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CONTACT US

Las Vegas Heals p: 702.514.4183 e: editor@lasvegasheals.org w: www.lasvegasheals.org

PUBLISHER

Anna Aberle p: 702.920.6215 e: anna@aberlewest.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Ryan Hafen, M.D., CCMS Wayne Weber, USI Risk & Insurance Services Terry a. Bruesehoff, RN BSN Adriana Connelly, Nevada Donor Network Amber Carter, CCMS Katie Waechter, Watch Media Group Diego Trujillo, CEO Las Vegas HEALS Adriana Romero, Director of Member Relations Las Vegas HEALS

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WELCOME

In the bustling world we live in, it is all too easy to overlook the importance of taking care of our mental well-being. Yet, it is precisely during these demanding times that our mental health deserves the utmost attention and support. Here at Las Vegas HEALS, we believe that prioritizing mental health is not just a necessity but also a powerful act of self-care and compassion. After all, if we as healthcare providers do not take time to preserve our own mental health, how effective can we really be in our communities?

> In our modern society, conversations about mental health are gaining momentum. We are witnessing the gradual erosion of long-standing taboos and a growing realization that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. We must remember that mental health is a continuum that affects individuals from all walks of life, and it deserves the same level of attention as physical health.

Throughout this issue, you will find articles that delve into various aspects of mental health. From strategies to manage stress and anxiety to tips for building resilience, we aim to provide you with practical tools to navigate life's challenges. We also have sought to gather articles that showcase what is happening in our region in the mental health space.

Remember that taking care of our mental health is not a solitary pursuit. It is a collective responsibility, one that requires empathy, understanding, and an inclusive society. Let us strive to create spaces where everyone feels comfortable discussing their mental health, without fear of judgment or discrimination. By cultivating a culture of compassion, we can foster an environment that nurtures and uplifts all individuals.

Thank you for joining us on this important journey. Together, let us pave the way for a world that recognizes and values the significance of mental health, empowering lives and promoting lasting change.

Diego Trujillo CEO of Las Vegas HEALS

PHYSICIAN SPOTLIGHT & INTERVIEW

Ryan Hafen, M.D.



"Collaborating with my USAP faculty partners and Sunrise Health GME Consortium administrators has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career to date."

Las Vegas HEALS Magazine - 3 - May - 2023

What is your job title and what do you do?

I am a practicing board certified Anesthesiologist and Critical Care Medicine physician partner with USAP where I serve as the Program Director for Nevada's first Anesthesia Residency program. I have the privilege to work with some of the most dedicated Anesthesiologists who are passionate about training the next generation for the State of Nevada. Prior to my work with USAP I did trauma and general anesthesia at UMC and then subsequently practiced as an intensivist at Mountain View Hospital during the pandemic. I have served as adjunct faculty at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV since the inception of the school where I am the Anesthesia interest group leader and am privileged to meet the future leaders of medicine in our state.

What brought to you to start practicing medicine in Las Vegas?

I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada and obtained my undergraduate degree from UNLV and medical degree from the University of Nevada School of Medicine. As a 5th generation Nevadan, returning to Las Vegas after residency and fellowship was always the plan. I knew I wanted to be close to family, friends and practice medicine in the community that trained me and has been my home the majority of my life.

What are some of the biggest challenges you face and what do you most enjoy about your job?

The biggest challenge we face in Anesthesia is the critical shortage of physicians and non-physician providers. This is not unique to only Anesthesia but is being experienced across all specialties in the State of Nevada. Medicine is becoming more complex every year with the rapid explosion in technology and new treatments. Ensuring an adequate number of highly trained physicians in the coming years will be essential to the overall success of medicine in our community. In my role as Program Director for the Anesthesia residency one of my most challenging and important roles is recruiting, training and retaining the best and brightest physicians for future generations of Nevadans.

I most enjoy getting to work with the next generation of physicians in my role as program director for the HCA Sunrise GME anesthesia residency. Collaborating with my USAP faculty partners and Sunrise Health GME Consortium administrators has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career to date. I am energized daily by the enthusiasm I see for education and excellence in our program amongst the residents, medical students and faculty.

