



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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MEDICAL CARE AT JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES RATED AT HIGHEST LEVEL

San Diego One of Only Nine Counties with CMA Accreditation

Two County juvenile detention facilities will receive the California Medical Association (CMA) Institute for Medical Quality's (IMQ) highest accreditation for juvenile health services Tuesday, making San Diego County just one of nine counties in the state with CMA/IMQ accreditation for its detention facilities.

San Diego County Probation Department and Health and Human Services Agency officials will accept the certificate at the Board of Supervisors' meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 17, on behalf of the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (a.k.a. Juvenile Hall) and East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility in Otay Mesa. Both facilities have been accredited for the next two years and will receive commendations for meeting 100 percent of the applicable standards set forth by the CMA/IMQ.

"This accreditation is further proof that the County is committed to taking care of our young people," says Ron Roberts, Chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. "The Health and Human Services Agency and Probation Department should be applauded for their collaborative efforts to provide top notch medical care for those in the County's custody."

The accreditation process includes evaluations conducted by practicing physicians, registered nurses, mental health clinicians, and health administrators who understand the challenges of providing services within a detention facility. The standards include 63 aspects of health care and a review of the Probation Department's policies and procedures.

"Our staff works diligently to provide an atmosphere where behavior modification is possible," says Chief Probation Officer Vincent Iaria. "It is gratifying that our efforts are recognized."

The Health and Human Services Agency provides mental health care to youth in these facilities through Children's Mental Health Services, which is critical to addressing negative youth behaviors.

"Our mental health staff is committed to providing quality services," says Jean Shepard, HHSA Director. "This accreditation validates the level of excellence we are achieving."

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