

PRIMARY CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL (PCAC) MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026
3:00PM TO ADJOURNMENT

This meeting will be held online or by phone. The online and phone meeting details are:

Virtual Teams Meeting Address Link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/211670450137511?p=CzgUxovOf7JgZ5et9m>

Or call in (audio only)

Tel [+1 775-321-6111](tel:+17753216111),182059194# United States, Reno

Phone conference ID: 182 059 194#

This meeting is recorded pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law (Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 241). Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. A break may be scheduled at the Chairperson's discretion.

1. Call to order/roll call – Staff
2. **Possible Action:** Review and possible approval of minutes from the June 22nd, 2026 meeting – Chairperson

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. **Possible Action:** Discussion and possible action to make recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. David Leslie Surujpaul– Tarryn Emmerich-Choi, Primary Care Manager, PCO
4. **Adjournment**

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING AGENDA HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Nevada Public Notice website: <https://notice.nv.gov>
Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Primary Care Office website:

<https://www.dpbh.nv.gov/boards/pco-advisory-council-home/meetings/primary-care-advisory-council-ffy2026meetings/>

[DPBH – 4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706](https://www.dpbh.nv.gov/boards/pco-advisory-council-home/meetings/primary-care-advisory-council-ffy2026meetings/)

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for individuals who wish to attend this meeting. If special arrangements or equipment are necessary, please notify the Nevada Primary Care Office at nvpco@health.nv.gov or in writing, at Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Attn: Primary Care Office, 4150 Technology Way, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89706 or by calling (775) 684-2204 no less than three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Inquiries regarding the items scheduled for this Council meeting or if a member of the public would like to request the supporting material for this meeting, please contact Nevada Primary Care Office at nvpco@health.nv.gov or (775) 684-2204.

DRAFT MINUTES
June 22, 2026
12:00PM to Adjournment

TELECONFERENCE:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Donald Campbell
Dr. Susan VanBeuge
Nancy Bowen

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Amir Qureshi
Julie Clyde
Gerald Ackerman (designee Lea Pope)
Jacqueline Nguyen

DPBH/DHCFP STAFF PRESENT:

Tarryn Emmerich-Choi, Health Resource Analyst, PCO

1. Roll call and confirmation of quorum.

2. Approval of minutes:

Susan VanBeuge asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the June 22, 2026, meeting. No recommendations were made.

First Motion: Nancy Bowen moves to approve

Second Motion : Dr. Donald Cambell seconds

Motion: Passes Unanimously

3. Informational Only: Council membership update, including recognition of outgoing members for their service and welcome of newly appointed members

4. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Panicker Renni Robinson. Tarryn Emmerich-Choi presented a summary handout of the completed application.

Member Comment: none

Public Comment: none

First Motion: Nancy Bowen moves to approve

Second Motion : Dr. Donald Cambell seconds

Motion: Passes Unanimously

5. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Santhi Nirmala Sanjana Narasimhadevara. Tarryn Emmerich-Choi presented a summary handout of the completed application.

Member Comment: none

Public Comment: none

First Motion: Dr. Donald Cambell to approve

Second Motion : Nancy Bowen seconds

Motion: Passes Unanimously

6. Member or Public Comment

No public comment

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM

J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation

Candidates Information:

Full Name: David Leslie Sunupaul, MD

Place of Birth: Canada

Country of Citizenship: Canada

DOS Case Number: Candidates DOS Number: 2035208

Residency Discipline: Family Medicine

Residency Timeframe: July 2023 to June 2026

Location of Residency: University of Nebraska Medical Center- Omaha, Nebraska

Fellowship/Specialty: N/A.

Fellowship Timeframe: Start Date to End Date

Location of Fellowship: Name of School, State.

Employers Information:

Employer's Full Name: Saint Mary's Medical Group, Inc.

Employer's Address: 411 W. 6th Street, Reno, NV 89503

Employer's Point of Contact Name: Crystal Lopez

Employer's Email Address: clopez12@primehealthcare.com

Employer's Phone Number: 775-770-7450

Official Legal Representative Information:

Law Firm Name: Siskind Susser, PC

Law Firm Address: 1028 Oakhaven Road, Memphis, TN 38119

Point of Contact Name: Adam Cohen, Partner

Point of Contact Email Address: acohen@visalaw.com

Point of Contact Phone Number: 901-682-6455

Practice Site Information:

