

HHSA Connection

NOVEMBER 2009 A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency



H1N1 Vaccine Arrives in County

Public demand has been heavy for the H1N1 vaccine that began arriving in San Diego County in early October. Through extended Public Health Center hours and working with our community partners, the Agency is working to get the most vulnerable populations vaccinated as quickly as possible. More vaccine doses will continue to arrive for the next several months. More information for employees can be found by [clicking here](#).



What's Inside:



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The New Look of HHSA

The Agency recently unveiled a new logo. The new look is intended to help San Diego County residents more easily recognize the valuable services we deliver.

The new HHSA logo should be incorporated into all HHSA brochures, PowerPoints, posters, mailings, advertisements and public displays. (Please note, for budgetary reasons, we will not be reprinting any materials solely for the purpose of changing or updating the logo - as materials are reordered and updated, the new logo will be incorporated).

There are four distinct color variations of the new logo. Each version has an intended purpose and use, in alignment with the major components of our HHSA strategy - health, safety and self-sufficiency.

You can find the new logos and the guidelines for their use by clicking here.

If you have questions, please contact Arnold De Guzman (619) 515-6703 or Lesley Pinka (619) 515-6528.



Jiménez New First 5 San Diego Executive Director

Barbara Jiménez has been appointed Executive Director of First 5 San Diego. Jiménez will be responsible for directing First 5 San Diego investments and services that support the health and well-being of pregnant women and young children.

Jiménez has a career spanning over 20 years with the County of San Diego. Most recently, she served as the Program Director for the Health and Human Services Agency's Office of Violence Prevention and Community Action Partnership as well as serving as the San Diego County Refugee Coordinator.



Jiménez

Congratulations HHSA Customer Service Superheroes!

Congratulations to the nine HHSA employees who were recently named 2009 County of San Diego Customer Service Superheroes. HHSA had more employees honored than any other County service group. **Gina Cope, Stacy Cox, Arcele De Guzman, Jolene Ibarra, Morris Lazard, Rosa Lopez, Ariel Saluta, Emelyn Trinh and Christina Volz** were recognized at an Oct. 9 breakfast with County executives.



Federal Aging Official Visits AIS

Assistant U.S. Secretary of Aging Kathy Greenlee, center in the pink jacket, made a stop at the Agency's Aging & Independence Services as the first stop on her tour of local aging agencies. The secretary met with Director **Pam Smith**, toured the call center and visited with staff and Advisory Council members. Greenlee told Smith, "You are the model for the nation." She also said she was impressed with the integrated services, partnerships with the libraries and other entities and the many intergenerational programs.



Student Loans Paid for Serving the Community

Betty Lemos, a licensed mental health clinician at the Southeast Mental Health clinic, pursued her job because she wanted to make a difference in peoples' lives. After graduating, she had the education she needed, but also a hefty student loan. She heard about a program that will reimburse student loans for certain types of work, and diligently researched until she found a program that would work for her. Lemos qualified for the Mental Health Loan Assumption Program, which reimburses mental health and social work professionals who work in under-served areas. Part of the funding comes from fees licensed mental health clinicians pay every two years.



Betty Lemos, MFT

Other professionals can apply for similar programs. In return for working for a certain period of time in a designated area, these professionals can get funding toward their education (just click on the area to be taken to the corresponding web site):

- National Association of Social Workers
- Primary care medical, dental and mental health clinicians
- Health professional students and graduates

Taking a Hike in El Cajon



Health Promotion Team (from left to right) **Kristen Smith, Kari Wasilenko and Tina Munoz.**

Aging and Independence Services held a "Walkability" Event in El Cajon on Saturday, Sept. 26 in recognition of Fall Prevention Awareness Week. The event brought together 54 youth and older adults for a training and walk audit. This event increased awareness of safety hazards in an El Cajon neighborhood that has the highest incidence of pedestrian involved crashes. More than 20 residents signed up to advocate for solutions to safety hazards identified by the walk audit.

