

I Linå'la-ta OUR LIFE



July 17, 2014 • Vol. 8, Issue 3

Administration on Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Tri-Agency



PEP Sponsors 1st Annual Conference on Disabilities

By Anna Catahay



The PEP Team presented Jo Mascorro with a local hand carved gift of appreciation (carving by Tony Paulino). (L-R): Anna Catahay, Ana Kilroy, Pauline Camacho, Jo Mascorro, Leone Rohr, Carol Darlow and Arlene Goodson.

Parents Empowering Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc. (PEP) held their first Annual Island Wide Conference on Disabilities featuring Keynote Speaker Jo Mascorro, M. Ed, Consultant for Education, on May 24th. The Conference entitled: "Don't Look Now, Your Behavior is Showing! Strategies to Assist in Teaching Ownership and Management of Behavior" not only engaged the audience with its very relevant and all too realistic scenarios of behavior, but it captivated them through Ms. Mascorro's no-nonsense, straightforward, and humorous approach.

The Conference focus was to help parents, related service providers, school teachers and administrators, counselors, job coaches, and potential employers to understand the behaviors of children with disabilities and how to address or manage those behaviors properly, with a positive outlook. Ms. Mascorro stressed the importance of realizing that those with disabilities are people too, and

should be treated as such, quoting Helen Keller, she said, "A person who is severely impaired never knows hidden sources of strength until he is treated like a normal human being and encouraged to shape his own life."

Ms. Mascorro's strategies addressed the behavior of individuals with disabilities from all aspects that impact the behavior; the Individual, the Environment, the Instruction, and all others in contact with the individual with the disability, allowing for a well-rounded assessment of the behavior in order to manage and create appropriate interventions for the behavior. She also gave concrete examples, techniques and phrases to use. In addition, she taught the basics of how the brain works to give a better understanding of why some behaviors present themselves.

Ms. Mascorro made a meaningful impact on her audience from teachers to parents and those with disabilities.

continued on next page...

PEP Conference on Disabilities...continued



Jo Mascorro, an education consultant, delivered her keynote presentation, “Don’t Look Now, Your Behavior is Showing! Strategies to Assist in Teaching Ownership and Management of Behavior” during the First Annual Island-Wide Conference on Disabilities held on May 24. Over 100 parents, teachers, and related service providers attended the Conference.

Vanessa Arce, parent, said, “This seminar I really learned a lot. It was so educational. It was my very first one ever. I’m so happy that I was informed about it and was able to attend. It’s really changed the way I look at things and it will also assist me greatly with my children. So many things I’ve learned that I will be able to apply and I’m looking forward to the next one that they have. I can’t wait. Thank you so much PEP for bringing her here.”

Joseph Sanz, Speech and Language Clinician with DOE Special Education commented, “This was an educational experience not only for the parent, but also for the teachers to help us with special kids with special needs... to add spice into their life and give us adaptive ways to work with unique children...”

From a tearful sister, Nakita Cabrera, and parent, Vivian Cabrera, who travelled from Saipan to attend, “This has probably been a very touching experience for the both of us because my brother...has autism, so just being around other people who are just as passionate and just as knowledgeable about autism and...(who are) very supporting of one another. It was really nice to see that another island is just as supportive.”

From Erlinda Tydingco, Self-Advocacy Facilitator and Individual with a disability, “I’d like to thank PEP and all the sponsors for bringing out Jo Mascorro. We really, really, really enjoyed (the conference) and she gave me a lot of good insight as a person with a disability and as a self-advocacy facilitator. I really appreciate her coming out and enlightening us. Thank you.”

The conference was a success. Over 100 participants walked away with practical advice and a toolbox of strategies to put into immediate action in their homes and professional settings. As you interact with those in the disability arena, you may hear some new terminology:

“Behavior is Communication”

“Get rid of the words ‘right now’ in your vocabulary”

“The brain wants to hear, see, and do”

“We have to be the role models 100% of the time”

The importance of the word “by”

...and if you’re wondering what all the buzz is about, those are the positive effects of attending PEP’s First Annual Island Wide Conference on Disabilities with Jo Mascorro.

Jo Mascorro is from San Antonio, Texas and joined us in Guam after speaking at the PACRIM conference in Hawaii. She also travelled on and spoke in Palau after visiting Guam. She brings with her over 34 years of experience in education and in working with students with disabilities. This conference was a collaborative effort of PEP, Inc., the Hyatt Regency Guam and the Statewide Independent Living Council. For more information, please contact Leone Rohr at 929-4157 or Anna Catahay at 989-4115; email us at pepguam@gmail.com; find us on Facebook at PEP Talk Disabilities; www.peptalkdisabilities.com; P.O. Box 9001 Agat, Guam 96928.

