



## County of Sacramento

June 26, 2006

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### ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

#### **Understanding and Finding Solutions for Obsessive Compulsive Hoarding is Topic at Conference Today**

**Debilitating disorder is often untreated and causes embarrassment for families**

**WHO:** The Sacramento Community System of Protection for Seniors and Dependent Adults in partnership with Sacramento County, SMUD, and the Sacramento Adult and Aging Commission

**WHAT:** **"Hoarding: When Clutter Gets Critical,"** a training conference to bring more than 200 mental health workers, fire professionals, building inspectors, and community members together to learn about this serious disorder and identify solutions and resources.

**WHEN:** **Today**, Monday, June 26, 2006  
9:00 a.m. to - 4:00 p.m.  
**Speakers available for interviews between noon and 12:45 p.m. or by special arrangement. Contact Kim Dahl at 212-1676.**

**WHERE:** Eskaton Village Carmichael  
3939 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael

#### **ASSIGNMENT EDITORS – PHOTO AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS. PHOTOS OF HOARDING CASES AVAILABLE.**

Compulsive cluttering or hoarding behavior can take the form of collecting objects, animals or trash of excessive proportions. It is a serious and debilitating disorder that leaves the affected person and their families bewildered about how to address and treat the problem. It can also be a manifestation of depression, delusional disorder, or, in the elderly, of senile dementia.

It is estimated that severe hoarding afflicts as many as 3% of Americans at some point in their lives. People who are hoarders are typically aware that their symptoms are excessive or unreasonable, but are unable to resist repeating them. People of all ages and from all walks of life can be hoarders, but the problem often worsens with age.

Today's guest speaker and trainer Karron Maidment, RN, LMFT, is a Program Coordinator of the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute. Her presentation will describe the behavioral characteristics of obsessive-compulsive hoarders and explain how these characteristics both underlie problems and point toward solutions. Other speakers include representatives from Sacramento City and County Code Enforcement.