Practice Site #1: Saint Mary's Primary Care South Virginia

Practice Site #1 Address: 8040 South Virginia St., Suite 4, Reno, NV 89511

Number of Hours Candidate will practice at site per week: Number of hours at site
1-20 hours Select all that apply:

- ☒ In a HPSA HPSA # 1323717372 ☐ In a MUA/MUP MUA # ☐ Flex Spot
☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ☐ Tribal Health Center
☐ Rural Health Clinic (RHC) ☐ Primary Care Clinic for a Rural Health Hospital

***For specialists, hospitalists and/or flex locations please fill out the below section of the form that pertains to you.**

Specialist Information for site #1:

Current specialist to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.
Optimum specialist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.
Current number of specialist vacancies: Current Vacancies.
Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Hospitalist Information for site #1:

Current hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.
Optimum hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.
Current number of hospitalist vacancies: Current Vacancies.
Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Flex Spot Information for site #1:

Percentage of population served at or below 200% federal poverty level: % under 200% FPL
Wait times for serving this population: Wait times.
Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.
Current physician to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.
Optimum physician to patient ratio: Current Ratio.
Please list any barriers to serve this population: Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Practice Sites:

Practice Site Information:

Practice Site #2: Name of Practice Site 2. Saint Mary's Medical Group
Practice Site #2 Address: Address of Practice Site 2. 645 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89503
Number of Hours Candidate will practice at site per week: Number of hours at site 2. -20 hours
Select all that apply:

- ☒ In a HPSA HPSA #1323717372 ☒ In a MUA/MUP MUA # 02096 ☐ Flex Spot
☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ☐ Tribal Health Center
☐ Rural Health Clinic (RHC) ☐ Primary Care Clinic for a Rural Health Hospital

***For specialists, hospitalists and/or flex locations please fill out the below section of the form that pertains to you.**

Specialist Information for site #2:

Current specialist to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum specialist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of specialist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Hospitalist Information for site #2:

Current hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Optimum hospitalist to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Current number of hospitalist vacancies: Current Vacancies.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Flex Spot Information for site #2:

Percentage of population served at or below 200% federal poverty level: % under 200% FPL

Wait times for serving this population: Wait times.

Approximate distance to nearest provider of the same specialty: Distance travelled.

Current physician to patient ratio at facility: Current Ratio.

Optimum physician to patient ratio: Current Ratio.

Please list any barriers to serve this population: Click or tap here to enter text.

If there are more than 2 practice sites, please add all additional practice locations with the above information, at the end of this form.

Employer and Candidate, seek a letter of support from the Physician Visa Waiver Program and requests the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to forward the J-1 Visa Waiver application to the U.S. Department of State as a State Health Agency request, per DS-3035. Employer and Candidate have agreed to comply with the duties set forth in Chapter 439A of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) and to cooperate with the Physician Visa Waiver Program.

In signing below, an authorized representative of the Employer and the Candidate declares under penalty of perjury that all statements submitted with this application are true and accurate and this application complies with the requirements of NRS 439A.175 and NAC 439.730 including as follows:

All practices sites where the Candidate will practice:

☒ Are located in a federally designated Primary Care HPSA, MUA/P or a site approved by the state as a geographic exception or a flex slot (Public Law 108-441) to address the underserved;

☒ Accept Medicare, Medicaid assignment and Nevada Checkup;

- ☒ Offer a sliding discount fee schedule and a minimum fee based on family size & income; and
- ☒ Has a policy stating all patients will receive treatment, regardless of their ability to pay which is either posted at the site or provided to the patients.

The contract between the Employer and the Candidate provides the following:

- ☒ Candidate agrees to provide services during 3 -year waiver obligation.
- ☒ Candidate will provide services 40 hours per week minimum plus on-call time.
- ☒ The salary meets or exceeds the prevailing wage for that area and for physicians of that specialty as reported by the Foreign Labor Certification Center, Department of Labor, (<http://www.flcdatcenter.com>):
- ☒ The amount of time off for vacation, sick leave and for Continuing Medical Education is included. The employer shall maintain records to show the amount of time-off requested and the amount of time taken.
- ☒ Does not contain a "non-compete" clause that would prohibit the J-1 Visa Waiver physician from opening a new clinic or working in a clinic in that shortage area upon completing the three-year commitment.
- ☒ Conditions for termination of the contract, for both the physician and employer, are included. A "no-cause" termination is not allowed.
- ☒ Any new contracts or amendments during the 3-year obligation will be sent to the PCO for review and approval before signature.
- ☒ Agreement to begin employment at the stated practice site within 90 days of receiving a waiver from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). During the 90 days, the physician must obtain the required licenses from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the State Board of Pharmacy, and any other licenses as may be required for the physician to practice medicine in Nevada; and
- ☒ A statement that the physician agrees to meet the requirements set forth in section 214(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Please note in accordance with NRS Chapter 239, all public records, the contents not otherwise declared by law to be confidential, shall be open for inspection or to obtain copies.

