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**Division News Flash**

For Immediate Release  
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**NEW STATEWIDE MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR**  
**FOR DCFS CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) announced the appointment today of Dr. Susan Mears as the statewide coordinator for children's mental health services. Her impressive twenty-seven years of experience in children's services includes direct therapeutic work with children and families, supervision of clinicians providing intensive, in-home services, and project management of the Neighborhood Care Centers initiative in Las Vegas. Mears has also served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' School of Social Work, and for the past year has led the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Center for Urban Partnerships.

"Susan's greatest strengths are facilitation and her ability to evaluate staff capacity to meet families' needs using the system of care model," explained DCFS Administrator, Jone Bosworth. The position, created last fall, requires extensive system of care knowledge. "We are thrilled that Susan has agreed to rejoin DCFS to facilitate the process of transforming the system to best meet children's needs within their homes and communities," Bosworth said.

Dr. Mears received her doctorate in social work in May 2005 from the University of Utah and also holds a master of social work degree from San Diego State University. Dr. Mears will begin her work with DCFS on June 6 and initially will work from Las Vegas, relocating to her permanent Carson City office on July 5. Mears will coordinate DCFS efforts to ensure that consistent statewide policies and procedures for children's mental health are used, that families' input is authentically considered in agency decision-making, and that research-based practices are implemented and evaluated across the agency's service delivery system.