

# STATE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD ON GUAM

A Progress Report of Guam's  
Early Childhood Comprehensive  
System of Services and Supports

SEPTEMBER 2011



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# Hafa Adai!

Welcome to the second edition of the “State of Early Childhood on Guam: A Progress Report of Guam’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System of Services and Supports – September 2011.” We are pleased to report that the child-serving agencies on Guam continue to work together to improve supports to our island’s young children birth to eight years old.

Focusing on a “systems change” approach to improve supports to our young citizens is an often times slow moving and challenging process. The first step in this process is to bring all child-serving organizations to “one table” to meet regularly to address issues that impact this vulnerable population. A second step is to look at the mission of each entity and recognize that there are more commonalities than differences, and as such, we should all aim to look beyond our theoretical boundaries and strive to create collaborative programs that ideally evolve to “seamless systems” to meet identified goals and provide services that deliver a full array of needed supports to our little ones and their families.

In the two years since our last report, several major accomplishments have taken place to help existing systems evolve and grow. While Executive Order 2008-03 established the first Guam Early Learning Council in 2008, the Council has now been formalized legislatively with the enactment of Public Law 31-62, “An Act....Relative to Establishing The Guam Early Learning Council For Guam’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System” which was passed by I Mina’trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan on May 10, 2011, and signed into law by Governor Edward J.B. Calvo on May 24, 2011. This legislation is included towards the end of this report. Following the mandate of this law, a new Guam Early Learning Council was appointed. A membership listing is included on page 25 with the 33 governor-appointed members who were sworn in on June 28, 2011.

Another key accomplishment, over seven years in the making, was the enactment of Public Law 31-73, which establishes the administrative rules and regulations of the Department of Public Health & Social Services relative to child care centers and group child care homes. This law updates child care regulations that have not been revised since they were first established in 1978!

Other achievements are highlighted on the following pages. In addition to what is reported, please know that there are many dedicated individuals in our community that are working very hard towards a well-coordinated comprehensive system of services and supports for our young children birth to eight years old aimed at helping each child reach his or her full potential.



**Christine Calvo**  
First Lady of Guam  
Co-Chairperson



**Elaine B. Eclavea**  
Project Tinituhon Director  
Co-Chairperson

# PROJECT TINITUHON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT TEAM

## FOCUS AREA WORK GROUPS

### Access to Health Insurance and Medical/Dental Home

Ma. Theresa Arcangel, *DPHSS*  
Vera Blaz, *UOG CEDDERS facilitator*  
Daryl Diras, *DPHSS*  
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Margarita Gay, *DPHSS*  
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Suzanne Sison, D.D.S., *DPHSS*  
Roselie Zabala, *DPHSS*

### Social Emotional Development and Mental Health

Terry Aguon, *DPHSS*  
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Bonnie Brandt, *UOG CEDDERS*  
Evelyn Claros, *Parent*  
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Patricia Mantanona, *DOE, Guam Early Intervention System*  
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Lydia Tenorio, *DPHSS*  
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Roselie Zabala, *DPHSS*

### Early Care and Education and Child Care

Carmen Babauta, *DPHSS*  
Vera Blaz, *UOG CEDDERS facilitator*  
Clare Camacho, Ph.D., *GCC*  
Teresita Catahay, *DPHSS*  
Delilah Charfauros, *Guam Child Care & Development Association*  
Arlene Cura, *Head Start & Technical Asst. Office*  
Michele Huffer, *Adventures in Learning Child Development Center*  
Ruth Leon Guerrero, *DOL*  
Cathy Schroeder, *DOE Head Start*  
Lydia Tenorio, *DPHSS*  
Ama Underwood, *Honey Bear Kids Center*

### Parent Education and Family Supports

Margaret Bell, *DPHSS*  
Stasia Borja, *Parent*  
Diana Calvo, *Catholic Social Services*  
Pauline Camacho, *Guam PIRC*  
Roy Candaso, *DPHSS*  
Evelyn Claros, *Parent*  
Mary-Therese Edgerle, *G.I.F.T.S.*  
Margarita Gay, *DPHSS*  
Jeffrey Pinaula, *UOG CEDDERS facilitator*  
Carmen Quenga, *DOE Head Start*  
Laura Taisipic, *DOE Sped Parent Services*

### Project Tinituhon Staff

Elaine Eclavea, *Project Director*  
Vera Blaz, *Project Training Associate*  
Jeffrey Pinaula, *Project Research Associate*  
Terry Naputi, *Early Learning Council Assistant*  
Tamara S. Flores, *Project Office Technician*  
Ruth Leon Guerrero, *Project Office Technician*

