

## Stakeholders Update Status of Services & Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

Guam CEDDERS held a series of input sessions during this last quarter as part of an effort to hear directly from our stakeholders and to help guide the development of Guam CEDDERS' next Core grant application. Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS Consultant, facilitated the sessions that included representatives from community organizations such as Autism Community Together, the Down Syndrome Association of Guam, and a group of self-advocates and advocates for individuals with visual impairments. Service providers from various government and non-profit organizations as well as members of Guam CEDDERS advisory groups also participated in meetings that focused on the current system of services and supports in terms of what is working, what is not, and recommendations for how to improve them.

A summary of the input was presented to the Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council during its regular quarterly meeting held on December 7. Council members were given an opportunity to review the information gathered and provide feedback and recommendations. Guam CEDDERS staff also met later that day to provide additional input reflective of the organization's mission in bridging supports and services for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Information collected from these meetings, along with data obtained from the 2017 Tri-Agency Disability Summit held on

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UNIVERSITY OF GUAM  
Center for Excellence in  
Developmental Disabilities  
Education, Research, and Service



The Down Syndrome Association of Guam participated in a Guam CEDDERS Input Session on October 28 at the Guam System for Assistive Technology Conference Room. (Standing L-R) Josie Guerrero and Vincent Guerrero with Vadin Guerrero and Dreyden Salas (standing in front); Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS Input Session Facilitator; Tanya Simer, Social Work intern; Joe & Nacrina Mendiola with Francisco & Johanna Mendiola (standing in front); Starlette Santos, Serene Pecha, Social Work student, and Joey Pecha.

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## Stakeholder Updates *(cont. from page 1)*

May 30 and other related source documents, are being closely reviewed, classified, and organized into categories that will inform the goals, objectives, and activities that will be addressed in the Guam CEDDERS Work Plan for 2018-2023.

Refinement of the Work Plan will continue over the next three months as the anticipated date for submittal of the Core grant application to the Administration on Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) is projected for April 2018.



Autism Community Together (ACT) gathered at GSAT on October 4 to provide input as part of Guam CEDDERS' needs assessment efforts. (Seated, front row L-R) Carol Darlow, grandparent; Josephine Blas, ACT President, with son Joseph Blas; and Lourdes Mesa, parent. (Second row, L-R), Clifford Bascon Wooten, self-advocate; Lourdes Bascon Mendiola, parent; Evelyn Claros, parent; Asuncion Riate, parent; Kristal Leigh K. Flores, parent; and Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS Input Session Facilitator. (Back row, L-R) Joseph Tajeron, Social Work intern; and Michael Acosta, Social Work student.



Fifteen stakeholders gathered at the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero College of Business and Public Administration on November 17 to update the status of assistive technology services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. (Front Row, L-R) Evangelis Babauta, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter; Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant; and Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS Consultant. (Front Table, L-R) Barbara Johnson, GSAT Advisory Council Secretary; Maria Bontogon (partially shown), Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council; and Josephine Cortez (partially shown), GSAT Advisory Council member-at-large. (Second Table, L-R): Lourdes Ann Mesa, GSAT Advisory Council Chairperson; Jessica Crisostomo, personal assistant; and Tom Manglona, GSAT Advisory Council member-at-large. (Third Table, L-R) Raymond Sayas, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDCC); Carol Cabiles, Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC); Joseph Gumataotao, Director EEO & Title IX / ADA Coordinator, University of Guam; Michael Fejeran, parent, and Eufemia P. Local, parent. (Fourth Table, L-R): Patricia Mantanona, Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) Program Coordinator, Guam Department of Education (GDOE); and Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS. (Standing at back) Sallie S. Sablan, Senior Academic Counselor (ADA Specialization). (Not shown) Alvin Ancheta, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities / Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DISID/DVR); and Leah Abelon, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate.



## Stakeholder Updates *(cont. from page 2)*



Eleven participants gathered on November 21, at the GSAT Conference Room to voice their input on the status of Early Intervention services and supports. (Pictured L-R, Clockwise) Jenika Ballesta, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate; Kirsten Cruz, Parents Empowering Parents, Inc.; Jeannie Hollis, ASL interpreter; Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS Consultant; Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant; Joyce Borja, Social Work student; Enrique Mesngon, George Washington High School Teacher; and Linda Rodriguez, Human Service Administrator, Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS), Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA). (Not shown) Patricia Mantanona, GEIS Program Coordinator, GDOE; Bonnie Brandt, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate; Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director; Christina Jung, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate; and Vera Blaz, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate. The Education Input Session was held on November 20.

