



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY HONORS PERSON OF THE YEAR

County Mental Health Services' Katie Astor Given Award at Annual Dinner June 2

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) County Mental Health Services joined with the rest of the San Diego County mental health community in honoring those who made a difference in mental health in 2006 at its annual Mental Health Recognition Dinner June 2.

Katie Astor, HHSA Chief, Children's Mental Health Services for Therapeutic Behavioral Services and Outpatient programs, was named the Mental Health Person of the Year after being nominated by the mental health community and selected by an independent rating panel.

"We're very proud that Katie was selected by the panels for this recognition," said Alfredo Aguirre, Director, San Diego County Mental Health Services. "Her dedication to improving the lives of children and youth experiencing mental health issues is well known in the community."

Astor, who was in charge of the mental health services provided to firestorm victims in 2003 and 2004, currently oversees approximately 46 separate programs within Children's Mental Health. She was a driving force behind expanding mental health services into school sites in San Diego County and to children and youth who are eligible for Medi-Cal.

The Mental Health Recognition Dinner is held every year in honor of Mental Health Month. For more information on County Mental Health Services, call (619) 563-2700 or go to the Mental Health Services Network of Care website at <http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/home/>.

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