



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jonah Weinberg (619) 515-6535

COUNTY JUVENILE HALL AWARDED TOP-LEVEL HEALTH ACCREDITATION

San Diego Is One of Only Seven Counties Statewide With CMA Accredited Facilities

The San Diego County Juvenile Hall facility in Kearny Mesa has been re-accredited for two years at the highest level, by the California Medical Association (CMA). This accreditation was only possible through the collaboration of the County Probation Department and the County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), to meet CMA's high standards for juvenile hall health care.

"We are delighted to receive another two years of accreditation," said Dianne Jacob, Chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. "The standards for accreditation are rigorous, and the custody and probation staff and health staff have worked diligently to meet these standards. Of the state's 58 counties, we are one of only seven to achieve this level of accreditation for juvenile hall facilities."

The accreditation process includes evaluations of jail and juvenile hall services, which are conducted by practicing physicians, who are members of CMA's *Institute of Medical Quality, Corrections and Detentions Health Care Committee*. Additionally surveys are conducted by special teams of mental health clinicians and health administrators, who understand the challenges of providing services within a detention facility.

"San Diego County is to be congratulated for meeting these juvenile hall standards," said Melvin C. Britton, M.D., chair CMA's *Institute of Medical Quality* Board of Trustees. "The juvenile hall, their staff and the local community all benefit when the health care in these facilities is found to meet standards developed by the medical profession. The result is more effective health care delivery, greater cost efficiency and better community health protection."

The standards cover 63 aspects of health care, as well as Probation department policies and procedures. These include a review of administration, personnel, care and treatment, pharmacy, medical records and medical-legal concerns and the interface with the Probation department. Accreditation is a voluntary process requested jointly by the Probation department and HHSA. San Diego County Juvenile Hall earned its first accreditation in 2000 and again in 2002. This is its second re-accreditation.

Mental health treatment at San Diego County Juvenile Hall is provided by HHSA's *Children's Mental Health Services*, and physical health services are coordinated by HHSA's *Public Health Services*, through a contract with the California Medical Forensic Group, Inc.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 203 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472