



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
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HEALTH IS MORE THAN JUST PHYSICAL ***County Seeks Community Input on New Mental Health Prevention Services***

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is seeking input from the public and mental health professionals about the types of mental health prevention and early intervention programs that are needed in our community. Public forums, scheduled throughout the County during the month of February, will each focus on a particular population that may benefit from new mental health services. Integrating recommendations gleaned from the forums, HHS expects to launch the new mental health programs early next year.

The new services will be funded with a portion of the \$16 million HHS will receive annually 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.

New prevention and early intervention programs will provide services to identify and treat early signs of mental illness. The objective is to reduce stigma and discrimination and to lessen the negative outcomes from untreated mental illness, including suicide, incarcerations, school failure, and homelessness.

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

Individuals Exposed to Domestic and Community Violence

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Loma Verde Recreation Center

1420 Loma Lane in Chula Vista

Info: Janice Lamb (619) 563-2767 or janice.lamb@sdcounty.ca.gov

Veterans and their Families

Thursday, February 21, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Oceanside Civic Center—The Community Rooms

330 N. Coast Highway

Info: Debra Fitzgerald at (619) 563-2753 or debra.fitzgerald@sdcounty.ca.gov

Native American Communities

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Radisson Suite Hotel—Rancho Bernardo

11520 W. Bernardo Court

Info: Debra Fitzgerald at (619) 563-2753 or debra.fitzgerald@sdcounty.ca.gov

Co-Occurring Disorders

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

North Coastal Regional Center—Oceanside

1701 Mission Ave.

Info: Debra Fitzgerald at (619) 563-2753 or debra.fitzgerald@sdcounty.ca.gov

People not able to attend the forums may provide their input online at www.sandiego.networkofcare.org.

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