and students, to various members and sectors of our community and unpaid family caregivers.

#### Key Initiatives:

- Convened leading researchers in the field of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) for the Leon Thal Summit — a groundbreaking think tank focused on advancing biomarkers, or indicators of disease, to help us improve diagnostics and therapeutics
- Hosted professional and community education events including seminar series, Neurology Roundtables, CME events for Medical Students, UNLV Clinical

Neuropsychology Practicum, and hosting medical rotation and undergraduate students (neurology, internal medicine, physical therapy, undergraduate interns)

- Conducted a community assessment for Clark County residents living with dementia
- Developed resources and conducted outreach and educational opportunities tailored to diverse and underserved populations in Nevada through:
  - Caregiver Training Program: A 24-hour, in-person certificate course offered seasonally in underserved areas, designed to equip participants with foundational healthcare skills and prepare them for PCA training. Led by UNLV nursing students in collaboration with faculty, it includes CPR certification, simulation training, career coaching, and connects trainees with care providers seeking qualified caregivers.
  - Powerful tools for Caregivers: A six-week evidence-based program designed to counteract negative feelings and positively impact the health of a diverse caregiving population.
  - Dealing with Dementia: A five-hour seminar aimed at helping care partners understand dementia, manage difficult behaviors, handle stress, and find time for themselves
- Maintained various lecture and seminar series in support of our Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence. 8 free sessions were held during the funding period.
- Supported advocacy for Alzheimer's and dementia awareness by advising policy, developing state plans to combat the disease, and collaborating with stakeholders to implement initiatives and monitor progress

#### Key Outcomes:

- Engaged with 41,000 people across various activities:
  - Community outreach
  - Community education programs (weekly Lunch & Learns, recurring educational seminars in MS and Parkinson's)
  - Community engagement programs (Conversations to Remember, the Learning Arts)
  - Behavioral Health programs (Dealing with Dementia and Powerful Tools for Caregivers)
  - Continuing Education
  - Healthcare Student Education (onsite internships and offsite education)
- Conducted 9 community cognitive screening events (re-instated post-pandemic pause)
- Conducted community awareness training with Harry Reid International Airport to inform team members who may encounter travelers with dementia or their companions with the goal of making the airport a more dementia-friendly location

#### **Research**

## Program Description and Impacted Population

The research program at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health is focused on advancing care for neurodegenerative conditions through a robust portfolio of clinical trials of new therapies and observational studies, and communication of these results through peer-reviewed publications. While patients enrolled in our trials and studies may derive some direct benefit, the program has a broader impact beyond just those patients that enter our facility by expanding our understanding of these diseases.

## Key Initiatives:

- Implemented The Las Vegas High Performance Computing (LVHPC) Cluster supports brain health research at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health (LRCBH), with a focus on computational neuroimaging. The program was developed to meet the growing need for advanced computing power to process and analyze large, complex MRI datasets more efficiently than conventional workstations. By enabling parallel processing, the LVHPC significantly reduces analysis time, accelerating research productivity and outcomes. For example, structural brain network data that once took over 12 hours per case can now be processed in just 4 hours, with multiple cases run simultaneously—resulting in a 25-fold increase in efficiency. The LVHPC continues to evolve as a vital resource for researchers from Cleveland Clinic, UNLV, and partner institutions, helping drive innovation in brain health studies.
- HealthyBrains.org –Maintained this online platform through Dec. 2024 to educate the public about reducing their risk for dementia through lifestyle modifications, as well as ongoing research opportunities and to create a trial ready cohort of individuals interested in participating in clinical research. Continue to work with team to transition educational content onto existing Cleveland Clinic website to increase visibility.
- Multiple Sclerosis Trials: Grew MS clinical trials portfolio
- International Panel for Differential Diagnosis in Multiple Sclerosis: Dr. Le Hua led a global team of MS experts across in identifying best practices in diagnosing atypical presentations of the disease in those under 18 and over 50