Youth Self-Advocates Explore Possibilities

Estorion Lynn Tydingco



Youth Self-Advocacy Workshop facilitators and participants from Simon Sanchez High School take a ride on a well-appointed bus/limousine during a field trip to explore higher education at the University of Guam and Guam Community College.



Youth Self-Advocacy Workshop facilitators Andrew Tydingco (squatting, front left) and Lynn Tydingco, (middle front row in black and white print blouse) chaperoned a group of high school self-advocates from Simon Sanchez High School during a visit to the Guam Community College Accommodative Services office.

Students from Simon Sanchez High School have successfully completed the Pilot Youth Self-Advocacy Workshop facilitated by SiñA: Self-Advocates in Action Facilitators, Lynn Tydingco, Andrew Tydingco, Stephen Madarang, and with support from collaborative partners the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council and UOG Guam CEDDERS.

Students and their parents attended an orientation for the workshop. A brief overview was provided on self-advocacy and self-determination, and how acquiring the knowledge, tools, and skills of both would benefit youth with disabilities and their families in promoting acceptance, integration, inclusion, and independence.

The month long workshop empowered the youths to know themselves, accept their disabilities, know their rights, make informed choices, plan for their future, be actively involved and direct their IEP. The students developed self-confidence, recognized that their voices are the strongest, and that their future has a positive outlook whether they decide to choose post secondary education or to be gainfully employed.

Interaction and role playing activities were lively and effective methods of communication ensured that the students understood the information.

Each student took on a project that allowed them to practice their self-advocacy skills. The projects touched

on a variety of topics ranging from bullying, learning to speak out for themselves, identifying their strengths and weakness, to pursuing careers in their areas of interest.

On the last day of the workshop, a field trip was arranged to provide the opportunity for the students to visit both the Guam Community College and the University of Guam as options for higher education.

Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase to Mr. John Limtiaco of Paradise Limousine for providing complimentary limousine service to transport the youths from Simon Sanchez High School to the Guam Community College.

In addition, Carla Torres, Guam Systems for Assistive Technology (GSAT), AT Specialist, introduced and demonstrated the various types of devices that are available to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities.

The guided tour topics were based on the students' education and career interests. Their exposure to college life was inspiring and motivating for them. The overall feedback was positive.

Reaching out and training persons with disabilities as young adults and establishing youth self-advocacy chapters here on Guam was a one of three self-advocacy state plan goals identified by Team Guam at the 2012 AIDD: Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Summit in Hawaii. SiñA has plans to spread the self-advocacy fire to all the other high schools.

Guam Territorial Agenda on Disabilities Updated



Individuals check out a portion of the posted gallery of ideas and input.

Thirty-nine self-advocates and family members of persons with disabilities engaged in the process of providing input and recommendations to update the “Territorial Agenda on Disabilities” on May 27 at the Outrigger Guam Resort in Tumon. Guam CEDDERS utilized a World Café approach to the input sessions, a structure that encouraged participants to interact and generate a rich bank of recommendations for identified disability issues that exist in our local community.

Prior to consideration of each life area listed in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS Leadership & Systems Change Initiative Area Coordinator, provided a brief summary of themes developed in the Island Summit on Disabilities in 2003 in comparison to the systems of change within the past decade. Underscoring that “we are not done yet,” participants generated a wealth of information on what works, what needs to change, and recommendations for change. Participants shared key issues that emerged from their discussions. The collective input, once displayed across the nine life areas of Housing, Community Supports, Employment, Transportation, Recreation, Quality Assurance, Health, Child Care, and Early Intervention/Education, was impressive.

Participants responded well to the approach of the World Café, where input was provided at hosted tables. After two topical areas of “conversation,” participants moved to a new table with new people, providing a good mix of self-advocates with parents and interspersing persons across disability types.

Prior to the close of the day, after meeting a new network of people and sharing a broad range of experience, participants took part in a gallery walk to review everyone’s input. They were then asked to prioritize the life areas by voting for their top 4 areas of need. Emphasis areas that rose to the top were: Employment, Housing, and Transportation, followed by Quality Assurance, Community Supports, and Education/Early Intervention. See “Priority Rank Order” listing on page 5.

Leadership is important to the process of refining the message and taking the issues to policy makers. Participants signified their commitment to providing this leadership by volunteering their time and efforts to communicating information from the various Life Areas to policy makers. The next step will progress across the summer, with refinement of the input and preparation for telling the story of need and recommended action or policy to Guam’s leaders. More detailed information relating to the updates of the Territorial Agenda will be provided in the September issue of I Tellai.