PHYSICIAN Eligibility Requirements

- A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for a letter of support by the Nevada Primary Care Office (PCO) within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) a physician **must:**
1. Complete a residency or fellowship training program and intend to practice in Nevada for a minimum of three consecutive years.
 2. Submit all relevant application components
 3. Review and understand all terms included in the employment contract, including expectations for working hours, hospital rounds, and on-call requirements. The PCO has limited authority under NRS 439A.180 to ensure program requirements are met and cannot mediate labor disputes; therefore, the physician must review all contracts carefully before signing. Labor disputes or medical safety issues will be referred to the federal Department of Labor or to the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
 4. Agree to notify the PCO of the start date of employment using the New Arrival Form.
 5. Agree to review the Rights and Responsibilities presentation upon start of employment (presentation located online at Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Information, Instructions & Forms).
 6. Agree to report additional employment. Any additional or outside employment in which the J-1 Visa Waiver physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to the Primary Care Office (PCO) for recommendation and for USCIS approval, if applicable.
 7. Agree to limit absence from the practice site to a maximum of 180 consecutive days. If the physician is absent from medical practice more than 180 consecutive days, the physician must submit an updated New Arrival Form to the DPBH, PCO.
 8. Agree to treat all clients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare patients on assignment, and use a sliding fee scale for low-income, uninsured individuals. The practice site must provide notice to the public, as evidenced by a sign in the waiting area regarding this policy.
 9. Agree to obtain, within sixty days of start date, an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which will be used on all health care claims.
 10. Agree to report practices within the practice site setting that do not meet the standards of care as established by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. <http://www.medboard.nv.gov/>. NRS 41A.009 "Medical malpractice" defined. "Medical malpractice" means the failure of a physician, hospital or employee of a hospital, in rendering services, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.
 11. Report semi-annually (April and October), via the Compliance form on the status of the physician services for

the previous six months and where those services were provided.

12. Agree to immediately report all changes to the work schedule, which will be in effect longer than three weeks, to the PCO on the appropriate change of status form Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms (nv.gov). These changes include, but are not limited to, a temporary assignment to another practice site, a decrease in hours at the practice site, an increase of call-time requirement, an increase in hospital-rounds time, and an increase in emergency room call. The most recent form on file will be used by the DPBH to assess whether the physician and employer are compliant with these policies and state law.
13. Notify the DPBH, PCO, in writing, thirty days prior to transfer, in the event of physician transfer from the approved facility to another facility within the medical practice or with another provider. The DPBH reserves the right to approve or disapprove the transfer.
14. Notify the DPBH, PCO, in writing, within thirty days of disciplinary action and/or termination. In the event of any emergency termination due to extreme circumstances affecting the health or safety of clients or other individuals, the DPBH must be notified, no later than twenty-four hours after the emergency termination.

B. Consequences of Default:

A physician is in default if, at any time, he or she does not meet the conditions listed in section A. The DPBH, PCO will monitor the physician and the medical practice. A physician found in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes 439A.130 to 439A.185 or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 439A.700 to 439A.755 will incur the penalties specified under NAC 439A.750.

EMPLOYER Eligibility Requirements

- A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible to employ a J-1 Visa Waiver physician, a medical practice must comply with these requirements:
1. Located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a federally designated Medically Underserved Area or Population (MUA/P), or a “flex slot” documenting service to underserved populations, as verified by the state. Determine if locations are designated at the following link: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>
 2. The site must have been operating at least six months before requesting a physician under the J-1 visa waiver program.
 3. Submit all relevant application components
 4. Agree to review the Rights and Responsibilities presentation upon the start of employment (presentation located online at [Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms](#))
 5. Report additional employment of the physician. Any additional or outside employment in which the J1 Visa Waiver physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to the Primary Care Office (PCO) for recommendation for USCIS approval, if applicable.
 6. The practice site must accept all patients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare on assignment, and use a sliding-fee scale based on federal poverty guidelines to discount services to low-income uninsured persons. The medical practice must provide notice to the public that such a policy is in effect and apply these access standards to the entire medical practice, not simply to those patients treated by the J-1 Visa Waiver physician. These requirements should be in place for at least three months immediately preceding the request for waiver.
 7. Agree that the physician will use an individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on all Medicaid health care claims.
 8. Report semi-annually (April and October), via the Compliance form on the status of the physician services for the previous six months and where those services were provided.
 9. Agree to report practices within the practice site setting that do not meet the standards of care as established by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. <http://www.medboard.nv.gov/>. NRS 41A.009 “Medical malpractice” defined. “Medical malpractice” means the failure of a physician, hospital or employee of a hospital, in rendering services, to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances
 10. Agree to immediately report all changes to the work schedule, which will be in effect longer than three

