



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

October 8, 2008

Contact: Derryl Acosta cell (858) 688-9163, office (858) 514-3211

RIISING NUMBER OF PROBATIONERS SUFFER FROM MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

County Invites Author, Psychologist, and Frequent CNN Guest to Address the Issue with Probation Staff

San Diego County residents with mental health disorders are often arrested and placed on probation. Studies show 27 percent to 43 percent of adults on probation are in need of mental health treatment and 45 percent to 65 percent of youth in juvenile halls suffer from mental health disorders or substance abuse. Probation officers are not formally trained to deal with this rising issue.

In response, the County Probation Department has invited psychologist, author, frequent CNN guest, and national expert, Dr. Lisa Boesky to address more than 700 probation staff on Monday, Oct. 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Center in San Diego.

Dr. Boesky will help staff understand their key role in helping probationer's access effective mental health treatment in order to prevent future crimes, reduce their level of risk, and help them become productive citizens.

"Supervising offenders with mental health problems is becoming a serious issue for probation officers," said County Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins. "We are excited Dr. Boesky will be sharing her research on how we can better serve this difficult population."

Dr. Boesky's keynote address is part of the department's annual training and recognition event. Chief Jenkins will be honoring the employees of the year for their outstanding service to the community and department. The event will also include addresses from Board of Supervisors Chairman Greg Cox, Undersheriff Bill Gore, and City of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Editor's Note: The event runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dr. Lisa Boesky is scheduled to speak from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

###