### Agency & Organization Key

DOE - Department of Education

DOL - Department of Labor

DPHSS - Department of Public Health & Social Services

GCC - Guam Community College

G.I.F.T.S. - Guam Identified Families with Terrific Strength

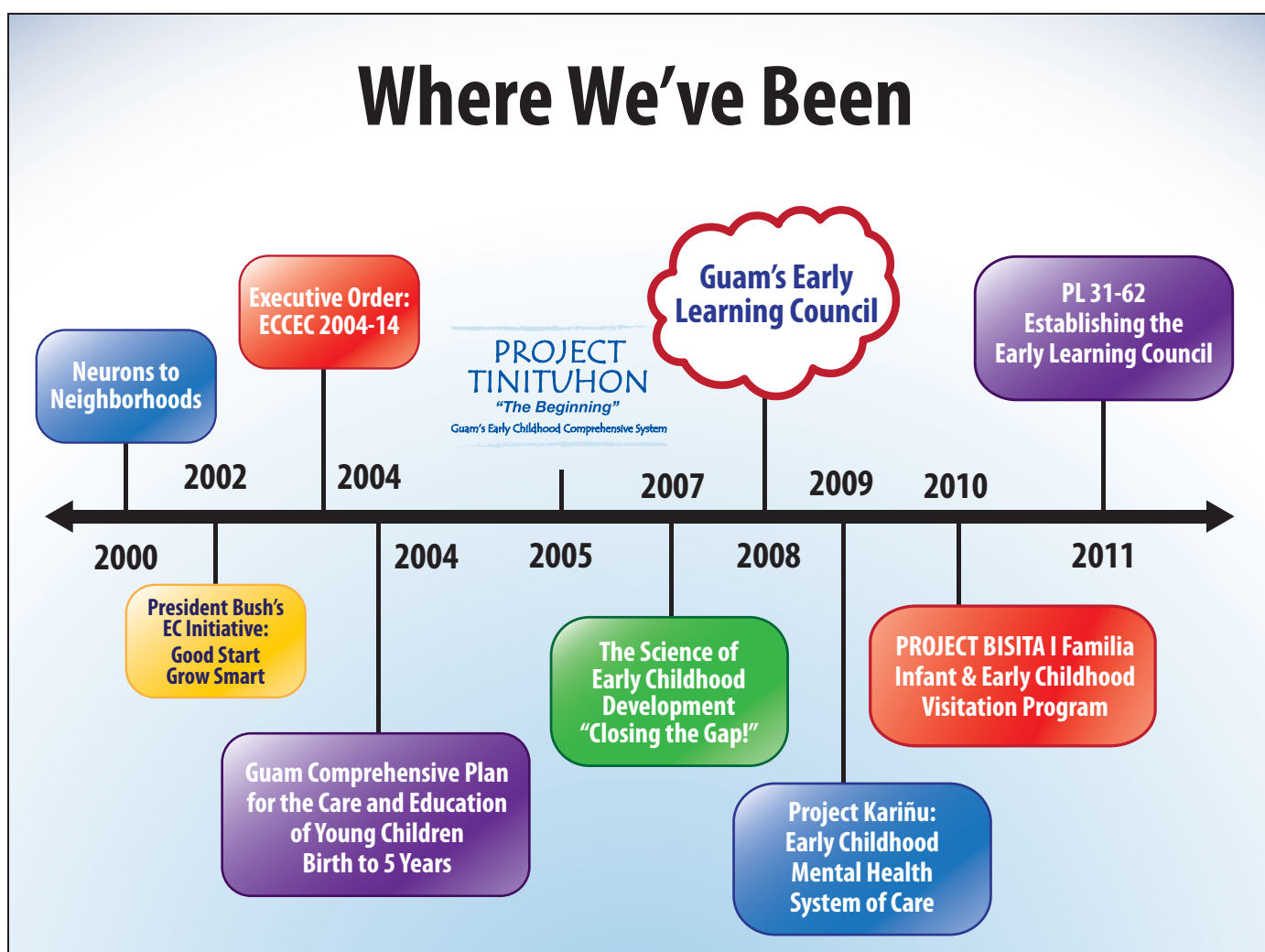
Guam PIRC - Guam Parent Information Resource Center

UOG CEDDERS - University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service

# GUAM'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



## Where We've Been



# OVERVIEW-2011



## Tinituhon

!Tee nee tū hon !

### The Beginning

of a child's early life experiences requires that basic needs are met, to include a feeling of safety and security with a sense of belonging and love, in order to set the stage to grow to become well-adjusted, healthy, and productive adults.



## Project Tinituhon

(Tee'nee tū hun) is a collaborative project designed to enhance and refine the planning, development, implementation, and maintenance of an island-wide, cross-agency Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) to support families and the community of Guam in developing and nurturing young children who are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. The Chamorro word *Tinituhon*, "the beginning," communicates how Guam has embraced the physical, social, emotional, and educational needs of its youngest citizens. The beginning of a child's early life experiences requires that basic needs are met, to include a feeling of safety and security with a sense of belonging and love, in order to set the stage for young children to grow to become well-adjusted, healthy, and productive adults.

Project Tinituhon is a federal grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. During the first four years of funding from 2005 to 2009, the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant was awarded to the Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, and administered through a contract with the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service (UOG CEDDERS). In spring 2009, UOG CEDDERS submitted the grant application for continued funding of the Project, and was awarded the grant in June 2009. UOG CEDDERS continues to administer this grant at present.

