



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS ADVISORY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2010

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG SCREENINGS REDUCE SUBSTANCE ABUSE ***SBIRT Projects Are Focus of National Conference***

WHAT: Local, state and federal officials will meet in San Diego to highlight the success of the federally-funded Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, and Treatment (SBIRT) projects and discuss how the programs have been and can be applied in various settings, including primary care.

Local officials will announce results of nearly 125,000 alcohol and drug screenings conducted at emergency departments and trauma centers over a two-year period. Who was screened? What drugs were they using? Did they stop using drugs?

The SBIRT: Seizing the Teachable Moment conference will also address the lessons learned from projects and the role of SBIRT in Health Care Reform.

WHO: **H. Westley Clark**, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Michael Cunningham, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.
Susan Bower, Director, Alcohol and Drug Services, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Other local, state and national experts

WHEN: **Friday, September 10, 2010**
9:15 a.m. — Clark Presentation on SBIRT and Health Care Reform
10:45 a.m. — Lessons Learned from SBIRT Projects

WHERE: **Marriott Mission Valley— 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego**

WHY: The screenings were part of the California Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (CASBIRT) program, a \$7.7 million, 2-year project which aimed to deliver early intervention and treatment services for persons at risk of developing substance use problems.

The County of San Diego was one of two regions in California where the SBIRT program, funded by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, took place starting in June 2007.

For two years, 20 SBIRT health educators conducted voluntary screenings at 12 sites throughout the County.

HHSA's Alcohol and Drug Services subcontracted with the SDSU Research Foundation—Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Studies and Services to administer the program.

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