



Southern Nevada CHIPs

“the *RIGHT* service”



What is Southern Nevada CHIPs (Community Health Improvement Program)?

The mission of Southern Nevada CHIPs is to provide “the *RIGHT* service, to the *RIGHT* person, at the *RIGHT* time”. We work to improve the health and wellness of our community by improving health care and social service access and navigation. We provide health and social assessments, resource referrals, insurance enrollment assistance, navigation, and advocacy services to our most vulnerable citizens as identified by community healthcare providers such as first responders and hospital case management and by utilizing developing professionals from schools of social work and nursing, and in the process of including additional schools such as pharmacology, community health sciences, and medicine. In most cases, first responders find these individuals feeling isolated or in some type of crisis and don’t know where to turn for help. Often, these citizens generate many 911 calls for assistance and utilize the hospitals for access to health and human services.

Southern Nevada CHIPs team members undergo orientation and training about the organization, implementation, and services of the local first responding agencies. They experience ride-along time with first response units to experience firsthand the circumstances faced in the field. They spend time in the Fire Alarm Office with the 911 call-takers and dispatchers to learn how the 911 system is being used from time of call to patient care transfer at hospital. Throughout their practicum experience, they are valued for their expertise, passion, and creativity, driving the program to continued growth and success of improving community health through access to existing services.

Southern Nevada CHIPs was founded in 2013 by Las Vegas Fire and Rescue in conjunction with the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Social Work. Students met their academic practicum requirements by servicing the Southern Nevada CHIPs team as student interns, providing health and human service referral and navigation assistance to users of the 911 system. Client populations served include: homelessness, substance abuse, frail, elderly, impoverished, mental illness, and more.

In **May of 2015**, Southern Nevada CHIPs transitioned into a **nonprofit** in order to enable a consistent and seamless service across all fire departments (Clark County, North Las Vegas, Henderson, and Las Vegas) and schools as well as to allow for greater funding opportunities and grant eligibilities. The immediate goals of the organization are to meet the program’s objectives of improving the health and wellness of the community through service access and navigation as indicated through client surveys conducted before and after program intervention as well as analysis of their utilization of emergency services and hospitals. Also, to obtain sufficient funding to hire full-time staff to provide the services year-around versus student-dependency which results in a lapse of services during academic breaks.

Why do we need Southern Nevada CHIPs?

Southern Nevada CHIPs was implemented in order to improve the health and wellness of the community through providing targeted access and navigation services to those identified as vulnerable by healthcare providers. The intended outcomes are an improvement in community health and greater efficiency to service providers as our community is navigated to the most appropriate resource for their needs.

Learn more about Southern Nevada CHIPs at www.snvchips.org



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