What is your perspective on the future of medicine in Southern Nevada?

I believe the future of health care is bright in Southern Nevada. I am reassured of this when I see the work being done by Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Touro University of Nevada and HCA Sunrise Health GME Consortium in regards to retaining and educating some of the brightest and most talented physicians that our country has to offer. Physician education, retention and development is key to Southern Nevada's future success in becoming a premier medical community. In my short time back in Las Vegas I have already seen a new generation of Nevadan physicians that I grew up with return to Las Vegas and establish new and exciting medical practices.

What does leadership in the Southern Nevada medical community look like to you?

Leadership to me is seen as undertaking everyday tasks that enrich and uplift the lives of others while doing so without concern for personal gain. I am fortunate in my role as program director for the anesthesia residency to witness this on a daily basis being displayed by the members of USAP and administrators at Sunrise Health GME who go out of their way to enrich the education and lives of our residents and their patients. I also see leadership in our younger generation of resident doctors who take it upon themselves to strive for excellence in their clinical and academic work while also encouraging their fellow residents.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

While juggling my clinical and academic duties I am also a husband and father of 3 wonderful children. Weekends off are spent at the soccer field, baseball field, in the surrounding mountains or in Southern Utah. I think many would be surprised to know that I was blessed to grow up spending time on my Grandfather Tim Hafen's ranch in Pahrump, NV. Having been the son of a dairy farmer in Mesquite, NV he struck out on his own and grew alfalfa amongst other crops and raised cattle In Pahrump. I have fond memories of cattle herding, roping, tagging, immunizing and branding calves. I think many Nevadans would be surprised at the rich history of farming and cattle ranching in Southern Nevada.

Last book you read?

The last book I read was "First Man - The Life of Neil A. Armstrong" by James R. Hansen.

Favorite Hobbies?

Mountain Biking, Snowmobiling, Four Wheeling.

HEALTH

A CANNABIS STATE OF MIND

A Healthy State Of Mind Is As Important In Today's World As Physical Fitness. There Was A Time When Mental Health Was Ignored, Avoided And Discounted. Thankfully, We Are Now More Aware That The Mind, Body And Spirit Must Work In Unison To Achieve Optimal Health, Happiness And Purpose.

We Are Researching Cannabis More Now Than Ever Before, And Scientists Conclude That The Active Ingredient, Thc, Along With Its Other Components Like Cbd, Terpenes, Cannabinoids, Does Have APositive Effect On Mental Health! It Is Derived From The Cannabis Sativa Plants And Has Certain Medicinal Functions. The Age-Old Misconceptions Regarding Its Use Have Hindered The Image Of Cannabis. Here Are Some Of The Amazing Mental Health Benefits Of Cannabis To Attain A Peaceful And Sound Mind.

Anxiety and Depression

We live in a world of chaos and uncertainty, and anxiety disorders are increasing at an alarming rate. Our heavy work schedules, the economy, relationships all combine to cause the onset of ailments like sexual dysfunction, insomnia and headaches. Cannabis can induce the release of endorphins. They make you feel better about yourself.

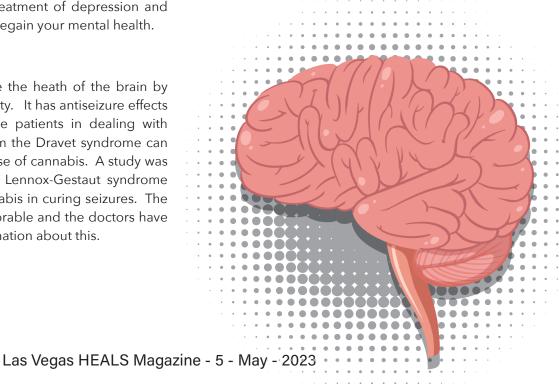
With the right strain and dosage, you can decrease your level of depression, and in many cases, the depression gradually goes away. A study also highlights the ability of cannabis to sharpen cognitive abilities. Thus, cannabis acts as a therapeutic medicine in the treatment of depression and helps in clearing your mind to regain your mental health.