## Guam DD Tri-Agency Creates 2018-2023 Work Plan



Representatives from the Guam Developmental Disabilities Tri-Agency met on November 16 to develop the 2018-2023 Tri-Agency Work Plan. Attending the meeting were (L-R): Carol Cabiles, Program Coordinator, Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC); Marie Libria, Program Coordinator, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDCC); Hank Parker, J.D., Executive Director, GLSC-DLC; Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director, Guam CEDDERS; June De Leon, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS; and Terrie Fejarang, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS.

# GSAT Participates in the National Disability Employment Awareness Month Conference and Resource Fair

October marked the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebration. This year's theme, "Inclusion Drives Innovation," recognized the importance of inclusion in the workplace. On October 11, The Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) hosted the NDEAM Conference in partnership with the American Job Center and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

Joe Blas, Hotel Nikko Guam Sales Manager, employs 14 individuals with disabilities, who are as capable and talented as any other employee. Being cognizant of the assistive technologies and devices that exist to make activities of daily living and work easier for individuals with disabilities, Mr. Blas' team wants to make these technologies and devices available at the hotel for use during meetings and hotel functions. The conference provided presentations that catered to both employers and job seekers. Guam Legal Services Corporation -

Disability Law Center Attorney Eric Miller provided guidance on the Reasonable Accommodations Process and laws that govern that process. The Small Business Development Center delivered a presentation on self employment opportunities, which is in line with the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Akudi Loan Program Telework Initiative.

Many workshops also occurred during the NDEAM, including the Job Placement Circle where employers receive applicants' resumes, conducted interviews, and hired applicants that met the qualifications for available jobs.

Individuals with disabilities struggle to find employment opportunities, despite the wealth of skills they have to offer. These individuals appeal to employers who recognize their fresh perspectives and skills, which can add to an innovation-focused workforce. Resources are available to assist with employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. (See box below)

## Resources for People with Disabilities and their Families and Friends

- GSAT's "Model Home" for Independent Living displays an array of independent living products, ideas, and services, including services that can help with employment.
- Assistive technology programs provide information on tools and services that can help a person with a disability perform activities that might otherwise be difficult, whether at home or in the workplace.
- The AKUDI Loan Program provides free, expert, and confidential guidance on AT for personal/workplace accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities.
- Americans with Disabilities Act provides information, guidance and training on how to implement the Act.
- GSAT Resources for Self-Advocates page provides tools to help effectively provide AT to people with disabilities.
- GSAT collaborative effort to promote positive outcomes for people with disabilities by encouraging self-advocates and their families to recognize the value and talent they bring to the workplace, school and communities.
- GSAT has posted several videos that illustrate how AT is successfully integrating and supporting self-advocates with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



(Left photo) Shawni Acfalle (right), GSAT Center Assistant, and Joseph Tajeron (middle), Social Work Practicum Student, demonstrate an Assistive Technology (AT) device called "iBill," to Joe Blas, Hotel Nikko Guam Assistant General Manager, during the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Conference on October 11. (Right photo) Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator, conducts a presentation on GSAT Services and Assistive Technology during the NDEAM Conference held at the Hotel Nikko Guam on October 11.



## National Disability Employment Awareness Month Proclamation Signing



Acting Governor Ray Tenorio signed a proclamation on September 29, declaring October, "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This year's theme is "Inclusion drives Innovation."

## GSAT Coordinator Sworn in as Member of State Rehab Council



(Left photo) GSAT Center Coordinator Leah Abelon (left) was sworn in as a new member of the State Rehabilitation Council on September 29. Ms. Abelon, representing Guam CEDDERS, was appointed for a three-year term. (Right photo) The ceremony was held at the Governor's Office Conference Room in Adelup and conducted by Acting Governor Ray Tenorio.



## GSAT & Guam EHDI Staff Participate in Head Start Parent Engagement Conference



(Left photo) Leah Abelon (right), Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Center Coordinator, shares information with an interested parent on the Logan ProxTalker, an assistive technology device known for its advanced and adaptable recorded speech communication options during the 2017 Head Start Parent Engagement Conference on October 21 at the Pacific Star Resort and Spa. (Right photo) Renee Koffend, AuD., Audiologist and Guam Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Consultant, presents information on "Hearing Loss Identification and Rehabilitation" to interested parents during a session at the Head Start Parent Engagement Conference on October 21.