weeks, to the PCO on the appropriate change of status form Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Instruction, Information & Forms (nv.gov). These changes include, but are not limited to, a temporary assignment to another practice site, a decrease in hours at the practice site, an increase of call-time requirement, an increase in hospital-rounds time, and an increase in emergency room call. The most recent form on file will be used by the DPBH to assess whether the physician and employer are compliant with these policies and state law.

11. Notify the PCO, in writing, at least thirty days prior to a transfer from the approved facility to another facility within the medical practice. For a transfer outside the medical practice, the PCO must be notified, in writing, at the earliest opportunity. The PCO reserves the right to approve or disapprove all transfers.
12. Notify the PCO, in writing, within thirty days of disciplinary action and/or termination. In the event of any emergency termination due to extreme circumstances affecting the health or safety of clients or other individuals, the PCO must be notified no later than twenty-four hours after the emergency termination.
13. Understand that the PCO does not have the authority to mediate between employer and employees participating in the J-1 Visa Waiver program, or to enforce labor standards. Further, the PCO assumes no responsibility for negotiations or content of employment contracts or for termination of the contracts. If the PCO becomes aware of such issues, it will recommend seeking advice from an attorney or contacting the appropriate agency (i.e., Medicaid Fraud and Abuse, Department of Labor, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Medical Board of Examiners). The PCO will, however, investigate allegations of wrongdoing and issue a written determination of findings.

B. Consequences of Default:

An employer is in default if, at any time, he or she does not meet the conditions listed in section A. The DPBH, PCO will monitor the physician and the medical practice. An employer found in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes 439A.130 to 439A.185 or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 439A.700 to 439A.755 will incur the penalties specified under NAC 439A.750.

By signing below, I hereby attest that the above requirements have been met and I hereby agree to abide by all the program policies and rules as described in NRS and NAC and as further required under the Rights and Responsibilities located at the Divisions website at: <http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/Conrad30/Conrad30-Home/>.

Candidate/Physician:

I DAVID L. SURZPAUL, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms of the Nevada Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

DAVID SURZPAUL

Candidate Name (first/last)

MD

Title

David L. Surzpaul

Candidate Signature

3/16/2026

Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of: Nebraska

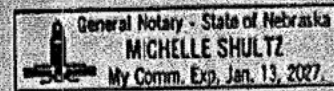
County of: Hall

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 16th day of March, 2026

Michelle Shultz

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires: January 13th 2027



Authorized Employer:

I _____, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

Employer Company/Business Name

Employer Representative Name (first/last)

Title

Employer Signature

Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of: _____

County of: _____

Subscribed and Sworn before me on this _____ day of _____, 20____

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires: _____

Candidate/Physician:

I _____, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms of the Nevada Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Application Attestation. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

Candidate Name (first/last)

Title

Candidate Signature

Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of:

County of:

Subscribed and sworn before me on this ____ day of ____, 20____

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires: _____

Authorized Employer:

I Crystal Lopez, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read, understand and agree to the foregoing terms. I further understand that failure to comply with the requirements listed in Section A may result in sanctions as described in section B above.

Saint Mary's Medical Group

Employer Company/Business Name

Crystal Lopez

Employer Representative Name (first/last)

Executive Director

Title

Crystal Lopez

Employer Signature

03-20-2026

Date

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of: Nevada

County of: Washoe

Subscribed and Sworn before me on this 20 day of March, 2026

Johanna Watt

Notary Signature

My Commission Expires: 4/26/28



Facility Name: Saint Mary's Medical Group-645 N. Arlington, Reno, NV 89503		
Time Period of Report: 1/1/ 2026- 6/30/2026		
	Total # of visits for 12 months	% of visits per 12 months
Medicare visits	27	32%
Medicaid visits (traditional)	3	0.03%
NV Check-up (Managed Care Medicaid)	0	0
Sliding Fee Scale	0	
Indigent/Charity	0	
Private Insurance	54	64%
Other (please provide a breakdown of this percentage)		
Totals	84	100%
*For specialists/hospitalists:		N/A
*Time period of report:		N/A
*# of hospital/medical facility admissions for 6 months for the applicant specialty type		N/A

***** All uninsured patients are eligible to apply for a discount on services. Uninsured who paid full or reduced price are not tracked separately.*****

☐ Please provide the number of providers (Full Time Equivalents, FTE) providing patient services at the practice site.