Seizures

Cannabis is known to improve the heath of the brain by invigorating the electrical activity. It has antiseizure effects on the brain that facilitate the patients in dealing with epilepsy. Those suffering from the Dravet syndrome can also benefit from the regular use of cannabis. A study was conducted on the patients of Lennox-Gestaut syndrome to check the efficiency of cannabis in curing seizures. The results that came out were favorable and the doctors have contined to gather more information about this.



"Conditions like stress, anxiety and insomnia may disrupt your sleeping patterns, and cannabis manages to provide ample rest for the body. "



Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is characterized by the impairment of the brain function to the extent that the patients lose their sense of reality. Some of the symptoms of the mental ailment include hallucinations and speech problems.

It has been found that cannabis has antipsychotic effects on the brain. It helps in the ability of the nervous system to connect all the neurons and transmit appropriate messages to the body parts. A study concluded that cannabis plays a vital role in the treatment of schizophrenia and dementia

Cognitive Abilities

Cannabis is good for the memory. As we age, our brain goes through a gradual degenerative process. You can slow down the process and enhance the capability of your brain by using cannabis. It has a therapeutic effect on the mind and improves the power to focus, retain, learn, and comprehend.

This happens due to the presence of anti-inflammatory properties in it. The direct result is the strengthening of the brain and the treatment of neuro-inflammatory diseases like meningitis and sepsis.

PTSD

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder stems from a negative or unpleasant past experience that had a major impact on the brain. The patient who suffers from PTSD relives the trauma repeatedly even after a long period of time.



"Cannabis is good for the memory."

The treatment of PTSD requires an increase of serotonin levels. This is where you can use cannabis as it is known to induce the creation of serotonin in the brain. It also helps when dealing with some of the symptoms associated with PTSD, including insomnia and recurrent nightmares.

Stress

Stress puts an extreme amount of pressure on our health. We may experience the "flight or fight mode" which causes the blood pressure to increase, pupils to dilate and the heart rate to increase. As a result, we release a hormone called cortisol, aka the stress hormone. When you use cannabis products, they travel through your bloodstream, and it aids in lifting your mood. It manages your appetite and induces the feeling of calmness in the body. You may find yourself dealing with less panic attacks, and more in control of your emotions.

Sleep

The importance of uninterrupted, quality sleep is extremely critical for our mental, physical and sexual health. The nerve cells communicate better, thinking becomes clearer and the tandem between thoughts and actions increases.

Conditions like stress, anxiety and insomnia may disrupt your sleeping patterns, and cannabis manages to provide ample rest for the body. You can avoid the sleep disruption by using a cannabis product on a regular basis.

Peace of Mind

Cannabis and its compounds like CBD have largely been associated with psychoactive effects on the body. It is time we changed our perceptions and realized the medicinal benefits of this amazing plant!



Terry A Bruesehoff RN BSN Cannabis Educator, Helox Ambassador: Cashless payment platform for cannabis www.monarch.is (808) 476-2005 **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Wayne Weber

USI Risk & Insurance Services



"Dare to be honest and fear no labor."

ROBERT BURNS

Las Vegas HEALS Magazine - 7 - May - 2023

Tell us a little about your business and your role within USI Insurance Services?

USI is one of the largest private insurance brokerages in the country. I am Sr. Vice President of Healthcare - Risk Management. Basically, I protect healthcare professionals.

What services do you offer companies here in Nevada?

USI works with non-profit and for-profit organizations, providing coverage for Directors' and Officers' liability, medical malpractice, property, work comp, and cybersecurity. We also offer comprehensive Employee Benefits.

How long have USI and you been in business and what accomplishments are you most proud of?

USI 30 years, me 20+ in different roles. I recently repatriated back to the US after a twelve-year stint in Hong Kong. I've done business throughout Asia and had some amazing experiences in Bangladesh, Mongolia, Kuala Lumpur and more. Our teams did IPO dual listings for US and other international exchanges. That was most interesting. The last 8 years in Hong Kong we lived on a boat. I'm happy to be done with typhoon season. We've been in Las Vegas for about a year and love living here.

How is your Cantonese?