Leah Abelon (Kneeling), GSAT Center Coordinator, and Christina Jung (right), Guam CEDDERS Research Associate, help secure Praiselyn Mario to her mother, Mimy Mario, while using the FireFly Upsee Mobility Harness. This assistive technology device allows parents to assist their child to stand and walk.



# Staff Demonstrate AT during Cerebral Palsy Awareness Outreach

In celebration of Physical Therapy month, the Occupational and Physical Therapy Association of Guam (OPTAG) held an interactive outreach event on October 14 to promote and increase awareness of how physical therapy, occupational therapy, and the community can support families with cerebral palsy. The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) and Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Project from Guam CEDDERS were invited to disseminate and share information with interested participants.

A handful of individuals with cerebral palsy and their families were present to promote advocacy. The highlight of the event was the demonstration of the FireFly Upsee Mobility Harness to the Teimoury family. The mobility harness provides support to individuals who experience difficulties with standing or walking independently. The Teimoury family was able to use the harness successfully with their child on the first try. As a result, the family is interested in obtaining this device and has borrowed the equipment from the GSAT office. The family feels that the device will have a positive impact on their son's life.

In addition, the Guam EHDI Project provided information on the association between hearing loss and cerebral palsy. Research indicates that early screening for hearing loss is critical for children to be enrolled in an intervention program after detection. Families were instructed on the importance of knowing and looking for signs of hearing loss from their children.



*Alieh Zinatrou holds her son, Ashkan Teimoury, while he uses the FireFly Upsee Mobility Harness during the Cerebral Palsy Awareness Outreach Event at Agana Shopping Center on October 14. The FireFly Upsee Mobility Harness is an assistive technology device that allows parents to assist their child to stand and walk.*



*(L-R) Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant; Tanya Simer, Social Work Practicum Student; and Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator, display assistive technology devices at the Cerebral Palsy Awareness Outreach Event hosted by the Occupational & Physical Therapy Association of Guam (OPTAG). The event took place at the Agana Shopping Center on October 14.*



# Project Bisita Celebrates First Graduation

On December 1, 2012, Project Bisita I Familia home visitors embarked on a journey to provide a new kind of home visiting services to families on Guam. Grounded in its mission to improve the well-being of Guam's children, birth to 8 years of age, and their families, through evidence-based home visiting services, Project Bisita I Familia has made a difference in the lives of many families.

Project Bisita is a free and voluntary program that was developed to encourage positive parent-child interactions, give parents the knowledge to support their child's health, growth, and development; strengthen parents' confidence, prevent child abuse and neglect, promote effective communication between parents and children, and improve coordination of services with other programs. Project Bisita uses the Healthy Families America® (HFA) home visiting model. In 1992, Prevent Child Abuse America® launched the HFA home visiting model to address high rates of child abuse occurrences to children under five. The program was designed to promote positive parenting, enhance child health and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Project Bisita began its pilot home visiting program with three (3) full-time home visitors serving eight (8) enrolled families.

As of September 2017, Project Bisita had 58 families enrolled in the program. These families started out receiving home visiting services once a week. Since the program is strength-based and family-driven, the families would set manageable goals with short time frames. Activities that emphasized healthy development and positive discipline were also given to parents to use in the home. As families achieved their goals, the home visits decreased in number. When goals had been met and evidence of positive outcomes were seen, families received home visiting services twice a month. As families became more self-sufficient, services decreased to once per month and then once per quarter.

On September 16, 2017, ten families with a total of 11 children graduated from the program. These families met their goals with positive outcomes and have transitioned into preschool GATE, head start, or kindergarten. The children are enrolled in the following Department of Education programs—Preschool Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program, Head Start Program, or Kindergarten. Being a part of Project Bisita has given these families a hand up and a head start to future success in school and in life.



Project Bisita I Familia graduates 10 families from the program on September 16 at the Pacific Star Resort and Spa. The families pose for a group photo following the ceremony.



(Left Photo) Sherill Tinio (right), Project Bisita I Familia home visitor, poses with one of her families that graduated from the program on September 16. (Right Photo) Relida Sumaylo (right), Project Bisita I Familia home visitor, poses with one of her families that graduated from the program on September 16.



## Project Bisita Training and Events



On September 18-20, Ellie Jimenez (seated third from right), Healthy Families America national trainer, provided training on “Facilitating Change: Motivational Interviewing.” Project Bisita I Familia home visitors, Kariñu service providers and family partners, and Department of Education Guam Early Intervention System service providers were in attendance. The training focused on understanding the stages of change, which can provide insight into the process of change and how to best support the process with families. Guam CEDDERS staff Vera Blaz, Jenika Ballesta, and JJ Mendiola participated in this training.



