



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **KIDS RESCUED FROM “METH HELL” Nation’s “Drug Czar” and County Officials Announce 10-Year Results of Successful Drug Endangered Children Program**

**WHAT:** The Nation’s “Drug Czar,” **John P. Walters**, will join County Board of Supervisors **Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob** and other County officials in a **celebration of the success of the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) program.**

Speakers will **announce the number of children saved from meth and other drug-infested homes and settings** in the past 10 years and **unveil a “Meth Wall of Hell,”** which displays photos of drug paraphernalia, drugs, drug money, weapons, and filthy homes from which children were rescued.

**WHO:** **John P. Walters**, Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy  
**Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob**, San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
**Mary Harris**, Director, Child Welfare Services, Health and Human Services Agency  
**Norma Rincon**, Supervisor, Drug Endangered Children Program, South County  
**Chief Jim Maher**, Escondido Police Department  
**Former meth user who lost children because of meth**

**WHEN:** **THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008 AT 11:30 A.M.**

**WHERE:** **Health and Human Services Agency  
1700 Pacific Highway, San Diego**

**WHY:** The Drug Endangered Children program, a multidisciplinary team response to labs and homes where meth and other drug use and sales are prevalent, started as a pilot program in North County in 1998. The Program is now offered countywide.

The DEC team includes law enforcement officers, a Child Protective Services worker, a prosecutor and medical professionals. Together, this team ensures that children are safely removed from meth-infested homes and properly screened for medical problems.

Today, a Child Protective Services worker is available to every law enforcement agency in every region of the County. Public health nurses supplement the medical team.

**VISUALS:** Unveiling of “Meth Wall of Hell,” which displays photos of drug paraphernalia, drugs, weapons, drug money, and filthy homes from which children were rescued. Chart showing number of children removed and how many tested positive for meth and other drugs.

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