



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2010

Contact: Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

EXAMINATION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES REVEALS ALARMING TRENDS

County Asks Community to Help Prevent Abuse

WHAT: The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has completed an in-depth review of the most severe physical child abuse cases over the past 18 months and discovered disturbing trends related to the injuries and abusers.

A recent report from the United States Department of Health and Human Services announced a significant reduction in child abuse rates nationwide. The estimated number of victimized children dropped from 903,000 in 2006 to 772,000 in 2008. The report, however, noted a 30 percent increases in fatal cases.

In San Diego County, the average number of child abuse cases has fallen from a monthly average of 8,881 open cases in 2006-2007 to 6,791 in 2009-2010. While the decreasing numbers of cases is encouraging, the severity of abuse remains a concern.

WHO: **Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price**, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Director, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
Charles Wilson, Executive Director, Chadwick Center for Children and Families and the Sam and Rose Stein Endowed Chair in Child Protection, Rady Children's Hospital
Debra Zanders-Willis, Director, HHSA Child Welfare Services
Mother who has been reunified with her children through HHSA services will talk about her family's experience with child abuse

WHEN: Wednesday, May 12, 2010
12 noon

WHERE: County Administration Center
East Plaza (Pacific Highway side)
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

VISUALS: Silhouettes of victims of severe child abuse, including descriptions of injuries sustained

NOTE: The mother, who has been reunified with her children, does not wish to be identified. She will grant interviews on the condition that her identity is not revealed.

###

Health and Human Services Agency, County of San Diego
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101