Vera Blaz (second from right), Guam CEDDERS Training Associate and Project Bisita I Familia TA and Training Coordinator, facilitated orientation training on October 11 for new home visiting staff. Home visitors learned about the development of the home visiting program as well as how to administer and score the Ages and Stages Questionnaires Third Edition (ASQ-3) and the Ages and Stages: Social Emotional (ASQ: SE).



Vera Blaz, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate and Project Bisita I Familia TA and Training Coordinator, facilitated training on November 20 on the impact of domestic violence in early childhood for Maternal Child Health Program staff and Project Bisita home visiting staff.



Project Bisita I Familia held two Parent Cafés, on November 16 (left photo) and November 30 (right photo) at the Pacific Star Resort & Spa. The Parent Café themes were on “Taking Care of Yourself” and “You Are Not Alone.”





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## Family Childcare Centers Receive Learn the Signs Act Early Training



Elaine Eclavea (not pictured), Guam CEDDERS Consultant, and Jenika Ballesta (third from left), Guam CEDDERS Research Associate, facilitated training to two Family Childcare Centers on “Learn the Signs. Act Early” on November 11. The “Learn the Signs. Act Early” program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need. (Pictured L-R) Cassandra Gutierrez, Home Provider Owner; Lehualanu Kahete, Care Provider; Jenika Ballesta, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate; Cecilia Guerrero, Care Provider; Humiko Tosiwo, Care Provider; and Marie Lynn Iriarte, Home Provider Owner.

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## Follow-Up Webinar on Guam Common Core

As a follow-up to the August 2017 on-site training on the Common Core and the Special Education Student, Guam CEDDERS Consultant Mary Schillinger conducted a three-hour webinar on December 6 with 15 Guam Division of Special Education Consulting Resource Teachers – Technical Assistance (CRT-TA) and Transition Specialists. The purpose for the webinar was to continue strengthening the supports provided to schools for students with disabilities to have access to the general

education curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The session served as a refresher on the Common Core, with facilitated practice on developing Common Core aligned Individualized Education Program goals. In addition, the session provided a review of the resources available on the “live binder” website, which is intended to be a resource for ongoing support to the schools.



(Left photo) Guam CEDDERS Consultant Mary Schillinger (shown on TV) facilitates the three-hour webinar on December 6. (Right photo) CRT-TA and Transition Specialist “walk-through” the “live binder” website during the webinar. (L-R) Janice Almoguera, Norine Guzman, Portia Topasna, and Ron Gogo.



## Palau Drafts Coordinated Approaches for Disability Services Plan

Since July 2017, the Republic of Palau, Ministry of Education - Special Education Program staff in partnership with the Head Start Coordinators and technical support from Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, have been working to develop a process for ensuring coordinated approaches for serving children enrolled in Head Start settings. The team inclusive of both Special Education and Head Start staff reviewed the Head Start Program Performance Standard (HSPPS) 1302.101(b) Coordinated Approaches for Disability Services (CADS): "At the beginning of each program year, and on an ongoing basis throughout the year, a program must design and implement program-wide coordinated approaches to ensure full and effective participation of children with disabilities." This standard requires appropriate supports and protocols are in place prior to and throughout the school year for preschoolers with disabilities.

The CADS plan ensures that all preschoolers with disabilities enrolled in Head Start will have access to highly individualized teaching that will result in active participation and increased learning to achieve the goals and objectives identified for the child. On August 21 and 22, Special Education and Head Start staff participated in a two-day training on early childhood coaching that was facilitated by Ms. Eclavea. During that same week, Special Education staff, in partnership with the Head Start teachers from the two pilot centers, developed coaching plans based on the priorities identified by the teachers to support the inclusion of preschoolers with disabilities in their center. For the past three

months, Special Education providers have been coaching and mentoring Head Start teachers and teacher assistants in achieving the goals identified in the early childhood coaching plan. The results and progress achieved discussed during the team meetings held on November 28 and 29 were all positive.

Congratulations to the Parents, Head Start Teachers and Teacher Assistants, and Special Education Providers for their continued commitment to supporting preschoolers with disabilities in Head Start settings!



