



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2011

Contact: Lisa Contreras (619) 515-6579 (office) / (619) 787-8582 (cell)

COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY APPOINTS NEW CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER *Dean Arabatzis Brings Over Two Decades of Experience to Agency*

The County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dean Arabatzis as its new Chief Operations Officer (COO).

Arabatzis has more than 21 years of experience in government service specializing in health and social services finance. Most recently he served as the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer for San Bernardino County.

“Dean’s experience in health-related finance will enhance the already stellar operations of HHS,” said Walt Ekard, Chief Administrative Officer, County of San Diego. “He has a strong understanding of what it takes to make county government run and will be a great asset to San Diego County.”

Arabatzis has a Masters of Business Administration from the University of California, Riverside. He started his career as a health analyst for San Bernardino County and was responsible for county financing strategies. He has also served on the executive committee for the Low Income Health Plan in San Bernardino County.

“Dean has the ideal mix of knowledge, skills, abilities and experience to help lead HHS toward the realization of the County’s “Live Well San Diego!” strategy.” said Nick Macchione, HHS Director.

“Live Well, San Diego!” is a 10-year plan to improve San Diegans’ health, safety and well-being.

The COO directly manages the operations of the Agency and the development and implementation of policies and procedures concerning health and human services. The COO makes sure that local family and community needs are met in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

“I have been on the finance side of government for over 10 years,” said Arabatzis “I look forward to helping ensure that San Diegans are in good health through the many programs and services HHS has for county residents.”

HHS’s current Chief Operations Officer, Terry Hogan, will be retiring after over 10 years of service to the residents of San Diego County.

Arabatzis will start at HHS on May 2.

###

FOLLOW THE [COUNTY](#) ON [TWITTER](#), [FACEBOOK](#) AND [YOUTUBE](#)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 207 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472