Little League World Series Bonds Mother and Son

It was a lot of fun for North Inland Family Resource Center Assistant Manager **Martha Armenta** as she watched her son and his friends on the Park View Little League claim the 2009 Little League World Series Championship recently.

Her son **Isaiah**, a pitcher, started playing baseball at age 4 and joined the Park View team this season. "We moved last year and my son went from being a Park View rival to a Park View player," said Armenta. "I missed my son terribly during the time he was away from home, which was almost a month. Yes, he is my baby and we share a special bond."

Armenta said the players are all happy to be home now and have been excited to meet several Padres and Chargers players. The Little League team was honored at the Chargers home opener. Life has changed - at least temporarily - as

her son adjusts to being a local celebrity.

"Since his return my son has visited a senior citizen home, participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon, visited his old elementary school and will be writing an essay on his experience this summer," said Armenta. "While it is fun for him to be recognized by others for his accomplishments, I want to teach him to give back to the community that has supported him and loved from a distance."



Isaiah and Martha Armenta



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Leadership Series Fuels Employee Development

The Agency recently graduated its first Public Health Nursing leadership class from the Public Health Future Leadership Development Series. The year-long class was designed for Public Health Nurses that work in the North regions. The goal is to expand opportunities for professional growth and development that will lead to better outcomes for children and families. Staff from Child Welfare Services, Compliance office, County Counsel, Human Resources, and Public Health Nursing served as mentors.



North Regions Public Health Future Leadership Development Class graduation (left to right): **Tammy Vo-Ngo, Robin Anderson, Lupe Flores, Iris Bentz, Karee Vanderheyden, Heather Labelle**, North Coastal Public Health Manager **Audrey Lopez** (instructor) and **Regina Sandoval**. Assistant Deputy Director **Dann Crawford**, second from right, and Assistant Deputy Director **Ruth Supranovich**, right, are also pictured.

San Diego Depression Screening Week a Success

The Agency's six regions teamed up with Mental Health Services and the Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) to offer residents no-cost depression screenings during San Diego Depression Screening Week.

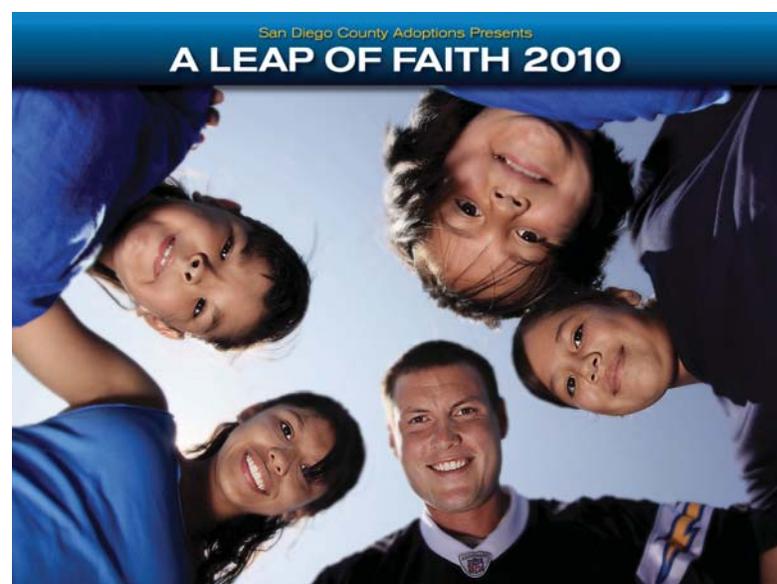
The screenings were utilized by dozens of residents at sites in each region. Ten screenings were scheduled, mostly in family resource centers, through-out the week.

Trained mental health volunteers screened adults 18 years and older. At many sites, an experienced mental health clinician was also available to meet with individuals needing immediate intervention or referrals for ongoing help.

More than 19 million American adults each year are clinically depressed. For mental health resources, please call 2-1-1 or the County's 24-hour, multilingual Access and Crisis Line at (800) 479-3339.