## Key Outcomes:

- 9 active MS trials with three currently enrolling
- HERCULES Trial:
  - First to demonstrate disability reduction in non-relapsing secondary progressive MS.
  - Results presented atECTRIMS 2024 and AAN in 2025; FDA approval expected in 2025.
  - Results published in New England Journal of Medicine in April 2025
- OPTIS Trial:
  - Focus on improving disease monitoring in NMOSD.
- JAMA Neurology publication of "Differential Diagnosis of Suspected Multiple Sclerosis in Pediatric and Late-Onset Populations"

## ***Behavioral Health***

### Program Description

The Behavioral Health program at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health focuses on providing therapeutic and social work services to patients and their caregivers. The mental health therapy clinic is integrated as part of our comprehensive neurological care and provides evidence-based, psychotherapy services for patients living with neurodegenerative diseases (cognitive, movement, and neuroinflammatory disorders). Clinical issues commonly addressed include adjustment to new diagnosis, anxiety/mood symptoms, chronic pain, and sleep disorders. The purpose of social work case management services for individuals living with neurological diseases is to help them access the specialized resources and support they need to manage their condition and improve their quality of life. Social workers in case management assess the unique needs of clients with neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or multiple sclerosis, and develop personalized care plans. They coordinate services across healthcare providers, community resources, and support networks, ensuring patients and family caregivers receive comprehensive care.

### Key Initiatives:

- Provided more integrated social work support services with rehabilitation providers to enhance continuity of care
- Launched new anxiety skills psychotherapy group to build skills and resiliency.
- Facilitated 50-hour cognitive rehabilitation and wellness program for patients living with mild cognitive impairment and their care partners.
- Continued to provide psychosocial assessment and support services to specialty medical clinics (Huntington's clinic, Ataxia clinic). Expanded such services to a new clinic focused on retired professional athletes experiencing neurocognitive symptoms.
- Continued to increase enrollment in shared medical appointments for patients living with dementia and their caregivers and launched a new shared medical appointment for people living with multiple sclerosis

### Key Outcomes:

- The Behavioral Health department facilitated 101 number of support groups connecting with a total of 1775 patients and caregivers.
- Social work case managers assisted over 861 patients and caregivers during the funding period with many requiring multiple encounters.
- Behavioral Health staff led 4 in-depth caregiver skills classes—structured, half-day sessions that included guided instruction and take-home materials—to support 90 dementia caregivers.
- Mental health therapists conducted 933 visits for psychotherapy services, including both individual and group psychotherapy visits.

- Facilitated an interdisciplinary program focused on cognitive rehabilitation and wellness for 7 couples affected by mild cognitive impairment for a total of +600 hours of total instruction.

## ***Clinical Operations***

### Program Description

Clinical operations at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health provides care for patients with Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, and cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease across Nevada, including underserved populations and caregivers.

### Key Initiatives:

- Music Therapy Expansion: Increased weekly therapy hours for group and individual sessions
- Integrated Wellness Sessions: Piloted mindfulness, exercise, and nutrition programming
- Dedicated care clinics for patients receiving Anti-Amyloid treatment
- Hosting of Continuing Medical Education events by our clinicians for their peers and other care partners
- Development of educational seminars and tools for patient support in navigating various diseases
- Operational improvements to ensure access to care and effective resource utilization

### Key Outcomes:

- 20 educational sessions, 1,000+ attendees, 95% satisfaction rate
- 850 individual and 500 group music therapy sessions; improved mobility, mood, and cognition
- Wellness sessions attracted 200 participants; reduced caregiver burnout and improved care engagement
- Recognized as a Center for Comprehensive MS Care by National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Nevada’s first and only
- 65 attendees to Pathway in MS Wellness event in June 2024
- Completed 20 improvement projects that focused on reducing the time patients wait for care and reducing or removing the barriers for effective care delivery

## ***Leadership***

### Program Description

Cleveland Clinic Nevada leadership continues to support Las Vegas’ growing Medical District through representation on numerous steering committees and advisory groups aimed at improving health care in southern Nevada as well as innovative ways to expand our care footprint. Currently, additional efforts aimed at cultivating relationships with

healthcare entities across the state to explore collaborations and partnerships leveraging Cleveland Clinic's intellectual capital are underway.