*Elaine Eclavea (far left), Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, conducted training on Early Childhood Coaching in the Republic of Palau. The Olbedekall Head Start Center Team received incentives as part of their participation in the Early Childhood Coaching pilot program.*



*During an Early Childhood Coaching session, the Olbedekall Head Start Center celebrates the progress Elika (sitting on her mother's lap) has made since being enrolled in the program.*



## Guam EHDl Parent Advisory Subcommittee Provides Input on Engagement Strategies

System enhancement efforts of the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDl) Program, facilitated by Guam CEDDERS, continued through the great collaborative spirit of each of the partners. These partners include Guam Memorial Hospital Administration (GMHA), Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC), Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center (SMBC), Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), and Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS). Each partner contributes to make things flow and to reach and maintain objectives which include initial hearing screening by one month, appointments for outpatient re-screens, re-screening at the birth site (SMBC) or GEIS/Chief Brodie Outpatient Hearing Screening Clinic, High Risk 6 month Follow-up Clinics at DPHSS, Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE) by 3 months, and enrollment into early intervention by 6 months of age.

During this last quarter, Guam EHDl, also known during this cycle as "Project Fitme," established the Parent Advisory Subcommittee which was formed to provide input on parent engagement strategies. Members met individually for a role orientation and then as a group to provide input for increasing parent participation in a soon to be formed support group for parents with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Discussions centered on how to engage parents, prioritizing topics of interest for future parent training, how to best pair parent mentors with parents of newly identified infants with hearing loss, creative ideas to assist families with lack of transportation to get to their Diagnostic Audiological Evaluations, and ideas for a brochure that would assist new families in navigating the

hearing continuum process. These discussions were shared with the GEIS Coordinator, as we continue to work collaboratively to ensure families receive services in a timely manner.

In line with the goal to foster learning communities, Renee Koffend, AuD., CCC-A, Guam EHDl Audiologist Consultant, recently conducted a presentation on "Hearing Loss Identification and Rehabilitation." The Guam EHDl Hearing Screening and Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation processes for GEIS service providers was also discussed to ensure providers are kept up to date with current EHDl processes and allow Guam EHDl to receive feedback on the EHDl system.

Lastly, we cannot forget the fuel that keeps the ChildLink-EHDl data system going! The timely data entry into the EHDl system would not be possible without additional training to our partners. Joseph Mendiola, Guam EHDl Interoperability Data Manager, provided training on the system for the staff of the Mother and Baby Unit at GRMC. The staff inputs hearing screening results into the Guam ChildLink-EHDl data base in a timely manner, which provides data to assist in making improvements to the system.

Coordinated efforts with our partners continue as we thrive to accomplish the overall program goal of supporting the development of statewide programs and systems of care that ensure children who are deaf or hard of hearing are identified through newborn and infant hearing screening and receive evaluation, diagnosis, and appropriate intervention that optimize their language, literacy, and social-emotional development.



Guam EHDl Parent Advisory Subcommittee members met with Guam EHDl staff on October 4 to discuss and provide input on parent engagement strategies. Seated from Left to Right: Ann Marie Cruz, parent; Joe Tuquero, Guam EHDl Chairperson and parent; Marie Wusstig, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate; Joyce Tejeretas, Guam EHDl Co-chairperson and parent; baby Richard Flores; Julia Flores, parent; and Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director. Not pictured, Tanya Simer, UOG Social Work Intern.



## Audiology Consultant Facilitates Learning Community



On November 17, Renee Koffend (standing), AuD., CCC-A, Audiologist and Guam Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Consultant, conducted a presentation on "Hearing Loss Identification and Rehabilitation" to Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) service providers. The presentation included a review of the current Guam EHDI Hearing Screening and Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE).

## Guam EHDI Facilitates GRMC ChildLink-EHDI Training



Joseph Mendiola (right), Guam EHDI Interoperability Data Manager, conducted training on October 3 on how to use the Guam ChildLink – EHDI database with Sheryl Lewis (left), RN, the designated Hearing Screening Coordinator of the Guam Regional Medical City Mother & Baby Unit. Guam ChildLink, the online database system facilitated by Guam EHDI, administered by Guam CEDDERS, is part of the system used to ensure that all babies born on Guam undergo hearing screening before leaving the facility of their birth and receive follow up services if needed.



# Training Focuses on Refinement of Continuous Improvement Road Map for Improving Reading Achievement

Guam CEDDERS facilitated the second SY2017-2018 Guam Department of Education professional development (PD) session for the four State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) schools on October 23, 2017 at the Westin Resort Guam.