HHSA Mental Health Services Director **Alfredo Aguirre** speaks at the kickoff to San Diego Depression Screening Week. At left is Aaron Byzak, policy advisor to Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, and at right is Ruth Covell, M.D., from CHIP.



The 2010 Leap of Faith Adoptions calendars featuring children waiting to be adopted and San Diego Chargers players are now available. Distribution began at the Chargers' Nov. 1 game against the Oakland Raiders.

Kick-the-Flu Summit Draws Record Crowd

This year's Kick the Flu Summit was a big hit, bringing together health and human services professionals from public and private agencies and organizations to learn about influenza. This year drew a record crowd of about 270 people to the Scripps Schaezel Center for Health Education in La Jolla.

Attendees heard presentations by some of the most authoritative local experts on both seasonal and pandemic H1N1 influenza.



The 2009 Kick-the-Flu Summit drew a record crowd.

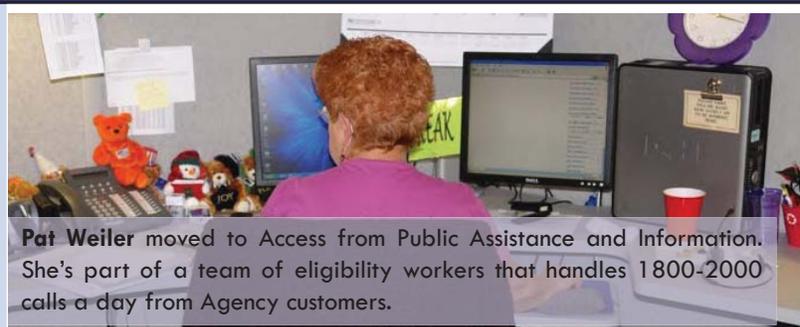


Access Center is Valuable Tool for Customers, Staff

As part of the Agency's move to the "no wrong door" approach for self-sufficiency clients, a new call center was unveiled for customer service. Already the new Access center has resulted in a lot less ringing phones in Family Resource Centers.

Access is available to customers Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. via a toll-free number. Through the service, people can check on the status of their cases, report lost or stolen EBT cards, request forms and update changes to their accounts.

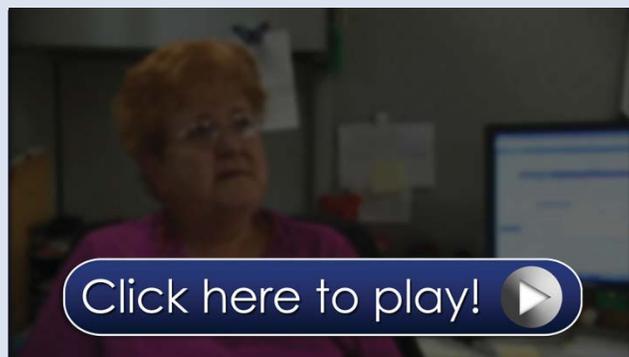
"The eligibility worker has computer access to their case and all program materials," said **Delia Dominguez-Cervantes**, who helped get Access up and running. "It's like a virtual case file, and it allows us to directly communicate to the customer what's needed."



Pat Weiler moved to Access from Public Assistance and Information. She's part of a team of eligibility workers that handles 1800-2000 calls a day from Agency customers.

ACCESS

VIDEO



HealthLink North County: A Decade of Partnerships

A family of four at an Escondido preschool needs health insurance. A child at an Oceanside elementary school needs glasses, but has no resources. A student in San Marcos has advanced dental disease, but no dental coverage. With fewer school nurses, larger school populations and increased complexity in health issues, schools and districts need all the support they can get to ensure their students are healthy and ready to learn. HealthLink North County, a school-health collaborative, addresses issues like those.

The partnership between the Agency and community-based organizations, health and dental care providers, regional collaboratives and local school districts is celebrating 10 years of accomplishments in 2009.

"North County students' health and well-being are a priority. This collaboration embodies the commitment that the County and its community partners have made," said County Supervisor Bill Horn, whose fifth district covers much of North County.

