



AGENDA MEMO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: August 20, 2008

DEPARTMENT: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder, Clark County, Southern Nevada Hospitals and WestCare Nevada, Inc. and to contribute \$280,211.76 (General Fund) for a Community Triage Center located at 930 North 4th Street - Ward 5 (Barlow)

- The Community Triage Center (CTC) is a program of WestCare Nevada, Inc., a 501 (c) (3), tax-exempt organization with over 33 years of experience providing services in Southern Nevada. The facilities are open 24 hours, 365 days a year.
- The goal of the CTC is to help relieve local healthcare, social service and law enforcement systems burdened by an overwhelming number of people suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- The CTC provides an access point for people in crisis that can be used by individuals, hospitals and law enforcement agencies.
- The CTC staff triage the individuals medical condition, mental status, substance abuse and social service needs. They assess individuals to insure that they are appropriate to receive services at the CTC. Individuals with continuing medical problems or in need of further services, medications, prescriptions and referrals are given.
- The majority of CTC clients come directly from the community. Police and emergency service personnel divert individuals away from hospitals to the CTC after a brief field assessment. Additional admissions come from individuals who initially sought care in emergency rooms, but voluntarily came to the CTC. No individuals are refused due to an inability to pay for services.
- WestCare has a dedicated transportation department. A minimum of two vehicles, each with a driver and EMT, is available 24 hours, seven days a week. This department transports individuals in crisis to the CTC and other WestCare facilities, thereby reducing the demand on the police and emergency medical system for transportation services.