

Oksana Smith, Deputy Director of the Health and Human Services Agency in San Diego County, welcomed conference attendees to San Diego County. As manager of the Policy and Program Support Division, her responsibilities include the Medi-Cal, County Medical Services, and Healthy San Diego programs, as well as Child Welfare, CalWORKs, Welfare-to-Work, Child Care, Alcohol and Drug programs and General Relief and Food Stamps. Ms. Smith has been with San Diego County for over 30 years. With the formation of the Health and Human Services Agency in San Diego in 1997, she was first assigned to merge the two Management Services divisions of the former Social Services and Health Departments. In 1998, she became the first Regional General Manager for the county's East Region. She subsequently moved to Policy and Program Support in 1999. She is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Oksana noted that San Diego County is the fourth largest county in the United States, approximately the same size as the state of Connecticut. She also noted that the San Ysidro border crossing is the busiest in the world. In addition, she pointed out that one school district in San Diego serves students who speak 57 different languages.