The goal of Project Tinituhon is to promote the health and well-being of young children by reducing the gaps in and improving the coordination of services for all young children and their families. This project is supported by Guam's first planning and implementation ECCS grant, which provides the means for facilitating collaborative and coordinated services between public and private early childhood service agencies, organizations, and families.

Strategic Management Teams (SMTs) meet to continue carrying out the goals, objectives, and activities across four areas of focus: 1) Access to Health Insurance & Medical/Dental Homes; 2) Social Emotional Development and Mental Health; 3) Early Care and Education & Child Care; and 4) Parent Education & Family Support. Accomplishments in these areas, along with System Sustainability, a new area of focus added in 2009, are detailed in this report.



# NEXT STEPS-2012

## Overall next steps for Project Tinituhon include:

- Coordination and collaboration for data collection and information sharing;
- Blending and braiding of resources;
- Supporting and directing public awareness and an information campaign through an overall social marketing plan; and
- A continued focus on shared outcomes for children and families describing the overall next steps for Project Tinituhon.

## Access to Health Insurance and Medical/Dental Home

- Continue training on developmental screening and movement towards adoption of a standardized developmental screening tool and promotion of the Medical/Dental Home framework throughout the island.
- Continue to work with insurance providers to support billing processes within Medicaid/Medicare for both a well-check up and a developmental screen within one visit.
- Work with Health Care professionals to promote Bright Futures programs.

## Social Emotional Development and Mental Health

- Continue training in social emotional development strategies and activities for young children to care providers as well as continue training for families on positive solutions for social emotional development.
- Gather data describing baby needs from birth and braid with the Medical/Dental Home and Health Insurance.
- Plan for the parents of each baby leaving the hospital to receive a collection of resources on ways to nurture their child's positive growth and development and early childhood services available.
- Develop a collaborative and integrated professional development plan to highlight all the training needs of all Early Childhood Agencies and provide cross system capacity building.
- Develop a one-point of access for referrals and intakes to serve families and their children with at-risk criterion.

## Early Care and Education and Child Care

- Continue development of a quality rating system with developmental assessment kits to measure child outcomes.
- Continue development of a School Readiness plan to ensure that all Guam's children are ready to learn at school entry.

## Parent Education and Family Supports

- Develop family leadership modules and training plans.
- Gather data to better understand parent needs (braided with the Medical/Dental Home and Health Insurance Focus Area).
- Publish an updated edition of the Nene Directory.



## Access to Health Insurance and Medical/Dental Home



**Goal: Increase the number of children who have access to health care.**



## Progress to Date

- Project Tinituhon, in partnership with public and private early childhood serving agencies, co-sponsored the “All Eyes on Five Family Information Fair” in May 2010 and participated in the annual “Check Me Out Fair” sponsored by Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) in November 2010.
- UOG CEDDERS, in collaboration with GEIS, conducted a training in January 2011 entitled, “Young Children At Risk...Whom Do I Call?” for 44 early childhood providers, including childcare center directors, early intervention service providers and community health nurses. All participants received the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) 3 Developmental Screening Toolkit for use in their respective programs. In addition, information about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as well as checklists of possible “red” flags were provided to participants.
- The Project Tinituhon Director and Project Coordinator participated in the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) annual conference held in Washington, D.C. in February 2011. The Project Director and Project Coordinator attended several presentations on Bright Futures, a national health care promotion and disease prevention initiative that uses a developmentally based approach to address children’s health care needs in the context of family and community.
- Project Tinituhon aims to bring Bright Futures to Guam. The SMT for this focus area was introduced to Bright Futures during their bi-monthly meeting in August 2011. The SMT members are developing a plan to bring Bright Futures to Guam and conduct orientations for all health professionals.
- *The Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Social Emotional (ASQ: SE) Developmental Screening Tool* training took place April 2011. This training was a follow-up to the January ASQ3 training. Eleven early childhood providers, including childcare center directors, early intervention service providers, and community health nurses participated in the training.

**TABLE 1: Number and Percent of Children with Medical/Dental Home**

Year	Total Births on Guam	Total Civilian Births	Total in ChildLink	Number/Percent with indicated physician	Number/Percent with Medical Home (% in ChildLink)
2004	3427	2867	2847	31 (1%)	22 (1%)
2005	3203	2798	2764	74 (3%)	29 (1%)
2006	3414	2909	2854	1990 (68%)	238 (8%)
2007	3493	3007	2976	2604 (87%)	414 (14%)
2008	3466	3017	3006	2921 (97%)	426 (14%)
2009	3428	2991	2955	2910 (97%)	772 (26%)
2010	3422	2901	2897	2325 (80%)	1945 (67%)

Data Source: Department of Public Health & Social Services



## Social Emotional/ Mental Health



**Goal: Increase early childhood awareness and outreach on the importance of social emotional and mental health development of young children.**

