



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY SEEKS IDEAS ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE *Community Input Needed for Workforce and Education Training Projects*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is inviting community comment on the Workforce Education and Training (WET) plan to develop the County's public mental health workforce.

Public forums, scheduled throughout the county during the month of February, will help HHS develop projects that, among other things, will:

- Provide training and technical assistance to public mental health professionals;
- Recruit and prepare individuals for careers in public mental health; and
- Offer residency and internship programs, as well as stipends, scholarships, and loans in areas identified as having a shortage of licensed professionals.

WET projects will be funded with \$17.3 million allocated to HHS from the Mental Health Services Act, which was approved by California voters in 2004. The Act imposes a one percent tax on personal income above \$1 million for the creation of new mental health programs statewide. WET funds are to be used over a 10-year period to assist the public mental health workforce to provide culturally competent, client- and family-driven services that promote wellness, recovery and resilience.

Join county staff at the following forums to provide your thoughts and suggestions:

North Inland Regional Center

Feb. 10, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
600 E. Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025

East Region Adoptions

Feb. 12, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
198 E. Main St., El Cajon, CA 92090

Southbay Regional Center

Feb. 19, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
690 Oxford St., Chula Vista, CA 91911

People not able to attend the forums may find more information on WET at:
www.sandiego.networkofcare.org or may call the MHS/Proposition 63 Comment/Question Line:
(619) 584-5063, Toll-Free: (888) 977-6763 and/or provide their input via e-mail:
MHSProp63.HHS@sdcounty.ca.gov

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