



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY APPOINTS HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR ***Izabela Karmach Brings 30 Years of Experience to Psychiatric Facility***

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Director Nick Macchione announced today that Izabela Karmach, R.N., MFT, has been appointed the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital Administrator.

“Ms. Karmach has the professional experience and background necessary to succeed in this position. She will be responsible for directing hospital activities and developing and implementing policies and procedures,” said Macchione. “This position is critically important for the County and the overall health of our community; I am pleased Ms. Karmach is joining our team.”

The San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital is a publicly funded, free-standing 45-bed psychiatric facility. Ms. Karmach will lead 239 employees and manage an annual budget of \$23.4 million. The mission of the hospital is to provide psychiatric evaluation, crisis intervention-oriented treatment and short-term treatment. Hospital employees work to stabilize patients dealing with a mental health crisis with the goal of moving them to less restrictive care. Each year, the hospital provides services to thousands of patients, 18 years of age and older, who require crisis emergency services, or have a mental disorder and pose a danger to self, others and/or are gravely disabled due to their disorder.

Ms. Karmach has more than 30 years of professional experience in the planning, management, and delivery of health services in the County of San Diego. She has extensive experience in managing the day-to-day operations of mental health facilities and programs. Most recently, since 2004, she has served as Chief Operating Officer of Aurora Behavioral Health Hospital, an 80 bed psychiatric hospital in San Diego County.

“I look forward to working at a facility that has a demonstrated track record of excellent, compassionate care, and for an Agency that is truly dedicated to public service,” said Karmach. “My goal is to capitalize on the strengths of the current fine staff, to ensure that we continue providing the highest quality care while tackling the healthcare challenges of the future.”

Karmach will begin working at the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital November 3, 2008.

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