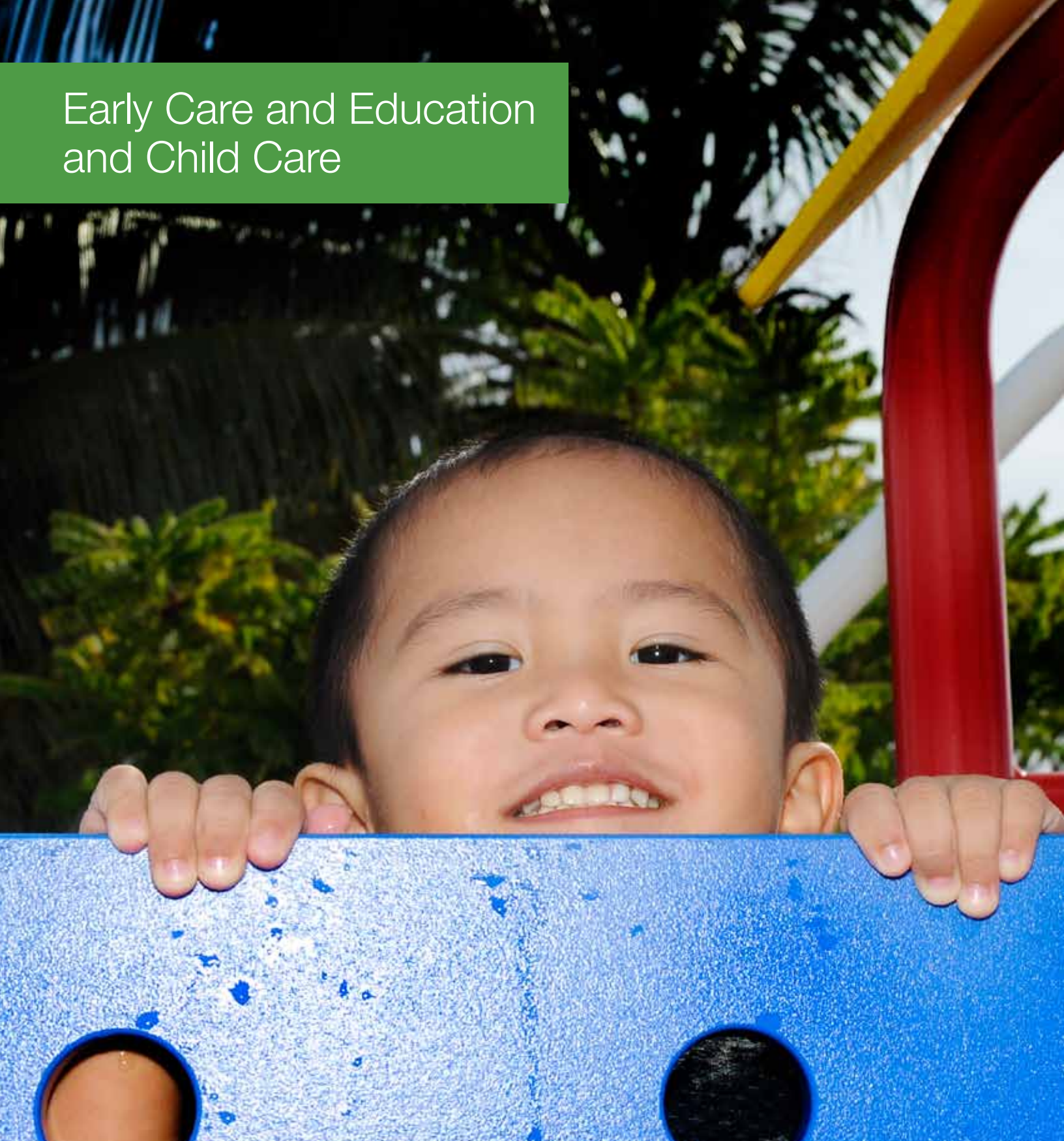
## Progress to Date

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- The Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) received an early childhood system of care grant which established Project Kariñu (Loving Our Babies) to develop and implement a system of care for young children birth to five years old. The Strategic Management Team under this focus area has merged with the Project Kariñu Governance Advisory Board.
- Project Kariñu held an orientation to inform and gain stakeholder interest and support for the project in May 2010. Project Kariñu also sponsored a presentation on System of Care values & principles and held a strategic planning summit, which featured presentations by consultants from the National Technical Assistance Partnership: Dr. Neal Horen (early childhood mental health content specialist); Bruce Strahl (governance and strategic planning content specialist); Rebecca Ornelas (Regional Technical Assistance Coordinator); and Sandra Spencer (Executive Director of the National Federation for Families).
- A Service Delivery Focus group was developed in order to assess the intake/referral process in addition to the types of services to provide children who meet the criteria of “at-risk.” A Training and Capacity Building Focus group was also developed in order to assess the training needs of the community and other early childhood service providers, in addition to the types of knowledge based topics related to early childhood mental health, systems of care, and social emotional development.
- Project Kariñu’s Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator attended a national conference on Systems of Care in Los Angeles hosted by Project ABC Los Angeles in February 2011. As part of the conference, the training coordinator attended the session on the mental health consultation model.
- Twenty-nine early childhood service providers from DOE-GEIS, DPHSS-BOSSA and CPS Foster Families, and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau participated in a training co-sponsored by Project Tinituhon in collaboration with GEIS and Project Kariñu on the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Social and Emotional Competence for Infants and Toddlers in March 2011.
- Project Kariñu was selected to present at Guam’s National Association of Social Workers Conference in March 2011. The focus of this presentation centered on the disparities with mental health services especially for children.
- Representatives from collaborating agencies and organizations participated in *The Incredible Years* training sponsored by Project Kariñu in May 2011. *The Incredible Years* is a research-based, proven effective program for reducing children’s aggression and behavior problems and increasing social competence at home and at school.
- UOG CEDDERS, in partnership with Project Kariñu, hosted Guam’s first Children’s Healthy Development Fair on May 28 at the University of Guam Humanities and Social Science building. The fair featured displays and presentations from over 20 agencies from the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education Program, Guam Early Intervention System, Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Project, Guam Parent Information Resource Center, DPHSS, I Famagu’on-ta, and UOG CEDDERS.
- On October 4, 2011, the Social Emotional SMT meeting resulted in the development of a collaborative agreement with all early childhood serving agencies to support an integrated system for referring families to the appropriate early childhood serving agency services and information that meet their particular needs. The Early Childhood agencies agreed to use a universal Standard Operating Protocol for Servicing Young Children with Social Emotional and Mental Health Challenges and their families. The SMT will also serve as the focus group for Project Kariñu’s development of a Professional Development Plan to support the Early Childhood workforce on Guam.