# of MDs by FTE	2
# of PAs by FTE	
# of APNs by FTE	1

Tab D:

☐ Describe and document the employer's recruitment and retention efforts. The employer must demonstrate that a suitable physician with US citizenship cannot be found through recruitment or any other means for at least two months prior to the submission of the application. Employers in rural communities may request a waiver of the two-month recruitment period in cases of emergency, where



Saint Mary's Medical Group

December 1, 2023

Primary Care Office
4150 Technology Way
Suite 300
Carson City, NV 89706-2009

Re: Employer Letter – David Surujpaul, M.D.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of Saint Mary's Medical Group, Inc., to request that the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health act as the interested government agency and recommend a J-1 waiver for David Surujpal, M.D. Saint Mary's Medical Group, Inc. intends to hire Dr. Surujpaul to provide care at the following facilities:

- Name of practice site 1: Saint Mary's Primary Care South Virginia
- Physical address of practice site 1: 8040 South Virginia St., Suite 4, Reno, NV 89511
HPSA ID: 1323717372 HPSA Score: 14
- Name of practice site 2: Saint Mary's Medical Group
- Physical address of practice site 2: 645 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89503
HPSA ID: 1323717372 HPSA Score: 14 MUA/P: 02096
- Name and title of contact person: Crystal Lopez, Executive Director, Saint Mary's Medical Group
- Telephone number: 775-770-7450
- Fax number: 775-770-7369
- E-mail address for contact person: clopez12@primehealthcare.com
- Employment Mailing address for all practice sites: 411 West 6th Street, Reno, NV 89503

Saint Mary's Medical Group is a fully integrated Medical Group which offers a robust line of services including primary care, urgent care, and specialty. Designed to unite a team of board-certified physicians, specialists and nurse practitioners, the Medical Group is focused on preventive care. Saint Mary's Medical Group includes physicians who specialize in family practice, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. As a long-standing community partner, Saint Mary's Medical Group is dedicated to ensuring the health and wellness of northern Nevada remains strong.

Recent data shows that 1.9 million Nevadans reside in a primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA) or 67.3% of the state's population, specifically 335,222 Washoe County residents live in a primary care HPSA (70.9%). (*Health Workforce Supply and Demand in Nevada: Implications for Network Adequacy M. Tabor Griswold, PhD Co-Director, Nevada Health Workforce Research Center Office of Statewide Initiatives University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine*). This indicates that there is a strong need for healthcare providers in Washoe county, hiring Dr. Surujpaul will help alleviate this major problem.

In addition to Washoe county being in a health professional shortage area, the state also has a problem with an aging physician workforce and a high number of inactive providers. Close to 17% of the licensed doctors in Nevada are inactive, and these are providers who are retired or are not currently practicing medicine.

The growing age of the providers in Nevada poses another problem to the physician shortage in the state. In some of Nevada's counties, the average age of allopathic doctors is 61.2 and the average age of



Saint Mary's Medical Group

osteopathic doctors is 57.7. These numbers are higher than the national averages of 52.9 for allopathic and 49.7 for osteopathic physicians, respectively (Physician numbers are on the rise, though Nevada still well below the national average. ([Jun;2023]. 2018. <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/physician-numbers-are-on-the-rise-though-nevada-still-well-below-the-national-average>). It is extremely important to have organizations like ours continuously hire new and younger physicians to combat this problem.

The scarcity of residency positions in Nevada's medical schools drives many graduates to seek residency training opportunities elsewhere, leading to a reduced likelihood of their return to practice within the state. (Do K, Do J, Kawana E, Zhang R. Nevada's Healthcare Crisis: A Severe Shortage of Physicians and Residency Positions. *Cureus*. 2023 Jul 11;15(7):e41700. doi: 10.7759/cureus.41700. PMID: 37575733; PMCID: PMC10414134.) Currently, Nevada has limited residency training programs and while the state is doing its best to create more programs, there is no guarantee that those graduating residents would remain in the state.

