



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **COUNTY NURSE NAMED “PSYCHIATRIC NURSE OF THE YEAR”** *County Nurse Recognized by the North Coast Civic Association*

San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) Nurse Linda Spaulding was recently recognized as the Psychiatric Nurse of the Year by the North Coast Civic Association. Spaulding is a Registered Nurse who is a member of the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) in North County.

PERT teams of San Diego County pair licensed, experienced, professional mental health clinicians with specially trained law enforcement officers. They respond to calls for service from the community involving individuals who may be experiencing mental health crises. They intervene to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and incarcerations while protecting the individuals involved as well as the community.

Spaulding currently works with an officer on the Oceanside Police Department and in the past, has worked with Encinitas, Santee and San Marcos Sheriff's Deputies. Spaulding's work also involves follow-up care and referrals to various agencies depending upon the client's needs.

Spaulding is being recognized for her dedication to her clients. She is called upon to handle emergencies that involve psychotic patients, performs emergency medical aid until paramedics arrive and assesses patients in the field for transport to the appropriate facility. She also works to ease the stigma of mental illness through education.

“I'm very proud of Linda's accomplishments. She is an excellent example of our very talented staff here at the Health & Human Services Agency,” said HHS Director Jean Shepard

The North Coast Civic Association recognized 26 nursing specialties and categories at a ceremony that took place on May 12, 2006 (the birthday of Florence Nightingale).

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