

**For Immediate Release**

May 10, 2010

**Photos Available Upon Request****Contact: Amanda Kim**

County of San Mateo Human Services Agency

Phone: 650-802-6433, E-mail: [akim@smchsa.org](mailto:akim@smchsa.org)**Human Services Agency Appoints New Children and Family Services Director****Deborah Torres Brings Experience and Vision for Collaboration**

Belmont, Calif—This month, Deborah Lee Torres, LCSW, begins her new assignment as the Director of Children and Family Services for the San Mateo County-Human Services Agency (HSA). With 29 years of experience in child- and family-centered services, Ms. Torres comes to the post with extensive experience in child and youth mental health services, prevention work and collaboration with County departments and community partners.

As Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Services with HSA for the last 3 years, Ms. Torres oversaw the Family Resource Centers, Homeless and Safety Net Services, Jobs for Youth, Veterans Services and Child Care Assistance. Prior to that, she held a range of supervisory and management positions in the County's Health Department - Mental Health Division for 21 years, including Deputy Director of Child and Youth Mental Health Services.

Ms. Torres brings to the position a strong commitment to collaboration and prevention work. "Child abuse impacts all cultural, geographic and economic sectors within our diverse county," said Ms. Torres, "And I'm looking forward to working with all the partners in our county to integrate their knowledge and perspectives into a communitywide system to prevent child abuse, support families and ensure that children have a safe home. The safety of children is absolutely paramount."

"Deborah's extensive background and leadership in this field, along with her expertise in prevention and mental health services, will be an enormous asset to vulnerable children in our community," said Beverly Beasley Johnson, Director of the Human Services Agency.

A resident of San Mateo County for the last 29 years, Torres grew up in San Francisco where her parents provided foster care to over 100 children. "I was raised with children of all ages who had experienced some form of child abuse and I met social workers throughout my childhood who inspired me to have a positive, long- term impact on children's lives," said Ms. Torres.

A licensed clinical social worker since 1981, she received both her Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare/Spanish and her Master's degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. She is a former board member of CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) and currently serves on the Advisory Boards of the Children's Collaborative Action Team/ Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Domestic Violence Council, the Children's Fund as well as a number of county committees that address the needs of children, families and adults. Ms. Torres is bilingual in English and Spanish.

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