



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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MILLIONS OF STATE DOLLARS EARMARKED FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS *County Seeks Community Input On How To Strengthen Mental Health Workforce*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is inviting the public to two remaining community forums to provide input on the Workforce Education and Training (WET) plan to strengthen the County's public mental health workforce.

Two remaining public forums will help HHS develop projects that, among other things, will:

- Provide training and technical assistance to public mental health professionals;
- Recruit and prepare individuals for careers in public mental health; and
- Offer residency and internship programs, as well as stipends, scholarships, and loans in areas identified as having a shortage of licensed professionals.

Join county staff at the following forums to provide your thoughts and suggestions:

East Region Adoptions

Feb. 12, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
198 E. Main St., El Cajon, CA 92090

Southbay Regional Center

Feb. 19, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
690 Oxford St., Chula Vista, CA 91911

WET projects will be funded with \$17.3 million allocated to HHS from the State's Mental Health Services Act, which was approved by California voters in 2004. The Act imposes a one percent tax on personal income above \$1 million for the creation of new mental health programs statewide. WET funds are to be used over a 10-year period to assist the public mental health workforce to provide culturally competent, client and family-driven services that promote wellness, recovery and resilience.

People not able to attend the forums may find more information on WET at:
www.sandiego.networkofcare.org or may call the MHSA/Proposition 63 Comment/Question Line:
(619) 584-5063, Toll-Free: (888) 977-6763 and/or provide their input via e-mail:
MHSPop63.HHS@sdcounty.ca.gov

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