



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO – Dr. Andrea Barthwell, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) will tour Asian American Residential Recovery Services and Project Adapt, programs of Asian American Recovery Services, Inc. on Thursday, June 5th at 11AM.

Members of the media are invited to accompany Dr. Barthwell on her tour of the residential and outpatient facilities, which provides substance abuse treatment to people of all ethnicities. Dr. Barthwell will discuss drug treatment issues in relation to the Asian American community and share the details of President Bush's new three-year, \$600 million initiative to expand access to drug treatment nation-wide.

Asian American Residential Recovery Service is a social model therapeutic community concept based facility. Serving San Francisco for 18 years, the residential program offers in culturally sensitive individual, group and family counseling; educational seminars; art and drama therapy; recreational outings; and vocational training. The residential program strives to renew an individual's sense of self. Once an individual finds true sense of self, they can take responsibility for their life and actions and learn how to become a productive member of society.

Project Adapt is a comprehensive outpatient treatment program targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders that offers individual, group, couple and family counseling; acupuncture, tai-chi, massage therapy, art therapy, meditation, writing and yoga therapy. Project Adapt provides services for multiply-diagnosed individuals who may otherwise be unable to access services. Project Adapt emphasizes a holistic approach by promoting the development of a healthy body, mind, and spirit. Project Adapt believes that recovery from substance abuse happens when the whole person is provided with opportunities for growth. By fostering supportive relationships and an encouraging community, Project Adapt strives to create a process of belonging and connection in a person's life.

ONDCP's new *Access to Recovery* treatment initiative will create a voucher program that will complement existing alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs, increase treatment capacity and improve access to effective treatment programs.

"This initiative is like no other we've seen before," Dr. Barthwell states. "*Access to Recovery* offers a new and effective way for the federal government to help people in San Francisco and throughout America get into recovery. We know that treatment works, but we also know that there are too many Americans who, for a variety of reasons, cannot access the treatment they need. By giving people a choice, and the means to directly connect with effective treatment programs, we will be able to help drug users overcome their disease."

Dr. Barthwell will also be available for live or taped morning interviews on Thursday, June 5th, from 6 to 7:30AM to discuss her activities in San Francisco and the current drug situation in the Bay Area. For more information, contact Bill Blake at (202) 395-6647 or (202) 368-8423, or visit www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov.

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