(Horrible but if you want something light.) Not good and my Mandarin is only slightly better.

What do you see for the future of healthcare in Southern Nevada?

Las Vegas and Reno are fast-growing markets in Tech & Life Sciences. Biotech, MedTech & Clinical Trials. Black Fire Innovation is a game changer, take that tour. https://www.unlv.edu/ econdev/black-fire-innovation

Any challenge to this continued growth is going to come down to what happens with Assembly Bill 404. If it passes, it's just going to make it incredibly difficult to recruit healthcare professionals to Nevada. Why would they want to practice here if they will be subjected to constant lawsuits? This will have a ripple effect throughout the local economy.

This is what Assembly Bill 404 proposes:

Increasing the non-economic (pain and suffering) damage cap from \$350k per case to \$2.5M with an annual increase based on the CPI.

Eliminating any damage caps for agencies that provide nursing care: in the home; hospice care; intermediate care; and skilled nursing care, including facilities.

It will increase the Statute of Limitation from one year to two years and increase the Statute of Repose from three years to four years.

It will make the statute of limitations retroactive to the newly created two-year statute to include injuries that occurred before 10/01/23.

Eliminate the \$50k trauma cap;

And eliminate joint and several liability.

Why did you first join HEALS?

When I first moved here last year, I asked around about what was happening in the healthcare community and I kept hearing "covid kinda shut everything down but there's this group HEALS... and it's growing." HEALS is focused on connecting the healthcare community, so I went to a Happy Hour and just introduced myself to Diego and that was it. I've been heavily involved ever since.

What is your favorite part about being a HEALS member?

Meeting all the different professionals that make up the healthcare community. Doctors, Nurses, Technicians and our incredible volunteers at nonprofits like The Neighborhood Clinic and The Las Vegas Rescue Mission. I've also been working with HEALS to help bring more awareness about the importance of cyber security coverage which is the biggest threat to the healthcare industry.

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10 Tips for Maintaining a Healthy Brain

Introduction: Taking care of your brain health is essential for overall well-being and cognitive function. Just like the rest of your body, the brain requires proper care and attention. By incorporating healthy habits into your lifestyle, you can support brain health and potentially reduce the risk of cognitive decline. Here are ten tips to help you maintain a healthy brain.

- 1. Stay mentally active: Engaging in mentally stimulating activities, such as puzzles, reading, or learning a new skill, can help keep your brain sharp. It challenges your cognitive abilities and promotes neural connections.
- 2. Exercise regularly: Physical exercise not only benefits your body but also has positive effects on brain health. Regular aerobic exercise increases blood flow to the brain and stimulates the release of chemicals that promote brain cell growth and connectivity.
- 3. Follow a balanced diet: A nutritious diet is crucial for brain health. Include foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (found in fish, nuts, and seeds), antioxidants (found in colorful fruits and vegetables), and whole grains to provide essential nutrients for brain function.
- Get quality sleep: Adequate sleep is vital for brain health and cognitive function. During sleep, the brain consolidates memories and repairs itself. Strive for 7-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night to support optimal brain health.

"A nutritious diet is crucial for brain health. Include foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (found in fish, nuts, and seeds), antioxidants (found in colorful fruits and vegetables), and whole grains to provide essential nutrients for brain function."

- 5. Manage stress: Chronic stress can have detrimental effects on the brain. Find healthy ways to manage stress, such as practicing relaxation techniques, meditation, or engaging in hobbies you enjoy. Stress management helps protect brain cells and promotes overall wellbeing.
- 6. Socialize and maintain relationships: Social interaction is beneficial for brain health. Engage in activities that involve socializing, such as spending time with loved ones, joining clubs or community groups, or volunteering. Meaningful relationships and social connections help stimulate the brain and enhance cognitive function.
- 7. Protect your head: Taking steps to prevent head injuries is crucial for brain health. Wear helmets when participating in high-risk activities, use seatbelts in cars, and take necessary precautions to prevent falls. Head injuries can have long-term consequences on brain function.