#### Key Initiatives:

- Community Leadership Efforts:
  - Las Vegas HEALS
  - ACHE – Meet the Chief
  - Medical District Steering Committee
  - Clark County Medical Society
  - Symphony Park Planning Committee
  
- Strategic Planning and Expansion of services:
  - Diversification of clinical services
  - Expansion of imaging hours and access
  - Collaborations and partnerships with local hospitals including UMC and Valley Hospital
  - Advisory services in northern Nevada with Barton Health
  
- Recruitment and Retention of Professional Staff:
  - New hires for Neuropsychology and Cognitive Disorders
  - Fellowships (three trainees; two remaining in Nevada)
  - Emerging Scientist Awards
  
- Operations:
  - Continuous improvement efforts
  - Energy savings

#### Key Outcomes:

- Expansion of Services
  - Oct. 2024: Announced expansion of services with Cleveland Clinic Nevada concierge medicine and executive health programs, set to open in 2025 and 2026, respectively
  - Concierge – Business plan approved, space identified, permits submitted for construction in 2025, recruitment underway. Operational as of Aug. 18, 2025
  - Executive Health – enterprise leadership endorsement, space identified, construction planned to begin in late 2025, recruitment underway
  
  - Imaging Access and Expansion – additional patient care hours (out to 8:30pm, 5 days per week with Saturday access)
- Successfully recruited a Cognitive Neurologist, 3 Neuropsychologists, and four Advance Practice Practitioner, including one to support the Women's Alzheimer's Prevention and Research Center

## ***Public Relations and Marketing***

### Program Description

The public relations and marketing team raises awareness for the services available at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, including no-cost community support and educational programming and advancements in research and treatment, through news media, social media and various patient-facing publications, to help connect the community we serve with the health information they seek. The efforts from this department serve patients and prospective patients of the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, media, donors, community partners and government officials.

### Key Initiatives:

- **Caregiver Support Guide Campaign:** Led mission-driven integrated marketing and communications campaign aimed at raising awareness for the unpaid family caregiver journey and arming family caregivers with the tools they need to reduce burnout. Working with local unpaid family caregivers who utilize a variety of the Lou Ruvo Center's no-cost support and education programming, the MarCom team created a custom "gift guide" focused on how to use the gift of time, skills or purchasing power to support caregivers and distributed it through a variety of earned, owned and paid media channels.
- **2025 Inaugural WAM Forum:** In conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the Women's Alzheimer's Movement Prevention and Research Center, partnered with Maria Shriver to host the inaugural WAM Forum at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health – an educational and advocacy luncheon honoring Emma Heming Willis and Elaine Wynn, in memoriam, for leadership in women's health research and caregiving, and recognizing 2025 WAM Grant recipients.
- **Expansion of Services:** Supported the opening of Cleveland Clinic Concierge Medicine, Las Vegas with proactive marketing and public relations tactics to generate awareness driving 390 leads with 36 converted into members.
- **State-wide Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Campaign:** Led initiative to promote Nevada's inaugural MS Week made possible by SB-286, "The David Humm" bill in collaboration with Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop and Clark County
- **AHEAD Study campaign:** Led state-wide education and awareness campaign for the continued study of new Alzheimer's drug, lecanemab, through the AHEAD study to recruit study participants
- **Breaking Barriers Community Roundtable:** Co-led collaboration with the Nevada Office of Minority Health & Equity (NOHME) and the National Institute of Health's 'All of Us Bus' to host a community roundtable discussion on the importance of diversity in clinical research
- **National Brain Health Awareness Survey:** Collaborated with Parade Magazine on a national brain health awareness survey to understand American's understanding of brain health issues
- **New Research:** Promoted newly-published research to advance our understanding of brain disorders, including Alzheimer's, chronic traumatic encephalopathy and

multiple sclerosis, at leading conferences including: American Academy of Neurology, Alzheimer's Association International Congress, European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis

