

On behalf of Ester Quilici, CEO of Vitality Unlimited, a CCBHC and Residential SUD Treatment Center.

The Mercer Needs Assessment discusses Workforce and workforce challenges broadly in terms of Behavioral Health. I feel it is important within this document and the work that will follow from it to specify the need for Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors as distinct from the broader Behavioral Health Workforce. In Nevada we need to support, incent, recruit, and retain this workforce in particular and this Needs Assessment and these funds should align with that priority need.

The presentation today recognized that Detox and Treatment are distinct phases of treatment and it is important going forward that distinction is recognized and funded - for example, once the IMB Waiver is enacted, will Medicaid pay for just 30 days and that has to include Detox and Treatment. Vitality's experience is that clients are very ill as they are going through Detox and don't have the physical health or mental health to begin addiction treatment.