- 8. Limit alcohol consumption: Excessive alcohol consumption can harm brain health and impair cognitive abilities. If you choose to drink, do so in moderation. Women should limit alcohol intake to one drink per day, and men to two drinks per day, as defined by moderate drinking guidelines.
- **9. Quit smoking:** Smoking is detrimental to overall health, including brain health. It increases the risk of stroke, reduces blood flow to the brain, and contributes to cognitive decline. Quitting smoking can improve brain function and reduce the risk of associated diseases.
- **10.Stay mentally and emotionally positive:** Maintaining a positive mindset and emotional well-being can benefit brain health. Practice mindfulness, engage in activities that bring you joy, and cultivate positive relationships. Emotional wellbeing supports overall brain function.

Conclusion: By following these ten tips, you can take proactive steps to support your brain health. Remember, small lifestyle changes can have a significant impact on cognitive function and overall well-being. Prioritize your brain health today.





"Social interaction is beneficial for brain health. Engage in activities that involve socializing, such as spending time with loved ones, joining clubs or community groups, or volunteering. Meaningful relationships and social connections help stimulate the brain and enhance cognitive function. "

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How to Improve Brain Health: Understanding the Basics

The brain is the control center of the body, responsible for regulating all bodily functions, thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. Taking care of your brain health is essential for optimal cognitive function and overall well-being. Here are some key factors to consider when striving to improve brain health.

1. Exercise regularly: Regular exercise is essential for brain health. It increases blood flow to the brain, stimulates the release of chemicals that promote brain cell growth and connectivity, and enhances cognitive function. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week to support brain health.

2. Eat a brain-healthy diet: Eating a nutritious diet is crucial for brain health. Include foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (found in fish, nuts, and seeds), antioxidants (found in colorful fruits and vegetables), and whole grains to provide essential nutrients for brain function.

 Get enough sleep:
Adequate sleep is essential for brain health and cognitive function.
During sleep, the brain consolidates memories and repairs itself.
Strive for 7-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night to support optimal brain health. "Eating a nutritious diet is crucial for brain health. Include foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (found in fish, nuts, and seeds), antioxidants (found in colorful fruits and vegetables), and whole grains to provide essential nutrients for brain function."

4. Stay mentally active: Engaging in mentally stimulating activities, such as puzzles, reading, or learning a new skill, can help keep your brain sharp. It challenges your cognitive abilities and promotes neural connections.

5. Manage stress: Chronic stress can have detrimental effects on the brain. Find healthy ways to manage stress, such as practicing relaxation techniques, meditation, or engaging in hobbies you enjoy. Stress management helps protect brain cells and promotes overall well-being. 6. Socializeandmaintainrelationships: Social interaction is beneficial for brain health. Engage in activities that involve socializing, such as spending time with loved ones, joining clubs or community groups, or volunteering. Meaningful relationships and social connections help stimulate the brain and enhance cognitive function.

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"Chronic stress can have detrimental effects on the brain. Find healthy ways to manage stress, such as practicing relaxation techniques, meditation, or engaging in hobbies you enjoy."

9. Quit smoking: Smoking is detrimental to overall health, including brain health. It increases the risk of stroke, reduces blood flow to the brain, and contributes to cognitive decline. Quitting smoking can improve brain function and reduce the risk of associated diseases.

10. Stay mentally and emotionally positive: Maintaining a positive mindset and emotional well-being can benefit brain health. Practice mindfulness, engage in activities that bring you joy, and cultivate positive relationships. Emotional well-being supports overall brain function.

Improving Conclusion: brain health requires а holistic approach that encompasses various lifestyle factors. By incorporating these habits into your daily routine, you can support your brain health and potentially reduce the risk of cognitive decline. Remember, small changes can have a significant impact on overall brain function and well-being.



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THE LINK BETWEEN EXERCISE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Exercise has long been known to have physical health benefits, but emerging research is showing that it can also have a positive impact on mental health. In this article, we will explore the link between exercise and mental health and how physical activity can be used as a tool to improve mental well-being.

Main Body: Several mechanisms may explain the relationship between exercise and mental health. Exercise can help reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, increase feelings of self-esteem, and improve cognitive function. Additionally, exercise can have neurobiological effects, such as increasing the production of endorphins, dopamine, and serotonin, which can improve mood and reduce stress.