- New Thinking About Thinking Magazine: Continued publication of bi-annual patient-facing Magazine, New Thinking About Thinking, to educate new and existing patients on the no-cost programming and research opportunities available at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

#### Key Outcomes:

- The WAM Forum yielded 15 media placements across target local and national media spheres, more than 80,000 impressions across earned and owned channels, more than 1,000 livestream views and more than 800 followers gained on social media
- Distributed free copies of the caregiver support guide:
  - 9,209 views of the guide on the webpage, making it the fourth most viewed page on the WAM website in 2024
  - 828 pdf downloads from website
  - 72 downloads of the Spanish pdf from website
- Coordinated State-wide sign lighting activation, illuminating Welcome to Las Vegas and Reno's 'Believe' sign orange – the official color of MS Awareness, garnering 43 placements in Nevada media totaling more than 6 million audience impressions
- Grew AHEAD study recruitment by 1,050% from 2 to 23 participants, positioning the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health as one of the top enrolling AHEAD sites in the country and connecting Nevadans with access to the latest treatments
- Grew Instagram page (@ClevelandClinicNevada) by 3,494 followers
- Distributed five issues of New Thinking About Thinking Magazine reaching a combined audience of 100,000
- Total media placements secured during funding period:
  - National consumer media: 132
  - Neurology trade media: 31
  - Nevada media: 558

### ***Volunteer Services + Community Champions***

#### Program Descriptions and Impacted Population

The Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health relies on its dedicated volunteers to enhance the patient and caregiver experience, while addressing the diverse needs of cognitive health, movement disorder, and multiple sclerosis patients. From greeting and assisting patients in the lobby to supporting physical, occupational, and music therapy programs, volunteers play an essential role in creating a welcoming, therapeutic environment. Their contributions significantly improved operational efficiency and patient experience, with over 3,300 hours dedicated to supporting care for more than 42,000 patients who visited our campus. Patients, caregivers, and visitors to the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in downtown Las Vegas all benefit from the services of the Volunteer Services program.

Community benefit at Cleveland Clinic refers to programs and services that address identified community health needs and promote overall well-being. These initiatives include improving access to healthcare, offering financial assistance, supporting public health education, and providing subsidized services and outreach. Activities such as physician talks, support groups, free patient transportation, and employee-led community service are examples of how Cleveland Clinic engages with the community. The Community Benefit Inventory for Social Accountability (CBISA) system helps track and report these efforts, ensuring transparency and alignment with the Clinic's mission. Ultimately, these programs reflect Cleveland Clinic's commitment to compassionate care that extends beyond our clinic walls into the broader community.

#### Key Initiatives:

##### Community Champions:

- Developed opportunities, supported efforts, and tracked time spent supporting our community by our employed caregivers through CBISA reporting
- In alignment with Cleveland Clinic's priority community initiatives to address food and housing insecurity, we are actively working on a larger community partnership aimed at bringing fresh groceries and stable housing to our patients and community

##### Volunteer Services:

- Lobby Volunteers: Greet and assist patients and visitors, serving as ambassadors for brain health
- Volunteer Librarians: Curate educational resources on brain health and neurodegenerative conditions
- Physical Therapy Volunteers: Support therapists and patients in rehabilitation activities
- Music Therapy Volunteers: Assist the Music Therapist in fostering emotional connections through music

#### Key Outcomes:

##### Community:

- In August 2024, the Cleveland Clinic Nevada team participated in Volunteer Day with The Just One Project distributing healthy, non-perishable food to 770 individuals across 94 households
- Conducted meetings with the below like-minded community collaborators to work toward larger community partnership:
  - The Obodo Collective
  - Intermountain Health
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - City of North Las Vegas
- Over 22,000 Community service hours conducted during funding period
- Recruited a new Volunteer Program Coordinator

Volunteer Services:

- 40 volunteers contributed nearly 4700 hours (45 hours weekly)
- Supported care for over 42,000 patients
- Distributed approximately 14,000 flowers through the Lynne Ruffin-Smith Charitable Foundation
- Enhanced lobby services, patient assistance, and therapeutic programs