

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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County seeking nominations for mental health awards ***Recognition is part of May 2006 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 a rare 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 handed out at an awards dinner in May. The public has until May 6 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, Consumer, Family Member, Behavioral Health Community Advocate, and news media. Nominations should include the primary reason for the nomination in 100 words or less and three other significant ways in which the nominee has helped the mentally ill in 100 words or less. Further information is available by calling (909) 387-7712.

The awards, which will be handed out during "An Evening with the Stars" awards dinner at the Clarion Hotel in San Bernardino on May 24, is one way the county Department of Behavioral Health Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) team, 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 2006. MHSA is also organizing a "Mind Your Health" Wellness Event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at the Carousel Mall in San Bernardino.

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The May 6 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, drawings for four bicycles, Native American flute music, a demonstration by a local martial arts club, face painting and balloon art, and two hours of fun provided by KGGI (99.1)/Radio Disney. Refreshments will be provided and there will be more than 50 vendors providing educational materials and incentives to all who attend.

The department's goal is to send the "Mind Your Health" message louder and farther than ever. The entire month of May will be dedicated to "Erasing the Stigma of Mental Illness". During this campaign the MHSA Planning and Outreach team will attempt to dispel some of the myths related to mental illness and educate the community on how stigma creates a detrimental effect on those diagnosed and seeking treatment.