Studies have shown that even a small amount of exercise can have mental health benefits. For example, a meta-analysis of 49 studies found that people who engaged in exercise had significantly fewer symptoms of depression and anxiety than those who did not exercise. Another study found that just 20 minutes of exercise can have an immediate positive effect on mood.

Conclusion: Exercise is a powerful tool for promoting mental health and well-being. Incorporating physical activity into your daily routine, even in small amounts, can have a positive impact on mental health. Talk to your healthcare provider about the appropriate exercise regimen for you.

"Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Mental Health"

Introduction: Trauma can have a significant impact on mental health and well-being. In this article, we will explore the different types of trauma, the impact of trauma on mental health, and the various treatment options available.

Main Body: Trauma can take many forms, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, neglect, natural disasters, and accidents. Trauma can have a lasting impact on mental health, leading to conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Treatment for trauma-related mental health conditions typically involves a combination of therapy and medication. Different types of therapy, such as cognitivebehavioral therapy (CBT), eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR), and exposure therapy, can help individuals process the traumatic event and develop



"Exercise can help reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, increase feelings of self-esteem, and improve cognitive function." "Studies have shown that even a small amount of exercise can have mental health benefits. For example, a meta-analysis of 49 studies found that people who engaged in exercise had significantly fewer symptoms of depression and anxiety than those who did not exercise."



coping skills to manage symptoms. Conclusion: Trauma can have a profound impact on mental health, but effective treatments are available. It is important to seek help from a mental health professional if you are experiencing symptoms related to trauma.

"Breaking the Stigma of Mental Illness"

Introduction: Mental illness affects millions of people worldwide, but stigma and discrimination often prevent individuals from seeking help.

In this article, we will explore the impact of stigma on mental health and ways to break down the barriers to seeking treatment.

Main Body: Stigma can take many forms, such as negative attitudes, stereotypes, and discrimination. Stigma can lead to feelings of shame, isolation, and hopelessness, and prevent individuals from seeking help for mental health conditions.

Breaking down the barriers to seeking mental health treatment requires a multi-faceted approach. Education and awareness campaigns can help combat stigma and increase understanding of mental health conditions. Healthcare providers can play a key role in reducing stigma by providing compassionate and non-judgmental care to individuals with mental illness. Additionally, policymakers can help by increasing funding for mental health services and improving access to care.

Conclusion: Breaking down the stigma surrounding mental illness is crucial for improving mental health outcomes. By working together to increase understanding and compassion, we can help individuals with mental illness get the care they need and deserve.







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A Nevada Transplant Institute Initiative

In 2022, more than 42,000 organ transplants were performed in the United States. Yet, every 9 minutes, someone is added to the transplant waiting list. With a growing need for organs, and a limited supply, most of the country is in a situation where transplant centers must choose who to transplant and who not to transplant and take risks on lower-quality organs for transplant because there simply aren't enough organs. In Nevada this situation is reversed, as a leading organ procurement organization (OPO), Nevada Donor Network's (NDN) recovery of organs in Nevada far exceeds the current waitlist, yet over 90% of all lifesaving organs donated by the heroic families of Nevada are leaving our state.

As the only Nevada-based OPO, NDN's core purpose is to save and heal lives through organ, eye and tissue donation, serving more than 3 million people in the state of Nevada and thousands of recipients across the country. NDN is working to end the wait for Nevadans in need of a life-saving transplant by expanding transplantation services which is currently limited to a kidney program.

The vision to expand transplantation services in Nevada represents an important milestone to create a more collaborative and robust healthcare sector. Enhancing transplantation services requires a multipronged approach that reaches beyond NDN. Support is required from both the public and private sectors, as well as an increased willingness to collaborate. Through highly integrated partnerships with hospitals throughout the state, expanded transplantation services will contribute to growth in the healthcare sector, economic development, research and commercialization, and an expanded physician workforce. The community will benefit greatly from innovations in patient care, increased access, lower costs, and a quality of care that meets the demands of the community.