As a continuation from the August PD, the full day training focused on navigating the aimsweb screening system to generate reports and using the reading screening data for improving reading instruction, refining their continuous improvement steps, including the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle, for implementation; and reaching agreement on the activities and timelines for implementing the screening/assessment and progress monitoring procedures for school year 2017-2018.

The morning session of the training had each school's grade level logged into the aimsweb program to practice inputting

scores, generating reports, graphing and analyzing screening results, and determining the level of intervention needed.

The afternoon session was facilitated by the Instructional Coaches and Consulting Resource Teachers - Technical Assistance, who provided participants with a review of the eight continuous improvement steps as well as identifying what's working, challenges, and questions participants had with completing each step. The grade level teams worked together to complete the activities, learning from each other on how PDSAs are implemented in the four SSIP schools. Photos and videos taken in the classrooms on "what's working" were also shared with the participants as encouragement for the teachers to continue implementing PDSAs in their classrooms.



Dr. Nieves Flores (standing, middle), Guam CEDDERS Consultant, checks in with the 5th grade teachers from J.M. Guerrero Elementary School as they work on the aimsweb practice activities on October 23.

## CNMI Part C Providers Receive Early Childhood Coaching Certification



Guam CEDDERS facilitated technical assistance for CNMI Part C Providers to receive evidence-based Early Childhood Coaching certification through collaboration with CNMI Part C and Hawaii Part C programs. Guam CEDDERS and CNMI Part C providers participated in three webinars, onsite training in Hawaii, and six months of peer-to-peer coaching and mentoring with Dr. M'Issa Sheldon and Dathan Rush. The participants received certification in September. The certification ensures that early childhood coaching is practiced with fidelity. Pictured (L-R): Peter Mendiola, CNMI Part C Special Instruction Teacher; Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS CNMI Part C Consultant; Robin Palacios, CNMI Part C Director; and Jonisa Sanchez, CNMI Part C Special Instruction Teacher.



# Guam CEDDERS Provides Early Childhood Technical Assistance in Saipan



On October 10 and 11, Elaine Eclavea (standing), Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, and Keith Villaluna, Guam CEDDERS Data Specialist, provided on-site consultation and technical assistance to CNMI Part B and Part C staff on Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO), and facilitated the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Program Team Meeting.

## Guam Cohort #2 Completes ADOS-2 Training

In partnership with the University of Southern California, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (USC-UCEDD) and Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), Guam CEDDERS facilitated the continuation of the comprehensive autism assessment training to build the capacity of Guam Department of Education (GDOE) providers to identify and assess children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) symptoms. November 13-17 marked the third and last on-site visit conducted by Irina Zamora, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Keck School of Medicine, USC, to work with GDOE's Cohort #2 comprised of 11 early intervention and

special education personnel. The third visit continued with the training on the administration, scoring, and interpretation of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, 2nd Edition (ADOS-2). With assistance from GDOE's Cohort #1 members, Dr. Zamora provided additional practice activities in preparation for Cohort #2 members completing the Western Psychological Services (WPS) ADOS-2 certification examination. In 2016, GDOE's Cohort #1, comprised of five early intervention and special education personnel, completed all training requirements, including passing the WPS ADOS-2 certification examination.



Cohort #2 members with Cohort #1 and Dr. Irina Zamora take a team photo to celebrate the end of the third training visit. (L-R) Alma Terbio, Educational Evaluator; Janice Almoguera, Consulting Resource Teacher-Technical Assistance (CRT-TA); Marie Wessling, CRT-TA; Nicole Duenas, Cohort #1 Speech/Language Pathologist; Jessica Atoigue, Cohort #1 CRT-TA; Melanie Torre, Speech/Language Pathologist; Elizabeth Blas, Early Intervention Speech/Language Pathologist; Ron Gogo, CRT-TA; Dr. Zamora; Anna Perez, Social Worker; Felice Camacho, CRT-TA; Norine Guzman, CRT-TA; and Christine Hernandez, CRT-TA. Cohort #2 member not shown: Marie Tenorio, CRT-TA.



# FSM Receives Consultation on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Guam CEDDERS' June De Leon facilitated the on-site consultation, from November 27 to December 1, in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The focus of the on-site consultation was to support FSM's efforts to improve educational results for students with ASD. Irina Zamora, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, and Ms. De Leon conducted the on-site consultation, which included classroom and home visits, and parent and school personnel sessions.

