

# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2007

For more information, contact  
Lisa McGinnis, Program Manager  
Department of Behavioral Health  
909-421-4612  
[lmcginnis@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:lmcginnis@dbh.sbcounty.gov)

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**-- County seeking nominations for Mental Health Awards  
-- Recognition is part of May 2007 Mental Health Month celebration**

Are there people or groups in San Bernardino County who have done something extraordinary to help the mentally ill? If so, the county Department of Behavioral Health is offering an exciting opportunity for them to receive the recognition they deserve.

The public is invited to nominate people, agencies, and members of the news media for special awards to be presented at an awards dinner in May. The public has until May 21<sup>st</sup> to submit nominations to the Inland Psychological Association, P.O. Box 8457, Redlands CA 92375, Attention: Doug Larson.

Nominations are in the following categories: Department of Behavioral Health Contract Agency, Department of Behavioral Health County Program, County Staff Member, Contract Staff Member, Peer Advocate, Family Member, Behavioral Health Community Advocate, and News Media. Nominations should include the primary reason for the nomination in 100 words or less. Further information is available by calling (909) 421-4638.

The awards, which will be presented during "An Evening with the Stars" awards dinner at the Heritage Hall in Redlands, on May 30, is one way the County Department of Behavioral Health, in collaboration with The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), San Bernardino County Mental Health Commission (MHC), and the Psychological Association, is observing Mental Health Month during May 2007. The Department is also organizing a "Mental Health" Wellness Event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, at the First Lutheran Church located at 9315 Citrus Ave., in Fontana (next to Fontana High School).

The May 19 event will promote wellness and recovery to all who attend. Some of the special events planned for the day are an art exhibit sponsored by Behavioral Health consumers,

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drawings for several bicycles, 21 different children's activities, a petting zoo, a visit from Toys R Us Geoffrey the Giraffe, San Bernardino County Fire smoke trailer, a demonstration by a local martial arts club, face painting and balloon art, along with hours of education and fun. Refreshments will be provided and there will be more than 70 vendors providing educational materials and incentives to all who attend.

The department's goal, with regard to mental health, is to promote Wellness, Recovery and Resilience. This year we are celebrating "Transformation and Recovery" within our communities. In addition, the year 2007 will be dedicated to "Erasing the Stigma of Mental Illness".