# Early Care and Education and Child Care



**Goal: Increase availability of and access to quality childcare for all children.**

## Progress to Date

- Project Tinituhon published the *All Eyes on Five* newsletter twice a year. The newsletter provided information pertinent to each of the goals of Project Tinituhon and included information about services and supports available to the community. The September issue of *All Eye on Five* was disseminated throughout the island, targeting various clinics, childcare centers, and kindergarten classrooms in the public schools, public agencies, and mayor's offices. The newsletter was renamed *I Mandikiki (The Little Ones)* to reflect the importance of early care and education from birth through age eight. *I Mandikiki* was disseminated in May 2011.
- In September and October 2010, the SMT for this focus area reviewed and provided input on the social marketing plan stressing the importance of quality childcare. As a result of the feedback, Project Tinituhon worked in collaboration with DPHSS in preparing public awareness materials promoting the importance of updating childcare regulations and standards. Materials such as posters and *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* pamphlets were produced and disseminated island-wide to childcare centers and pediatric clinics. In addition, advertisements on childcare standards were published in the local newspaper. Project Tinituhon also participated in public hearings in support of legislation. Public Law 31-73, which establishes the updated administrative rules and regulations of the Department of Public Health & Social Services relative to child care centers and group child care homes, was signed into law in June 2011.
- Several SMT meetings were held to develop procedures for Guam's Plan for Professional Development (GPPD) from December 2010 through March 2011. Representatives from University of Guam, Guam Community College, Guam Child Care and Development Association, DPHSS-BOSSA, and UOG CEDDERS met to revise the GPPD. As a result of these meetings, an Early Childhood Professional Development Subcommittee under the Guam Early Learning Council was formed to validate and certify early childhood providers. The Guam Commission on Educator Certification approved the requirements for a Basic Preschool Certificate that will be used by the Department of Education Head Start Program and is incorporated into Guam's Plan for Professional Development.
- Abby Cohen, Region IX State Technical Assistance Specialist from the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center, provided technical assistance in May 2011 for the professional development plan and the development of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for center- and home-based childcare settings.
- UOG CEDDERS sponsored a 15-hour training, "Train the Trainer: Implementing the Guam Early Learning Guidelines (GELG) Birth to Five Curriculum" in July 2011. The purpose of these sessions was to provide training to early childhood providers from center-based child care centers, Guam PIRC, Guam Head Start, and Project Kariñu on the GELG Birth to Five Curriculum.
- A School Readiness Work Group was formed in July 2011 under this focus area to begin the development of a School Readiness Plan for Guam's Schools.

**TABLE 2: Comparison of the Number of Children Served in Early Childhood Setting**

Early Childhood (EC) Program	# Settings		# Served	
	2005	*2011	2005	*2011
Licensed Child Care Centers	50	44	1,994	2,281
Family Home Providers	75	79	163	130
Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS)	1	1	195	275
Private Nursery & Preschool	7	9	184	306
GDOE - Special Education Preschool	5	5	171	177
GDOE Head Start	25	27	500	534
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>3,207</b>	<b>3,703</b>