Overcoming 12 Years of Barriers

By Maria Bontogon

Nothing could be more perfect for a student's journey than to wear a cap and gown at the end of the school year. As my name was being called and I began to walk ready to receive my high school diploma during our high school commencement exercises, I felt like my life was a movie where someone had pushed a fast forward button and it was an unforgettable moment. This made me recollect all the ups and downs of my high school life—the expectations, hopes and dreams, storms and stresses, sorrow and joy.

Seemed like it was only yesterday... felt like as if I'm the only student in the school ground while others are flying with their wings above me. Walking the crowded maze of unfamiliar school hallways, trying to keep up with peers and being there unprepared due to lack of resources was like diving headfirst into shark-infested waters. The pressure built to the point where I wasn't sure anymore if I could stay afloat. However, the levels of the pipelines—from services to accessibilities and accommodations I needed and requested, and everything in between such as support and mentorship I have received were all tools that lead to new doors of opportunity.

So my thanks and sincere appreciation to my family, teachers, peers, service providers and the Guam tri-agency: GLSC, CEDDERS-GSAT and the GDDC, including all the people who have supported me. Due to them,



Maria Bontogon is all smiles after her high school graduation ceremony.

my high school life has been bearable and reached a triumphant educational pathway. But this is just the beginning, a much more complex adult transition is yet to come. I plan to pursue post secondary education and I need to work hard to be armed and ready.

Guam Territorial Agenda on Disabilities Updated...continued

Priority Rank Order By Areas Of Emphasis

1. Employment
2. Housing (Tie)
2. Transportation (Tie)
3. Quality Assurance
4. Community Supports
5. Early Intervention/Education
6. Health
7. Recreation
8. Child Care



Moses Puas (left), self-advocate, places his colored dot vote on a posted voting sheet.

Gian's Senior High School Recap & Future Endeavors By Gian Magana

Hello everyone! My name is Gian Magana, I am 18 years old, and I just graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. I have Autism, which is a developmental disability that affects social communication. I am also proud to advocate for people with disabilities. Because of my advocacy and my inspiration, there are some people that I know who look up to me.

People are supposed to be treated equally and with respect. Does this sound fair and square in your life and to the world? Absolutely, because you can't get all the things you want. But I can always hope for the future based on what I need, not just on what I desire.

Senior year is the fourth and final year of high school. Everyone has their own challenges from 'senioritis' all the way to behavior issues. I had panic attacks and anxiety disorders. Do I even deserve anything good? I passed my written test and got an interview with Burger King. I tried my best, but have had my share of challenges. Of course, people will always try their best to help you to stop thinking about negative things and get support and encouragement, and not think that you are an outcast. You can talk to someone, like your friends or even a nearby adult.

I also ran into another problem. I admit that as much as I hated being bullied, I bullied a less fortunate student! I always somehow thought that bullying someone was a good idea, all because I was bullied in Benavente Middle School by jocks and preps. This brought into focus for me the fact that, in the end, revenge will not lead to success; there is no excuse for bullying, and what I got is that I was suspended twice. I should have learned my lesson from a long time ago. The student that once bullied me had gradually stopped. I need to also be a good role model for students, especially because I was chosen to be 'Most Inspirational' by the senior class.

Building friends requires confidence, but there are different kinds of friends everywhere. Some of them

may seem to be shy, but there are some who are sympathetic. I met new friends from John F. Kennedy High School, Okkodo High School, and Simon Sanchez High School; and also some middle school students from F.B. Leon Guerrero, Jose Rios, Untalan, and Benavente Middle School from the youth conference. Ever since then, I became more confident in introducing myself to new people, meeting new friends, or trying to invite some of my friends to my graduation party as well. I wanted to be interviewed, and I was interviewed for a Pacific Daily News VIBE article.



Gian Magana is proudly poses in his cap and gown for his high school senior photo.

My Graduation Ceremony was held on June 14, 2014. I almost didn't walk, but one of the assistant principals gave me a chance to shape up on my behavior. My future endeavors are to go to Guam Community College, to take Visual Communications and Computer Science as a major. I will then transfer to the University of Guam after I complete my Associates

Degree from Guam Community College. I'm also planning to buy a Nikon DSLR camera, the 'Speedlight', and a tripod. Sometime in the near future I want to travel around the world like New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, and Singapore to take pictures on popular landmarks; and also do a time lapse video taken from my camera. Furthermore, I am also looking forward to getting a job to support my lifestyle. I started by applying to GAP, Gamestop, and Häagen-Dazs; but I am also willing to apply at many more of our popular retail stores.

