



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2009

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FORMER DRUG ADDICTS SHARE THEIR STORIES *“Recovery Happens” Event Takes Place September 11*

WHAT: People in recovery from alcohol and drug abuse will share their stories and struggles during a resource fair to commemorate September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

As part of the celebration, treatment centers from throughout the county will compete in a banner contest celebrating this year’s theme: “Together We Learn. Together We Heal.”

Participants will also celebrate with family and friends their months and years of being clean and sober and encourage drug users to seek help.

WHO: **Susan Bower**, Deputy Director, County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Seth Groff, Jeff Jeffery and Debbie Snyder, people in recovery
Representatives from treatment programs
Other former drug users

WHEN: **Friday, September 11, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.**

WHERE: **County Administration Center—Bayside Plaza**
1600 Pacific Highway

WHY: 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 being the primary drug of choice among adolescents.

It is estimated that more than 22 million Americans, 12 years of age and older, abuse alcohol or illicit drugs.

Typically, about one third of people who enter treatment complete their program, one third drop out, and one third make progress toward recovery.

People with substance abuse problems can call the County’s Access and Crisis Line at (800) 479-3339.

VISUALS: Banners created by patients in treatment centers. Recovery Bill of Rights. Interviews with former drug users.

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