Data Source: UOG CEDDERS Survey, \*As of February 2011



## Parent Education and Family Supports



**Goal: Increase public awareness of services and supports available for children birth to five and their families.**



## Progress to Date

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- In May 2010, the "Second Annual Mini-Family Information Fair" was held at Guam Premiere Outlets. This outreach event provided an opportunity for over 100 families of young children birth to five years old to access information about the various services and supports available to families on Guam.
- In July 2010, Project Tinituhon participated in the development of the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) Needs Assessment. Project Tinituhon continues to work collaboratively with DPHSS-MCHB in developing the implementation plan for home visiting.
- In December 2010 & January 2011, SMT members for this focus area met to discuss and provide feedback on the revision of the *Nene Directory of Services*. The *Nene Directory of Services* was published and disseminated in April 2011.
- Project Tinituhon in partnership with Guam PIRC developed the *Guam Early Learning Guidelines (GELG) Curriculum* which is used as part of the Guam PIRC home visiting program. Guam PIRC also conducts free early childhood trainings for parents with children birth through five years old. Guam PIRC uses curriculum developed by UOG CEDDERS to conduct trainings on the *GELG* and "*All Learning Opportunities Nurture Growth*" (*A.L.O.N.G.*) Curriculum. The A.L.O.N.G. trainings were conducted in January and March 2011. *GELG* trainings were conducted in February and April 2011.
- The Guam Department of Education, Special Education Division, in collaboration with UOG CEDDERS and GPPT, hosted a Special Education Parent Conference on March 26, 2011. Parents were given resource binders which contained pertinent information about Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Parents were encouraged to share their accomplishments and challenges in dealing with their child's IEP during the conference.
- The SMT for this focus area hosted the 2011 "Power of Play Interactive Parent Conference" for parents of young children birth to five years old on May 7 at the Guam Sports Complex in Dededo. This conference was an inter-agency collaboration with the Guam Department of Education, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education Program, Guam Early Intervention System, Guam Parent Information Resource Center, Child Care Centers, and UOG CEDDERS. A total of 60 parents and 104 children attended.
- To support Parent Leadership opportunities, Project Tinituhon, in collaboration with Parent Training & Information Centers (PTIs), Guam's Positive Parents Together, Inc. (GPPT) & Guam Department of Education - Guam Early Intervention System, sponsored a three-day Parent Leadership training on September 27-29, 2011. The training entitled, "Understanding the IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) & Changing the Future for Children: A Parent Leadership Opportunity," provided an opportunity for parents to help them advocate for themselves and their children.

# SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY



**Goal: Increase supports and services for young children and their families by strengthening cross agency coordination.**

## Progress to Date

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- Christine Calvo, First Lady of Guam and Elaine Eclavea, Project Tinituhon's director, continue to co-chair the Guam Early Learning Council (GELC). Project Tinituhon provides updates to its goals and objectives during the GELC quarterly meetings.
- The GELC received funds for the Administration of Children and Families to support the State Advisory Council (SAC) to implement activities that support early childhood collaboration and coordination. Project Tinituhon is working closely with SAC project staff to plan for and complete these activities.
- In March 2011, the Project Tinituhon director provided testimony in favor of Bill 89-31, which aims to sustain the GELC.
- In May 2011, Governor Eddie Baza Calvo signed Public Law 31-62, which was introduced during a legislative session by Senator Aline Yamashita, Ph.D., a former UOG CEDDERS Training Associate. The law exists to promote the sustainability of the GELC and its work to ensure that children and families have access to early childhood services and supports.
- The newly appointed GELC members were sworn in during the GELC Orientation Meeting on June 2011 by Governor Eddie Baza Calvo. Project Tinituhon and its collaborating early childhood partners provided history and updates to their respective projects.







## **PUBLIC LAW NO. 31 - 62**

*I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

**CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN**

This is to certify that **Substitute Bill No. 89-31 (LS), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 9 TO CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL FOR GUAM'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM"**, was on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011, duly and regularly passed.



Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Speaker

Attested:



Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011, at  
10:30 o'clock A.M.



Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'lahaen's Office*

APPROVED:



EDWARD J.B. CALVO  
*I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*

MAY 24 2011

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Law No. 31-62

***I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2011 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 89-31 (LS)**

As substituted by Committee on Health and Human Services,  
Senior Citizens, Economic Development, and Election Reform,  
and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.  
T. C. Ada  
V. Anthony Ada  
F. F. Blas, Jr.  
B. J.F. Cruz  
Chris M. Dueñas  
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA  
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.  
T. R. Muña Barnes  
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.  
v. c. pangelinan  
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
R. J. Respicio  
M. Silva Taijeron  
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 9 TO CHAPTER 3  
OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE  
TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM EARLY LEARNING  
COUNCIL FOR GUAM'S EARLY CHILDHOOD  
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM.**

1        **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2        **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3        that Executive Order No. 2008-03, signed on April 9, 2008, established the Early  
4        Learning Council (hereinafter "Council") for Guam's Early Childhood  
5        Comprehensive System. The Guam Early Learning Council's composition, goals



1 and objectives, and roles and responsibilities focus upon the efficient and effective  
2 delivery of services and supports to young children, birth to five (5), and their  
3 families. Early Childhood Education, however, is defined as birth through eight  
4 (8) and will be the age frame referred to in this Act.

5 Executive Order No. 2008-03 states that the Council was created because  
6 there exists a need to establish an Early Learning Council to support the  
7 coordination and collaboration of agencies and organizations, both public and  
8 private, serving young children (ages birth through eight (8)) and their families.

9 *I Liheslatura* finds that it is scientifically established that positive social  
10 emotional, physical, language, intellectual, and spiritual/moral experiences for  
11 young children, most especially between birth to eight (8) years of age, are  
12 necessary and critical for promoting and nurturing the overall developmental needs  
13 of a child.

