

is thought of as more upscale than some other addictions, and as afflicting whites more than some other drugs do.

SEVEN DIRTY WORDS

Guinan said she has discussed the matter with state Health and Human Services Director Richard Whitley, and that they have discussed the possibility of legislation. There is no certainty regarding what form legislation would take. Whitley was not immediately available for comment. But a considered policy would be preferable to leaving the consequences to chance.

In Kentucky, for instance, where no state policy exists, one judge fashioned his own, offering opioid defendants the chance to knock two days off their sentences if they attend a NAS educational program provided by the state. In addition, he offered 30 days off to defendants who undergo a vasectomy or a contraception implant—a remedy, if such it is, that has prompted debate and controversy.

In a pilot program in northeast Tennessee, female drug inmates were offered LARC.

That kind of *ad-hoc* policymaking would be avoided with legislative consideration of the problem and adoption of a state policy. But Nevada’s very short legislative sessions do not lend themselves to thoughtful policy-making.

The participation of the CDC, with its credibility and the responsiveness of journalists to its work would make it an important player in the addicted baby matter.

“I had to avoid the topic when I was there,” she said. She was employed at the CDC for 20 years, 1978-1998, and held titles like associate director for science.

The word sensitivity at the agency tends to ebb and flow, depending on the presidential administration in power, one source told us.

In December 2017, leaked documents indicated that employees at the CDC were advised to avoid seven terms. The words did not include *contraception* or related terms, but the dispute did make known a sensitivity to words that could cause public relations problems. The seven words are *vulnerable, diversity, entitlement, transgender, fetus, evidence-based and science-based*. And Guinan says the sensitivity to birth control long pre-dated the seven words during the Trump administration. □

In the absence of a policy, some jurisdictions wing it.

Keeps going



It may look like a Nevada mining operation, but it’s actually part of the ever-expanding, never-finished project on the site of the demolished Park Lane Mall. The project is a combination of shopping, housing and office space. As a result of the construction, pedestrian traffic on the east side of Virginia Street and the south side of Plumb Lane is no longer allowed.

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