The classroom and home visits were opportunities to learn from family members and school personnel on the needs of children with ASD in the FSM. The two 2-hour parent sessions, attended by 32 family members and service providers of children with ASD, included an overview of ASD and dialogue on the

"what and why" of ASD. At the end, family members shared that the behavioral strategies, such as calming techniques, visual supports, and schedules were helpful to them in supporting their child with ASD.

The two-day school personnel session was attended by 50 service providers from Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap. The session, "Working with Children with ASD: Early Identification and Intervention," incorporated the needs observed and discussed during the school and home visits conducted earlier in the week. Similar to the parent sessions, the school personnel session included the "what and why" of ASD and strategies to support children with ASD in school. At the end, school personnel reported that they will be able to use the behavioral and sensory strategies, visual supports, and schedules in their classroom to support children with ASD.



*Dr. Irina Zamora (standing), confers with Maureen Villagomez, Pohnpei State Special Education Teacher, during the school personnel session review activity on December 1.*



# Interdisciplinary Training for Guam Early Interventionists

In partnership with the University of Southern California, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (USC-UCEDD) at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), Guam CEDDERS facilitated a four-day interdisciplinary training conducted by three CHLA consultants: Irina Zamora, Psy.D., Shelby Surfas, OTD, and C. Blake French, M.S., CCC-SLP. Thirty early intervention and preschool providers from the Guam Department of Education and Department of Public Health and Social Services attended the four-day training on December 4-7 at the University of Guam School of Business Building Room 129. The purpose for the training was to build capacity of early interventionists (EI) on the early identification and delivery of services for young children with developmental delays. The interdisciplinary training curriculum was designed to increase the knowledge of EI providers in the following topical areas: 1) social-emotional development of young children; 2) language development of children with disabilities; 3) strategies to address language delays in young children; red flags for autism; 4) partnering with parents when providing early intervention services; 5) sensory differences in young children; 6) feeding challenges and feeding therapy; and 7) understanding and addressing the impact of trauma in children with disabilities. The training curriculum was delivered within the Guam EI program's coaching model and framework for implementation and sustainability, which included "live practice" of the strategies reviewed with young children and their families. In addition, the CHLA consultants facilitated an evening dialogue session

with nine parents of children with developmental delays. The session, "Supporting Your Child in Early Intervention," provided an opportunity for parents to share their successes, challenges, and to ask questions of other parents and the CHLA consultants. At the end, one parent remarked how she learned so much from listening to other parents share their stories.



(Top photo) Guam early Intervention and preschool providers take a team photo with the CHLA Consultants. (Bottom photo) CHLA Consultant Dr. Irina Zamora (left) responds to a question from one of the parents during the evening session, with her colleagues sitting next to her: C. Blake French, CHLA Speech Pathologist, and Dr. Shelby Surfas, Occupational Therapist.



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## Advisory Council Member Shares Experiences with Social Work Students



(Left photo) Barbara Johnson, a member of the Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council and the GSAT Advisory Council, was a guest speaker in Terrie Fejarang's SW 400: Fields of Social Work Practice class on October 6, 2017. Ms. Johnson spoke about her experiences as a person who is deaf and offered tips to the budding social workers on how to communicate with people who are deaf. Students also had the experience of "having a Plan B" when a sign language interpreter is not available during a meeting with a person who is deaf. Shown in Front Row (L-R): Destiny Estrellado, Tasi Anghet Martinez, Barbara Johnson, Serene Pecha, Joyce Borja, Alisia Barcinas, and Mariecar Patino. Back Row: Mike Acosta, Leonea Peter, Joe Tajeron, Julio Gomez, Micheal Petite, Ryan Manglona, Onania Sniverly, and Adrian Davis. (Right photo) Joyce Borja, (right) engages in one on one conversation with Barbara Johnson (left), guest speaker, on October 6.

## Advisory Council Member Demonstrates OrCam MyEye



On September 29, Maria Bontogon (right), a senior at the University of Guam and a member of the Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council, conducted a demonstration on the OrCam MyEye for community members. The OrCam is a type of wearable technology that is able to read printed text, do facial recognition, read bar codes, and identify currency and color. Social Work students also attended the presentation with their instructor, Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director. This presentation was hosted by the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT).



## Staff Transitions



*Christina Jung (right), Guam CEDDERS Research Associate and Guam EHDI Hearing Screening Facilitator, conducts a follow-up hearing screening.*



*Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant*



*Sylvia Duenas, Student Office Assistant*

Guam CEDDERS welcomes two new staff members to the organization. Shawni Acfalle started her part time employment as the new GSAT Center Assistant on September 25. Her background includes an Associate Degree in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education from Kapiolani Community College in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Joining the Guam CEDDERS staff in October as a part time Student Office Assistant is Sylvia Duenas. Sylvia recently received her Associate Degree in Human Services from Guam Community College and is currently a full time student at the University of Guam.

