

## **Southern Nevada Holistic Healthcare Coalition** **(SNHHC)**

---

The Southern Nevada Holistic Healthcare Coalition (SNHHC) submits the following comments for the record:

- 1. Insufficient time was for allowed for stakeholder input.** The Nevada Division of Insurance and the SSHIX did not provide adequate time for interested parties to review the methodology used and outcomes identified to select the insurance plan models recommended for inclusion in the exchange. The service provider community working with low-income individuals is a key stakeholder that did not have a broad opportunity to participate.
- 2. Only comprehensive models should be considered.** Only models that include all of the categories and services should be recommended. One of the plans offered for consideration does not include all ten categories of services. Only Plans C, D, E, and F should be considered. The SSHIX recommended to include Plan A which is less robust than other options.
- 3. Community engagement is essential to successful implementation.** More stakeholders, including parties representing the homeless; mentally ill; youth; low-income persons; and communities of color, need to be engaged in a meaningful way as full SSHIX implementation approaches. These sectors bear a disproportionate burden of disease in our community, would most benefit from increased access, and are least likely to be fully included in implementation discussions.

### **Background Information:**

Southern Nevada Holistic Healthcare Coalition

The Southern Nevada Holistic Healthcare Coalition (SNHHC) is an all volunteer collaboration of behavioral health care providers, educational institutions, governmental entities, and concerned citizens engaging with the faith community on wide ranging issues of mental health and substance abuse care and treatment.

Formed in July 2011 with the assistance - and at the urging of - the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), this collaborative effort seeks to unite all concerned citizens to address the behavioral health needs of the community.

Due to the passing of the Affordable Care Act, and its subsequent affirmation by the Supreme Court of the United States, SNHHC is working with the service provider community to get prepared for the increase of insurance eligible patients. We want a seamless, effective healthcare system that eliminates health disparities and streamlines delivery of quality care.

- We are educating the provider community on the ACA and its impact;
- We are engaging with communities of faith who serve the neediest of the needy;
- We are creating safe space to discuss health disparities and how to eradicate them.

# Memo



**To:** Nevada Division of Insurance  
**From:** K. Brinton Cook, President  
**CC:** Las Vegas Chapter NASBW Executive Board  
**Date:** September 26, 2012  
**Re:** Public Comment

---

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NASBW) submits the following comments for the record:

1. **Insufficient time for allowed for stakeholder input.** The Las Vegas Chapter of the NASBW believes the Nevada Division of Insurance and the SSHIX did not provide adequate time for interested parties to review the methodology used and outcomes identified to select the insurance plan models recommended for inclusion in the exchange. NASBW serves communities that will be greatly impacted by these services. More opportunities for comments and a broader outreach to affected communities would have served the community better than the apparently truncated effort to date.
2. **Only comprehensive models should be considered.** The Las Vegas Chapter of the NASBW believes only models that include all of the categories and services should be recommended. One of the plans offered for consideration does not include all ten categories of services. Only Plans C, D, E, and F should be considered. The SSHIX recommended to include Plan A which is less robust than other options.
3. **Community engagement is essential to successful implementation.** The Las Vegas Chapter of the NASBW hopes that more stakeholders, including parties representing the homeless; mentally ill; youth; low-income persons; and communities of color, will be engaged in a meaningful way as full SSHIX implementation approaches. These sectors bear a disproportionate burden of disease in our community, would most benefit from increased access, and are least likely to be fully included in implementation discussions.

The Las Vegas Chapter of the NASBW stands ready to assist in any way we can with meaningful outreach to ensure all eligible persons enroll, and access much needed healthcare.

Sincerely,

Brinton Cook  
[nabsw73@yahoo.com](mailto:nabsw73@yahoo.com)  
<http://lv-absbw.web.officelive.com>