



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: José A. Álvarez (619) 515-6635

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO NATIONAL BOARD
Alfredo Aguirre is Named to Board of Directors of National Network of Social Work Managers

Alfredo Aguirre, director for the County's Mental Health Services (MHS) has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Network of Social Work Managers ([NNSWM](#)).

"I am honored and humbled by this appointment," said Aguirre, who has worked in community mental health for more than 30 years. MHS is a department within the County Health and Human Services Agency. Aguirre's appointment extends to July 2014.

"This appointment is the result of the great work and collaboration taking place in the region to improve San Diegans' mental health," added Aguirre, who, along with MHS staff, recently received the Hope Award from the International Bipolar Foundation. The award is recognition for the County's [It's Up to Us](#) campaign, designed to empower San Diegans to talk openly about mental illness, recognize symptoms, and seek help.

"It's great to see a member of our team appointed to such a prestigious board," said Chairman Bill Horn, County Board of Supervisors. "Alfredo has been a key leader in the County's efforts to implement Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) programs locally and a strong advocate for suicide prevention and stigma reduction."

Aguirre oversees MHS, which provides a vast array of services including mental health assessments, individual, family and group therapy, special services for children, crisis intervention and psychiatric emergency care.

Established 25 years ago, NNSWM is devoted to advancing excellence in social work within health and human services organizations.

In his role as a Board member, Aguirre is working with San Diego State University's School of Social Work to develop a San Diego chapter of the NNSWM. A local chapter would benefit the County by providing professional support to County social workers and helping to advance the mission of the County's Live Well, San Diego!, a 10-year plan to improve health in the region.

"Our goal is to help San Diegans live longer and improve their quality of life," said Nick Macchione, HHS Director. "People's mental health is just as important as their physical well-being,"

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COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 208 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472