14 Research on brain development has clearly indicated that the first years of  
15 life are particularly critical to a child's healthy development, readiness to enter  
16 school, read at grade level, graduate from high school and succeed.

17 There is strong, scientific evidence that quality health care and education-  
18 services during neonatal to eight (8) years of age has a direct impact on economic  
19 development - saving communities money by preventing future expenses for  
20 remedial education, incarceration, and cash assistance.

21 The responsibility for providing quality health care and education-services  
22 has traditionally been the responsibility of organizations at the state/local level  
23 requiring definitive vision, clear mission, strong partnerships, and collaboration.

24 *I Liheslatura* further finds that programs that address the early health care  
25 and education of Guam's youngest children are fragmented, lack coordinated  
26 planning, overlap in some instances, and leave substantive gaps in other instances.  
27 Programs providing early health care and education-services should be coordinated

1 and structured to maximize efficiency, simplify and expand accessibility to quality  
2 health care and educational programs, and provide a maximum return for Guam  
3 taxpayers' investments.

4 Governmental programs must collaboratively develop and implement  
5 effective, efficient and coordinated service delivery to ensure that all of Guam's  
6 youngest children are given an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.  
7 Governance, which comprises traditions, institutions and processes that determine  
8 how power is exercised; how constituents are given a voice; how decisions are  
9 made on issues of mutual concern; and how quality and accountability are  
10 integrated, are vital components of any early childhood comprehensive system. It  
11 is practical and beneficial to Guam's children that issues affecting their wellbeing  
12 be considered at the highest level of the island's government.

13 Guam has established the vision that: "*All of Guam's young children will*  
14 *have healthy minds, bodies, and spirits as the foundation for lifelong success,*" and  
15 the mission is to support each child (birth to eight (8)) in reaching his/her full  
16 potential through a healthcare and education system that is accessible,  
17 comprehensive, integrated, and responsive to diverse cultures that is developed in  
18 collaboration with families and communities.

19 Guam, through Project *Tinituhon*, a federal grant awarded by the U.S.  
20 Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services  
21 Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau to Guam Public Health and  
22 Social Services, established five (5) goals in support of this vision and mission as  
23 stated in the Implementation Plan. Guam, through Project *Tinituhon*, has begun  
24 the activities of the Implementation Plan for Guam's Early Childhood  
25 Comprehensive System, bringing together key child serving agencies, both public  
26 and private in health care and education to be more responsive to the evolving and  
27 complex needs of all children birth to eight (8) and their families.

1 National legislation, Public Law 110-134 “Improving the Head Start Act of  
2 2007” mandates the establishment of a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood  
3 Education and Care for children birth to school entry, and the Guam Head Start  
4 Program is a vital and active participant of Project *Tinituhon*. Additionally, the  
5 Secretary of Health and Human Services made funding available under Section  
6 642B(b)(2)(A) to enable the Council to meet the mandates listed in the Head Start  
7 Act.

8 Lastly, *I Liheslatura* finds that continued implementation and sustainability  
9 of the Early Childhood Comprehensive System to meet the goals for young  
10 children and their families requires strong support and commitment at all levels of  
11 the government and community.

12 **Section 2.** A new Article 9 of Chapter 3 of Title 10, Guam Code  
13 Annotated, is hereby *added* to read:

14 **“ARTICLE 9**

15 **GUAM EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL**

16 **§3901. Composition of Early Learning Council Membership.**

17 (a) Members of the Early Learning Council *shall* be comprised of  
18 representatives from the following key child serving agencies, including  
19 government agencies and private organizations, directly and indirectly  
20 involved in supporting the quality health care and education of children birth  
21 to eight (8) and their families, to develop a coordinated, efficient, and cost-  
22 effective Early Childhood Comprehensive System:

23 (1) the Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC);

24 (2) non-profit organizations providing services and supports  
25 to children, birth to eight (8), and their families;

26 (3) private child care providers;

27 (4) the Guam Medical Society;



- 1 (5) the Department of Public Health and Social Services;  
2 (6) the Guam Department of Education- Head Start, Early  
3 Intervention: Part C, Preschool Special Education: Part B, Section  
4 619;  
5 (7) the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse;  
6 (8) the Guam Department of Labor;  
7 (9) the University of Guam;  
8 (10) the Guam Community College;  
9 (11) the Guam Memorial Hospital;  
10 (12) Guam Legislative Committee Chairpersons, including,  
11 but *not* limited to, the Committees on Education, Health and Human  
12 Services;  
13 (13) the Catholic Social Service;  
14 (14) at a minimum, three (3) parent representatives, of which  
15 at least one (1) is a parent/guardian or family member of a person with  
16 developmental disabilities;  
17 (15) the Mayors Council of Guam;  
18 (16) Sanctuary, Inc.; and  
19 (17) the Superior Court of Guam.

20 (b) Co-chairmanship of the Council will be shared between the  
21 Governor's designee and the Project Director of *Project Tinituhon*, Guam's  
22 Early Childhood Comprehensive System. In the event, however, of the  
23 completion of *Project Tinituhon*, the second co-chairperson *shall* be selected  
24 by duly appointed Council members.