The strategy for the development of a robust transplantation program is predicated on establishing Las Vegas & Reno as regional healthcare destinations while recognizing the need to enhance the economic vitality of the region's healthcare sector. The transplant institute will be a network of hospitals and entities working together

to plug into existing hospital systems and infrastructure while using equipment that is currently available and in place. Philanthropic funding from the community will primarily go into funding the necessary transplants needed to become accredited and investing into the overall infrastructure.

Although at an advantage both in terms of supply and geography, the level of expertise needed to provide transplant services does not exist in our state. Transplant surgery, hepatology, and anesthesia are three services that would need to be recruited for and developed. In addition to the physicians needed, the expertise of the care of these critically ill patients will need to be developed in the ICU along with the support of the complex procedure itself. This is an achievable task that will provide a service that is currently not available to Nevada residents and elevate the level of healthcare of our state.

Nevadans will no longer have to travel outside of state any longer to meet their transplantation needs. This valuable resource will now be available here locally. What this also means is that by 2040 the potential of \$356 million being added to the regional economy, 2,845 new jobs and provide \$33.8 million in state and local government revenue.

In conclusion, expanding transplantation services in Nevada will have a significant positive impact on the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of Nevadans as it expands the economy, adds thousands of new jobs, and provides millions in government revenue.



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ALCOHOL AND DRUGS CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

Chemical Imbalance: Alcohol and drugs can disrupt the delicate balance of chemicals in the brain, which can lead to mood swings, depression, and anxiety.

Increased Risk of Mental Illness: Substance abuse can increase the risk of developing mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder. Chronic substance abuse can also worsen the symptoms of existing mental health conditions.

Impaired Cognitive Function: Alcohol and drugs can impair cognitive function, making it difficult to think clearly, concentrate, and remember things. This can lead to problems with work, school, and relationships. Social Isolation: Substance abuse can lead to social isolation, as individuals may withdraw from friends and family and engage in risky behaviors that damage relationships.

Financial Stress: Substance abuse can be expensive, leading

to financial stress and problems that can exacerbate mental health conditions. **Physical Health Problems:** Alcohol and drug abuse can lead to a range of physical health problems, including liver damage, heart disease, and respiratory problems. These physical health problems can also negatively impact mental health.

In conclusion, alcohol and drug abuse can have a significant negative impact on mental health, from disrupting the chemical balance in the brain to increasing the risk of developing mental health conditions and impairing cognitive function. It is important to seek help from a mental health professional if you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse and its impact on mental health.



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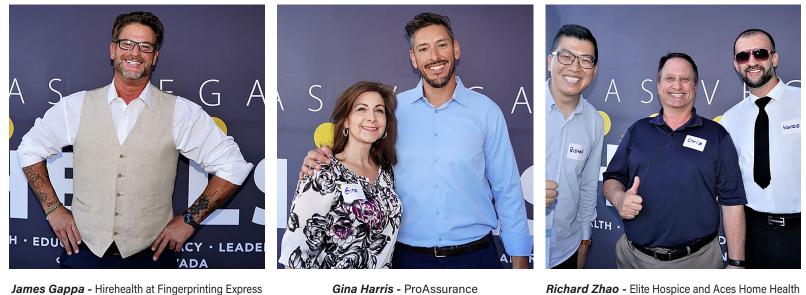


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LAS VEGAS HEALS

HEALTH · EDUCATION · ADVOCACY · LEADERSHIP of SOUTHERN NEVADA MAY 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3 Vegas Healthcare Pharmascript Mixer 6 pm to 8 pm May 5 Advanced Pet Imaging, Nuclear Medicine, and Therapy Wynn Hotel

May 4 – 6 Stoller A Comprehensive Tutorial in Musculoskeletal Imaging Wynn Hotel

May 4-6 Urgent Care Updates Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino May 16 Carnegie Heights Appreciation Event

May 18 Las Vegas HEALS Task Force Meetings 10am - 2:45pm Viticus Group (Eastern Location)

May 25

Las Vegas HEALS Healthcare Happy Hour El Luchador Mexican Kitchen & Cantina 6 pm to 8:30 pm



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