



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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## **COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT TO PLAN PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS** *First Forum Takes Place Wednesday, Nov. 28 from 1-5 P.M.*

**WHAT:** The San Diego County HHSA (Health and Human Services Agency) will host the first of several community forums to gather input on how to spend \$16 million the County will receive annually from the Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component.

The forums, which will continue in early 2008, will help determine the type of mental health PEI programs needed. This forum is sponsored by HHSA's Adult/Older Adult Mental Health Services and the Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Council.

**WHEN:** **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007 FROM 1:00- 5:00 P.M.**

**WHERE:** **Mission Valley Library—Community Room  
2123 Fenton Parkway**

**WHY:** The Mental Health Services Act was approved by California voters in 2004. It imposes a 1 percent tax on personal income above \$1 million for the expansion of mental health programs statewide.

When fully implemented, San Diego County will receive about \$16 million annually in MHSA funds for prevention and early intervention programs.

These programs and services will serve individuals that have been exposed to trauma, are experiencing onset of serious psychiatric illness and children and youth living in stressed families, at risk of school failure and in danger of landing in the juvenile justice system.

The State's PEI guidelines require that a minimum of 51 percent of funding is to be spent on programs for individuals age 25 and younger.

Stigma of mental illness is a barrier that discourages individuals and their families from seeking help.

Twenty percent of young people experience some form of diagnosable mental illness, while 26 percent of people 18 and older—about 58 million—suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder. Mental disorders disrupt an individual's ability to function at home, in school, at work, or in their community.

To obtain more information on mental illness or to seek treatment, call the County's multi-lingual Access and Crisis Line at (800) 479-3339.

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