CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM

Issue: Proclamation: Chronic Pain Awareness Month

Petitioner: Donald G. Burnette, County Manager

Recommendation:

That the Board of County Commissioners present a proclamation; and proclaim the month of September 2012, as Chronic Pain Awareness Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund #: N/A  FundName: N/A
Fund Center: N/A  Funded Pgm/Grant: N/A
Description: N/A  Amount: N/A
Added Comments: N/A

BACKGROUND:

A vast of Nevadans in Clark County suffer from chronic pain, with debilitating conditions like chronic lower back pain, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and arthritis. Chronic pain is a major public health problem and hidden driver of rising health care costs, including billions of dollars in state Medicaid costs. Significant barriers to adequate pain care exist for Nevadans; often patients consult multiple health care providers and live with the pain for years before it is properly diagnosed and managed; and system and organizational barriers, many of them driven by current insurance reimbursement policies, obstruct patient-centered care.

Studies show that significant savings could be achieved through better treatment of acute pain, reduction in workers compensation costs and lost tax revenue and a reduced burden of opioid abuse and misuse. Increased awareness and education to raise patient, provider and public understanding of pain, its consequences, its management and its prevention will allow communities to better support patients who struggle with chronic pain.

Dr. Gary Karl and the Pain Institute of Nevada offer education, treatment and support to sufferers of chronic pain. Public awareness of chronic pain issues is important in order to gain a better understanding of the extent, consequences and causes.

Commissioner Sisolak would like to proclaim the month of September 2012, as Chronic Pain Awareness Month.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD G. BURNETTE, County Manager

9/4/2012
Agenda Item #