



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Carey Riccitelli (760) 740-4130

Cell (760) 207-8532

SCHOOL FOOD SUMMIT FOCUSES ON COMBATING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

County and Schools Working Toward Better Nutrition Policies for Students

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Pam Slater-Price, Chairwoman of the County Board of Supervisors, [HealthLink North County](#), and the [Coalition on Children and Weight](#) San Diego have teamed up to bring together hundreds of education leaders and health and nutrition experts this week for a summit on the foods children and youth have access to on school campuses. The summit seeks to address the issue of childhood obesity, a nationally recognized public health crisis.

"Preventative steps must be taken to address our very real problem with childhood obesity and physically unfit children in our county and throughout the nation," said Chairwoman Slater-Price, who will be recognized for her leadership and dedication to the cause during the morning program. "It is up to parents and leaders of our schools, county government, health experts and the community to take positive steps to prevent childhood obesity."

School board members, superintendents, principals, food service directors and school health professionals will meet to discuss strategies to promote good nutrition throughout the school environment. The keynote speaker, Terri Soares, is a commissioner of State Superintendent Jack O'Connell's *Task Force on Childhood Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease*.

"We know that childhood obesity can be affected by improving nutrition and physical activity for kids," said Jean Shepard, HHS director. "One of our goals for this summit is to ensure that school leaders are aware of the many programs and resources available to them to help develop healthier campuses."

This summit takes place this Wednesday, March 9, at the Rancho Bernardo Inn, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and will focus on the nutrition aspect of childhood obesity. Several awards will be presented at the summit. Among them, District 4 County Supervisor, Ron Roberts, will be recognized for his many years of dedication to the fight against childhood obesity with the "Community Champion for School Nutrition Award."

The summit is funded by sponsors, including Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, HHS, Palomar Pomerado Health, Buena Vista Foods, Health Net of California, Hollandia Dairy, Little Caesar's Pizza, Maisano Produce Distributors and Super Snax.

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