

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Matsui Announces \$370,000 Award for Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) announced that the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services Celebrating Families program has received a competitive grant award of \$370,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Celebrating Families is a 16-week interactive parenting program that teaches families how to recover from substance abuse and domestic violence. All ages of children take part in the program, which assists them in addressing their parents' recovery.

“Since its inception in 2005, Celebrating Families has successfully helped rehabilitate families in which a parent is struggling with a substance abuse problem, by addressing the health of the whole family and including every member in the path to recovery,” Congresswoman Matsui said. “I applaud the work of this program, and look forward to seeing first-hand how this grant will allow them to grow and expand as they continue to support Sacramento families.”

“This program is unique in that it gives children a voice in their parents recovery,” said Sharon DiPirro-Beard, Dependency Drug Court Program Coordinator for Sacramento County. “We focus so much on adults; but this program helps give children a chance to say what their lives are like and gives us the opportunity to help address the challenges they face. And by teaching families how to communicate – talking with each other, and learning how to listen – we are helping to empower families' ability to not only work within the community, but also develop networks of support within their own family units.”

The mission of the Alcohol and Drug Services Division is to promote a healthy community and reduce the harmful effects associated with alcohol and drug use, while remaining responsive to, and reflective of the diversity among individuals, families and communities. To contact the Alcohol and Drug Services Division in Sacramento County, local families and individuals are encouraged to call (916)875-2050.