Our organization is committed to making any, and all efforts to keep Dr. Surujpaul with our organization for years to come. We intend to make him a part of our community and will try and pave the way for him to become a leader within our organization over time.

This waiver should be granted because Washoe County continues to face a documented shortage of primary care providers, particularly in medically underserved and low-income areas. A family physician will expand access to comprehensive primary care for children, adults, and seniors who currently experience long wait times, difficulty establishing a primary care home, and limited options for culturally and linguistically appropriate care. The physician will help manage high rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and mental health concerns that are often poorly controlled due to lack of continuous primary care.

By increasing same-day and routine appointment availability, this family physician will help reduce preventable emergency department visits and hospitalizations, improving care coordination and lowering overall healthcare costs in the community. The provider's presence will also support preventive services, immunizations, women's health, and behavioral health integration, directly addressing gaps identified in county and state health needs assessments. Granting this waiver will therefore meet a clear, important unmet healthcare need in Washoe County and improve health outcomes for underserved and vulnerable populations.

Washoe County, Nevada faces a significant shortage of primary care services, particularly in its rural and low-income neighborhoods, making it a medically underserved area for many residents. A family medicine physician is urgently needed to provide comprehensive, continuous care across all ages, manage chronic diseases, and improve access to preventive services for vulnerable populations. By practicing in Washoe County, a family physician would help reduce barriers to care, decrease avoidable emergency department use, and address health disparities that disproportionately affect underserved families and communities in the region.

Due to the current situation and the future health of Washoe County, it is clear to see that recommending a waiver for Dr. Surujpaul would be greatly beneficial to the citizens of Nevada and the patient group that visits our medical center locations in Washoe county.

Dr. Surujpaul's qualifications are suited to the needs of the facilities. In 2022, Dr. Surujpaul earned his medical degree from All Saints University School of Medicine in Dominica. Dr. Surujpaul is expected to complete his residency in family medicine in June 2026. Dr. Surujpaul received his ECFMG certification, has passed USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3, and is applying to be licensed as a physician in the state of Nevada. Dr. Surujpaul meets all the



Saint Mary's
Medical Group

requirements of employment with Saint Mary's Medical Group.

We believe the recruitment of Dr. Surujpaul will be another big step towards improving the standards of patient care in Washoe County. We look forward to him joining our practice.

Sincerely,

Crystal Lopez, Executive Director
Saint Mary's Medical Group

DAVID L. SURUJPAUL, MD

EDUCATION

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

All Saints University School of Medicine — Dominica
September 2014 – March 2022

Bachelor of Science

University of Toronto Mississauga — Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
September 2011 – April 2013

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING

Family Medicine Residency (Rural Track)

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) — Omaha, Nebraska, USA
July 2023 – June 2026

Board Eligible in Family Medicine

Expected Board Examination: April 2026

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Area Coordinator – Diagnostic Imaging / Radiology Department

St. Joseph's Health Centre — Ontario, Canada
March 2023 – June 2023

- Coordinated patient flow for diagnostic imaging services.
- Triaged patients to appropriate imaging modalities including CT, MRI, ultrasound, and X-ray.
- Assisted with patient preparation for imaging procedures.
- Communicated with radiology staff and physicians to ensure efficient workflow and patient care.

Clinical Assistant

New Jane Medical Centre — Ontario, Canada
July 2022 – June 2023

- Conducted patient intake including medical history and preliminary assessments.
- Assisted physicians with outpatient clinical care and patient management.

- Reviewed laboratory results and assisted with patient follow-up coordination.
- Documented patient encounters in the electronic medical record.

CLINICAL OBSERVERSHIPS

Clinical Observerships / Rotations

Various Physicians and Clinical Sites

March 2021 – March 2022

- Observed outpatient and inpatient clinical care across multiple specialties.
- Participated in case discussions and clinical decision-making processes.
- Developed familiarity with patient evaluation, diagnosis, and management within the United States healthcare system.

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

Nebraska Temporary Educational Permit (Resident Physician License)

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Registration — Nebraska

EXAMINATIONS

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)

Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 3 — Completed, passed first attempts.

LANGUAGES

English — Native / Fluent

French — Basic Proficiency

INTERESTS

Soccer and recreational athletics

Competitive gaming — ranked in the top 1% of players in *Overwatch*

Creative writing and storytelling

Professional wrestling entertainment including *WWE* and *All Elite Wrestling*