25 **§3902. Goals and Objectives of the Early Learning Council.**

- 26 (a) The Council has the following as its goals:

(1) to increase supports and services for young children and their families by strengthening cross-agency coordination, involving public and private entities, to ensure delivery of comprehensive services for young children and their families; and

(2) to expand and refine Guam's Policy Agenda for Early Learning- Birth to Eight (8).

(b) The Council has the following objectives to support these goals:

(1) to strengthen collaboration among governance entities that oversee and coordinate subsystems;

(2) to leverage funding streams to maximize resources;

(3) to develop and implement a mechanism for cross-agency data collection for monitoring and reporting;

(4) to create cross-agency standards for child and family outcomes;

(5) to define professional development structures to ensure an appropriately skilled systems workforce; and

(6) to expand awareness of and access to parent education and family supports.

**§3903. Roles and Responsibilities.**

(a) The Council will oversee and ensure the effective and efficient collaboration within Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System and is empowered to:

(1) make recommendations on the most effective policy direction and methods to improve the coordination, quality, and delivery of quality health care and education services for young children on Guam;

(2) critically examine and prioritize funding in support of child and family outcomes;

(3) promote and support the acquisition of funding opportunities, through government and private organizations, in support of the overall vision and mission of the Early Childhood Comprehensive System;

(4) provide input to the Strategic Management Team of Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System to ensure the collaboration and integration of data collection and evaluation, leveraging of resources and funding, and public awareness and education on the importance of early childhood;

(5) provide the Governor and Legislature with an annual "State of Early Childhood Health and Education on Guam" Brief;

(6) establish policies and procedures for the efficient and effective decision-making processes in support of their responsibilities;

(7) regularly review goals and objectives to ensure they are responsive and relevant to the evolving needs of Guam's youngest children and their families; and

(8) carry out the responsibilities mandated and outlined in the national legislation, "Improving Head Start for School, Readiness Act of 2007" (P.L. 110-134), Section 642B(b) and others assigned by the Governor of Guam."



# GOVERNOR'S EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

Christine Calvo	First Lady of Guam, Co-Chairperson
Elaine Eclavea	Co-Chairperson - Project Tinituhon, UOG CEDDERS
Wilfred Aflague	Director - Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Annie Unpingco (Alternate)	Project Director - I Famagu'on-ta, DMHSA
Vicky Arriola	Parent
Arthur Barcinas	Judge - Superior of Guam
Stasia Borja	Parent
Richard Brown	Chairperson - Guam System of Care Council
Diana Calvo	Executive Director - Catholic Social Services
Delilah Charfarous	President - Guam Child Care Association
Ross White (Alternate)	Vice President - Guam Child Care Association
Evelyn Claros	Parent
Ann Marie Cruz	President - Guam Positive Parent Together Inc.
Pauline Camacho (Alternate)	Director - Guam Parent Information Resource Center
Yolanda Gabriel	Assistant Superintendent, Special Education - Department of Education
Cathy Tydingco (Alternate)	School Program Consultant Part - Special Education, DOE
Estela Gapas	PNG Child Care Development and Learning Center
James Gillan	Director - Department of Public Health & Social Services
Lydia Tenorio (Alternate)	Administrator - Bureau of Social Services Administration, DPHSS
Mildred Lujan	Executive Director - Sanctuary, Inc.
OJ Taitano (Alternate)	Project Administrator, COPED - Sanctuary, Inc.
Leah Beth Oligario Naholowaa	Director - Department of Labor
Ruth Leon Guerrero (Alternate)	Fair Employment Officer - Department of Labor
Mary Okada	President - Guam Community College
Clare Camacho, Ph.D. (Alternate)	Professor of Education - Guam Community College
Dennis Rodriguez	Senator - 31st Guam Legislature
Melissa B. Savares	President - Mayors' Council of Guam
Carol Tayama (Alternate)	Mayor - Mayors' Council of Guam
Ama Underwood	Owner/Director - Honey Bear Kids Center
Michele Huffer (Alternate)	Director - Adventures & Learning Child Development Center
Robert A. Underwood, Ed.D.	President - University of Guam
Gena Rojas (Alternate)	Faculty Extension Agent - University of Guam
Ray Vega	Administrator - Guam Memorial Hospital
June Perez (Alternate)	Program Coordinator - Guam Memorial Hospital
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.	Speaker - 31st Guam Legislature

# PROJECT TINITUHON

"The BEGINNING"

The Foundation for Lifelong Success  
for your child **BEGINS** with **YOU!**



## **Social Emotional Development/ Mental Health**

Holding and talking with your baby are the first steps to building a positive relationship with your child.

## **Access to Universal Healthcare/ Medical Homes**

Regular and consistent medical care is important for positive growth and development.

## **Early Care and Education and Child Care**

Quality childcare provides positive learning opportunities for healthy growth and development.

## **Family Support/Parent Education**

Be a positive role model! You are your child's first, most consistent, and enduring teacher.