HEALTHLINK NORTH

VIDEO



Rally Raises Voices Against Domestic Violence Increase



Nearly a thousand survivors, youth, advocates and others gathered throughout the County for the 7th annual "Not to Be Forgotten Rally" to raise awareness about domestic violence and remember those murdered by their intimate partners. There has been a 40% increase in domestic violence fatalities in 2009. Last year, there were 17,000 domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement in the county.

If you or someone you know is being abused, call the San Diego County Domestic Violence Hotline at 888-385-4657.



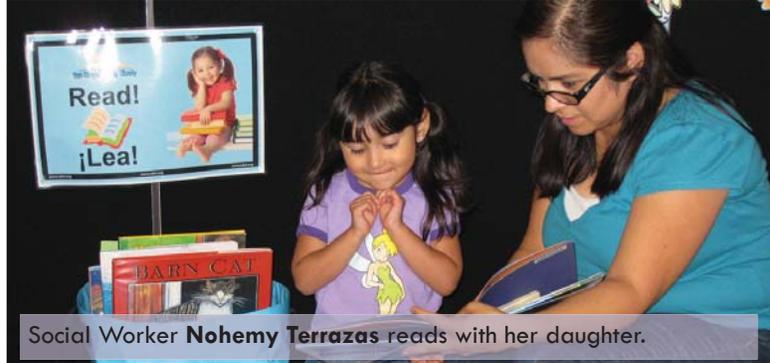
North Central Child Welfare Services staff that participated in the Loving Arms picnic (left to right): **Debbie O'Keefe**, Secretary; **Anna Cessna**, SPSW; **Gilbert Fierro**, North Central Region CWS Mgr; **Nicole Reed**, PSS; and **Blair Hoffelder**, PSW

Loving Arms Embrace Foster Families

Foster families and community partners of the Loving Arms Foster Family Network held an annual picnic at Breen Park to celebrate North Central foster families. Loving Arms Foster Family Network is a neighborhood-based foster family support team that was created by foster parents for foster parents, coming together in one network across North Central Region. About 40 families enjoyed the picnic and fun-filled day that included food, entertainment, activities and opportunities to meet other foster families.

Aguirre Assumes Top Spot

HHSAs Mental Health Services Director **Alfredo Aguirre**, LCSW, has been sworn in as President of the California Mental Health Director's Association (CMHDA). Aguirre assumes the presidency after holding increasingly responsible roles on various CMHDA committees. CMHDA plays a key role advising the California Department of Mental Health on various issues.



Social Worker **Nohemy Terrazas** reads with her daughter.

County Library Donates Books

The San Diego County Library recently distributed a bag of children's books to be used by foster children who visit the Child Welfare Services Foster Home Licensing lobby at 8965 Balboa Avenue. The lobby has a child-sized table and chairs, but the children's books were getting very worn.

Children In Need is Here to Help

CIN is a non-profit organization run by HHSAs employees. CIN provides financial assistance for any child in our system to participate in enrichment activities such as sports, dance, club memberships, camps, and more. It also helps with funds for things like yearbooks and prom dresses. Even a child who does not have an active case with HSA can receive support if they meet income criteria. Anyone can submit a request, but most requests come from Social or Eligibility workers.

For more information, or to download the updated CIN request form that can be submitted by email, visit their web site or contact **Mindy Ripley** at 858-616-5994 or mindy.ripley@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Leadership Award

Susan Bower, right, Director of HHSAs Alcohol and Drug Services, received the Community Leadership Award from Crossroads Foundation's **Maria Costello**, left, at the organization's annual celebration and fundraising event on Sept. 27. Crossroads provides long-term alcohol and drug residential treatment services for women.

HEALTH NEWS

Flu Season VIDEO



Click here to play!

Terry Cunningham Honored With Two Major Community Awards

A Community Hero for Nearly 30 Years



TERRY CUNNINGHAM



...overs&shapers20yea



Terry Cunningham
Terry Cunningham's involvement in the fight against AIDS began long before he was named chief of the San Diego County Office of AIDS Coordination in 1988.