I may be considered to some as an "outcast," however many of the students at John F. Kennedy High School know me, and some at least greet me by usually saying, "Hi Gian." Some students may be unkind, but are still willing to help me to become a good role model. In the end I wanted to be popular or well-known in Guam. It was good that I got my diploma and I am ready to move on to the next step of life - College and adult life. My senior year gave me the time and opportunity to grow up, develop responsibility, and begin to behave as the adult and graduate that I now am.

Disability & Society Course Series



FALL COURSES TO BE OFFERED:

- Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Issues
- Disability and Self-Advocacy
- Disability Policy, Advocacy, and the Law

For more information on the these courses please email Ginger Porter at ginger.porter@guamcedders.org

These courses were developed by the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (Guam CEDDERS) and receive 100% funding support from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Grant No. 90DD0014-01-00. The University of Guam is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

GDDC Attends PEP Conference



Several Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC) members attended the Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) 1st Annual Island-wide Disability Conference, May 24, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The conference covered birth to adult and students with disabilities, mild to moderate, severe to profound populations, including dual-sensory impairments. Emphasis on learning behavior intervention practices for children with challenging behaviors on brain development and more. (L-R): Joyce Flores, Carol Darlow, Lourdes Mendiola-2nd Vice-Chairperson, Josephine Guerrero-1st Vice-Chairperson, Erlinda Tydingco-Chairperson, Rosanne Ada-Executive Director, Judith Ayuyu, and Andrew Tydingco.



I Linå'lå-ta is a newsletter published and funded through an Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Tri-Agency partnership comprised of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (Guam DDC), Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC), and the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service (UOG CEDDERS).

Comments may be sent to:
 Guam CEDDERS
 Office of Academic & Student Affairs
 University of Guam,
 UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96923
 Phone: 735-2480/1 Fax: 734-5709 TTY: 734-6531
 Email: terrie.fejarang@guamcedders.org

Guam DDC Executive Director: Rosanne Ada
 GLSC-DLC Director: Harold Parker, Esq.
 UOG CEDDERS Director: Heidi San Nicolas, Ph.D.
 Editors: Ginger Porter, Terrie Fejarang
 Layout & Design: Sean Lizama

This issue of *I Linå'lå-ta* was made possible by contributions from the following individuals: Maria Bontogon, Anna Catahay, Marie Libria, Gian Magana, Ginger Porter, Leone Rohr, Lynn Tydingco.

Alternative formats (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tapes, or electronic file) of *I Linå'lå-ta* will be made available upon request. Please contact Margaret Johnson at 735-2477 (v) or 734-6531 (TTY), or email: margie.johnson@guamcedders.org for more information.

The University of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Parents Empowering Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc.
Providing Training, Advocacy and Support

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SY 2014-2015

Dates and Location To Be Determined

August 2014

"Back to School & I'm Ready" Parent Training

Parents will learn techniques, information and tools to help create a smooth start for the school year.

October 2014

"Let's Write a Great IEP" Parent training and hands on workshop

In this unique event, parents can schedule an appointment for assistance in preparing for their child's IEP meeting with a simultaneous training on the components of the IEP, including teaching on compliance, related services, assessments and evaluations, and accommodations and modifications. This is a skill building opportunity.

November 2014

"Team PEP Family Thanksgiving Social" Support Activity

A family support event for us to relax, share, enjoy family and fun and make new friends. Together we are stronger.

January 2015

"What will I do after High School?" Parent and Student Training

Training on the development and implementation of the post-secondary transition plan. What part do other agencies play in the transition of students from high school to training, employment, or post-secondary education? Let's learn about some options.

February 2015

"Healing our Hearts" Support activity for moms

Join us in a Valentine inspired event for mothers to share, give and receive support, enjoy fellowship and self care tips.

April 2015

Sunset 5K Disability Awareness and Advocacy

PEP's 2nd Annual Disability Awareness Sunset 5K Family Walk/Run/Wheelchair with the PEP Special Needs Course. Light the Way for Individuals with Disabilities is the theme for the PEP signature Sunset 5K for all in the community to join us in awareness and advocacy for all individuals with disabilities and their families. Don't miss this one!

May 2015

PEP's 2nd Annual Island Wide Conference on Disabilities

Stay tuned for all the details on this event for training, advocacy, and awareness for our Island Community.

Leone Rohr
671-929-4157

pepguam@gmail.com

Carol Darlow
671-727-2535

www.peptalkdisabilities.com

Anna Catahay
671-989-4115

Facebook: PEP Talk Disabilities