Leaving Guam CEDDERS is Christina “Tina” Jung, Research Associate, who served as the Hearing Screening Facilitator for the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project Fitme. During the 14 months of her employment, Tina played a significant role in providing front line support to the universal newborn hearing screening system, especially focusing on finding infants who were “lost to follow up” during the screening process. Tina is heading to Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts in January where she will pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.

Welcome Aboard, Shawni and Sylvia. Adios, Tina and best of luck in your future endeavors!



### **University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service (Guam CEDDERS) Newsletter**

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*I Tellai* is a quarterly publication of Guam CEDDERS.  
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This issue of *I Tellai* was made possible by contributions from the following Guam CEDDERS staff members/consultant: Leah Abelon, Jenika Ballesta, Vera Blaz, June De Leon, Terrie Fejarang, Sherry Guerrero, Christina Jung, June Quitugua, Keith Villaluna, and Marie Wusstig.

Alternative formats (e.g. Braille, large print, or audio tapes) of *I Tellai* will be made available upon request.

Please contact Ruth Leon Guerrero at (671) 735-2477 (v), (671) 735-6531 (TTY), or (671) 734-5709 (fax) for more information.

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Dec 6** Guam DDC Focus Group Meeting for Annual State Plan, 9:00am-10:30am, Guam DDC Conference Room  
**Dec 7** Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 9:00am-1:00pm, Somnak Room, Westin Resort  
**Dec 10** EPICS Scholars Teleconference Call with San Jose State University Faculty, 1:00pm-3:00pm, TBA  
**Dec 13** GSAT Conference and Fair Planning Committee Meeting, 3:30pm-5:00pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG  
**Dec 15** High Risk Follow-up Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-11:30am, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Mangilao  
**Dec 27** Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-3:30pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning

JAN-MAR

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**Jan 3** Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-3:30pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning  
**Jan 5** High Risk Follow-up Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-11:15am, 1:30pm-4:00pm, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Mangilao  
**Jan 5** Learn The Signs Act Early Training with Head Start, 9:30am-12:00pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG  
**Jan 8-12** FSM Assessment Training by Dr. Nieves Flores and June Quitugua, Yap State, FSM  
**Jan 9** GSAT Advisory Council Executive Meeting, 3:00pm-4:00pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG  
**Jan 11** Help Me Grow Work Group Meeting, 8:30am-12:00pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG  
**Jan 13** Guam Part B FY 2016 APR Stakeholder Input Session, 9:00am-11:00am, SBPA Rm. 129, UOG  
**Jan 16** SSIP Professional Development, Guam

**Jan 16** Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-3:30pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning

**Jan 17-19** On-site TA, Palau

**Jan 23** GSAT Advisory Council General Membership Meeting, 3:30pm-5:00pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG

**Jan 23-26** On-site TA, Kosrae, FSM

**Jan 29-31** On-site TA Visit by Dr. Rob Corso, Guam

**Feb 8-9** ASD: Early Development, Diagnosis, & Intervention Training, Dr. Giacomo Vivanti, Guam

**Feb 13** Kick Off for DD Awareness Month

**Feb 26-Mar 2** National Deaf Center for Postsecondary Outcomes Site Visit, 8:00am-5:00pm, TBA

**Mar 2** GSAT Conference, 8:00am-4:00pm, TBA

**Mar 2** CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 3:30pm-5:00pm, TBA

**Mar 6** Guam EHDI Advisory Council Meeting, Hilton Resort

**Mar 24** GSAT Fair, 10:00am-2pm, Agana Shopping Center

**SAVE THE DATE | February 13, 2018**  
**Guam CEDDERS 25th Anniversary Celebration**

**SAVE THE DATE**

The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Planning Committee Presents the

**24th Annual AT  
Conference & Fair**

**Assistive Technology: Breaking Barriers  
to Accessibility and Independence**

**March**

**2**

**AT Conference**

8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
Location: TBA

**March**

**24**

**AT Fair**

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.  
Agana Shopping Center

For more information, please contact Leah Abelon at 735-2490  
or visit the GSAT website at [www.gsatcedders.org](http://www.gsatcedders.org).

*For more information on any of these events, please call 735-2479 or visit [www.guamcedders.org](http://www.guamcedders.org)*