



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2005

CONTACT: Jonah Weinberg (619) 515-6535

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR HONORED BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *HSA Executive Named Social Worker of the Year for 2005*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HSA) is proud to announce that Alfredo Aguirre, Mental Health Director, has been named Social Worker of the Year by the [National Association of Social Workers](#) (NASW), as part of the group's celebration of March as National Social Worker Month. The Social Worker of the Year Award is given to an individual who has broad professional social work experience and demonstrated leadership in the field. The person must have diverse and multicultural experience and have done work that has had an impact on both social policy and clients.

"It's quite an honor to get this award," said Aguirre, "but I have to share it with all of my wonderful staff. My job as director is a demanding one, but the work that our social workers do every day in the field is one of the hardest and most emotionally draining careers a person can have. They are among the many true heroes of our mental health system."

National Social Work Month. Social Work month celebrates the exemplary contributions of social workers in the community. In San Diego County there are approximately 1,500 social workers, with nearly 600,000 nationwide, who are dedicated to helping people gain access to the resources and services they need to lead independent and productive lives.

"Social workers help make the world a better place," said Gary Bailey, president of NASW. "March is a time to celebrate the contributions social workers make in San Diego and the rest of the state of California."

The Award will be given at a dinner on March 23 sponsored by NASW, the California Society for Clinical Social Work and the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups.

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