In the early '80s, as the director and founder of the Beach Area Community Clinic — a program centered on providing well-



Supervisor Roberts, Lifetime Achievement Award honoree Terry Cunningham and Jim Ginelli at the Townspeople awards dinner Friday.



Ciaccio Clinic Celebrates Twentieth

Article and photo by St. Clair Adams
Contributing Writer

SAN DIEGO — Ciaccio Memorial Health Clinic hosted their 20th anniversary on October 10, which was memorialized by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors with a proclamation. The date was also proclaimed Rick Swindian Day, who with Terry Cunningham, created the Beach Area Community Clinic (BACC), which became BACC/Ciaccio was the first community-based effort for treatment of HIV and was



...cies to treat this disease it was paramount that other possible health problems and conditions be identified and corrected.

On December 1, 1985, John J. Ciaccio, Founder of the San Diego Gay and AIDS Action List passed away from AIDS complications. Shortly after his passing, Cunningham asked if the name of the program could be named after him.



Photo — Fred Scholl

well ... Well!

To cover the upstart cost of the program, Update Staff Writer SAN DIEGO — "When we first started this program we called it the Well Gay Males' Screening

men wanting to see if they required the vaccination, the Gay Male Screening Program was born. Since then SAGA Ski Club has

heratitis B vaccination screening, complete blood count, stool culture for ova and parasites, and a medical history. There's also a

If you mention the name **Terry Cunningham** in San Diego, words like legendary, dedicated, committed and champion are some of the responses you are likely to hear.

Cunningham, Chief of the HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch of the Agency's Public Health Services, recently received two prestigious awards recognizing his work in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center presented Cunningham with their Jess Jessop Founders Award, given to those who have made significant and consistent contributions to enhancing the health and well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of San Diego.

Cunningham was a volunteer at the original AIDS hot line; co-founded the Ciaccio Memorial Clinic; volunteered in China, Russia, Zambia and Ethiopia; and created the San Diego AIDS Adult Day Health Care Center.

Cunningham also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Townspeople, an organization that works to provide affordable housing for people with HIV/AIDS or disabilities in San Diego.

300 Miles Together for a Cause



2009 marks the 5th consecutive year that Agency employees Dawn Wynne, left, and Mindy Ripley have walked the 60-mile Breast Cancer 3-day to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Faces of HHSA

VIDEO





Public Health, Behavioral Health Team Up on Trainings



Public Health Nursing and Behavioral Health Services are cross-threading by sharing information about their various programs during joint training sessions.

In the photo to the right, **Virginia West**, Mental Health Program Coordinator and **Marshall Lewis**, MD, Behavioral Health Services Clinical Director, answer questions from the nursing staff. In the top left photo, Public Health Nurses **Sherry Ceccanese**, **Dorine Meade**, **Dionne Romano** from California Children Services, and **Nissa Berbawy** were all smiles. In the top middle photo, **Christine Holcomb** and **Patricia Harris**, Public Health Nurses from Central Region, are getting ready to enjoy the event.

Ageless Art



A five week Intergenerational Art class was offered in July at the Rancho San Diego Library, through a partnership between HHSA's East Region, Aging & Independence Services, and the San Diego County Library. The classes offered the opportunity for older adults and youth to engage with one another in the process of creating art. Classes were held every Thursday for two hours and covered different topics such as creating a collage for a journal, nail polish art, tessellations (process of repeating shapes to create a pattern) and portrait and landscape painting. Instructors were older adult volunteers who came from different backgrounds and art experience.



Recovery Happens

In 2008, more than 13,000 people were admitted into County-funded treatment centers. Of those admitted, approximately 11,000 were adults and 2,000 were under the age of 18. Meth was the primary drug of choice for more than 40 percent of adults entering treatment, with marijuana as the primary drug of choice among adolescents.

VIDEO



Click here to play!



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