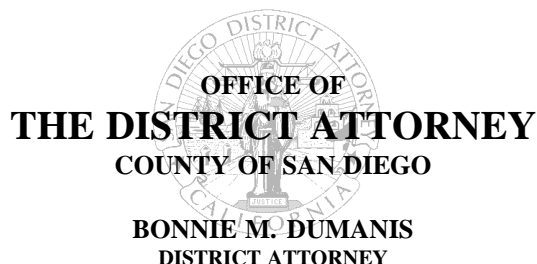


JESUS RODRIGUEZ
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY



San Diego
330 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4040

<http://www.sandiegoda.com>

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Contact: Paul Levikow
(619) 531-3536

San Diego County Oxy Task Force Launched

More Than 20 Departments and Agencies Participating in Countywide Effort

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis, the DEA San Diego Field Division and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department today announced the launch of the San Diego County Oxy Task Force. The task force has four components to address the oxycontin/oxycodone abuse problem in San Diego County: Law Enforcement; Education; Legislative Issues; and Prevention and Treatment.

"Because OxyContin can lead to heroin abuse, we have seen an up-tick in heroin traffic," said DA Dumanis. "We are also seeing abusers of OxyContin committing residential burglaries, armed robberies, prescription fraud, check fraud and even prostitution in an attempt to support their ongoing habit.

"The San Diego community knows that the best method of dealing with serious community concerns is a cooperative and coordinated effort. When it comes to addressing problems that are endangering the lives of our children, we all band together and place this as a top priority," said Special Agent in Charge Ralph W. Partridge. "The DEA's role in this task force is multi-faceted. To work with our partners and provide our resources to combat this problem; to arrest and prosecute these drug dealers who are taking legal prescription drugs and distributing them in an illegal manner; and to work with community coalitions and schools to educate the public and our youth of the dangers of abusing prescription drugs".

Other agencies involved in the Task Force include: San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price; San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; San Diego Prevention Coalition; San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency; University of California, San Diego Police; La Jolla Recovery; San Diego Police Department; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; San Diego State University Police; County Office of Education; Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement; North County Prevention Coalition; U.S. Attorney's Office; and the San Diego County Narcotics Task Force.

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