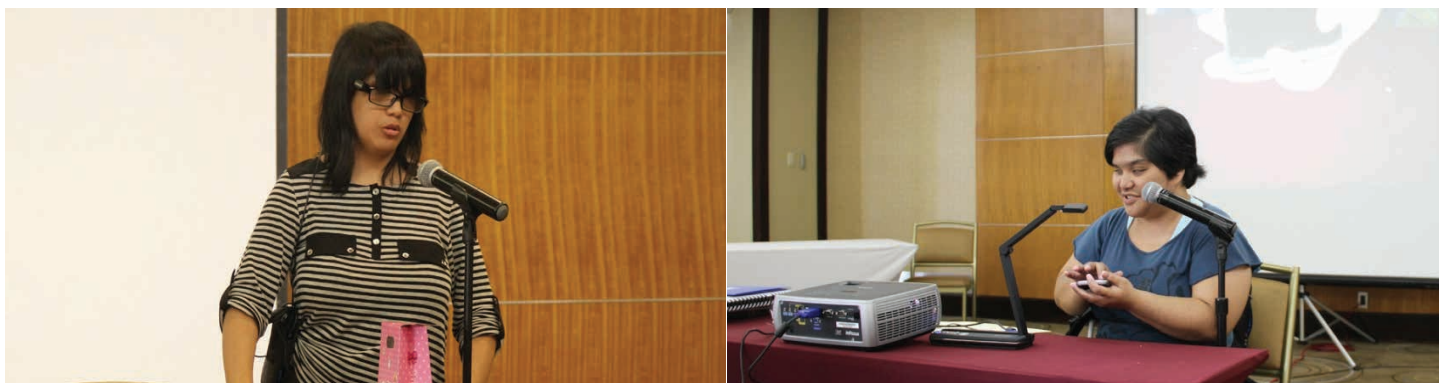


## GSAT Hosts 24th Annual Assistive Technology Conference



(Left photo) Maria Bontogon, a University of Guam student and Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council member, presented information on an assistive technology device called the Orcam during a breakout session at the 24th Annual Assistive Technology Conference held at the Westin Resort Guam on March 2. The Orcam is capable of reading printed text from books, banknotes and barcodes, and can distinguish faces and colors. (Right photo) Finia Kachita, Guam Community College Student, demonstrated the KNFB Reader, an Assistive Technology device that uses the optical character recognition technology (OCR) during the Conference.

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The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) held its 24th Annual Assistive Technology (AT) Conference on March 2 at the Westin Resort Guam. This year's theme, "Assistive Technology: Breaking Barriers to Accessibility and Independence," focused on how AT plays an important role in the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in community, workplace, and classroom settings. More than 135 participants attended this annual event that featured a team of professionals from the National Deaf Center (NDC) on Postsecondary Outcomes.

*Continued on page 2*

## Guam CEDDERS Director Participates in National Emergency Preparedness Panel



Heidi San Nicolas, Guam CEDDERS Director (far right), participated in a panel discussion entitled, "Preparing the Territories- What have we learned and What Happens Now?" at the Getting It Right 2018 National Inclusive Disaster Strategies Conference held at the Marriott Metro Center, Washington, D.C., on May 25th. The panel presentation focused on a summary of the White Paper prepared by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) with input from four of the five Territory UCEDD Directors regarding Disaster Preparedness and the role of UCEDDS. (R-L): Daphnee Guillaume, AUCD Public Health Program Manager; Adriane Griffen, AUCD Senior Director, Public Policy and Leadership; Dr. Carol Salas, University of Puerto Rico UCEDD Director; Dr. Kimberly Mills, University of the Virgin Islands UCEDD Director; Tafa Tua-Tupuola, Director, American Samoa UCEDD; and Dr. San Nicolas.

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## 24th Annual Assistive Technology Conference (cont.)



*Lou Mesa, GSAT Advisory Council Chairperson, provides welcoming remarks during the 24th Annual Assistive Technology Conference held at the Westin Resort Guam.*

The conference began with welcoming remarks delivered by Lourdes Ann Mesa, GSAT Advisory Council Chairperson, followed by a short video that paid tribute to the late Rudy Ignacio, who served as a former Advisory Council member and chairperson. Roy Ignacio and Victor Tuquero, two former members who also passed away this past year, were also remembered for their advocacy, dedication to the disability community, and taking part in GSAT events.

The morning plenary session included presentations from Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC) and Guam Election Commission (GEC). Attorney Eric Miller from GLSC-DLC talked about the key provisions of Protection and Advocacy relevant to Guam. Maria Pangelinan, GEC director, shared information about accessible voting. With the elections quickly approaching, the team highlighted legal provisions for voting access and demonstrated various AT devices that provide support in the voting process, such as signature guides, communication boards, pencil grips, full page magnifiers, dry erase boards, "Access to Voting Pocket Guides," and "Serving Voters with Disabilities" brochures. The partnership between the GLSC-DLC and GEC has helped reduce the obstacles voters with disabilities face when exercising their right to vote. Ms. Pangelinan also introduced the Automark, a ballot marking device that provides autonomy to voters who are blind, visually impaired, or have a disability or condition that makes it difficult to traditionally mark a ballot. The Automark was demonstrated

by the GEC at their booth outside of the ballroom.

One of the highlights of the conference was a presentation by representatives from the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes (NDC) facilitated by Tia Ivanko and Stephanie Zito. The NDC is a technical assistance and dissemination center funded by the Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Ms. Ivanko and Ms. Zito talked about Communication Access Technology for Deaf Individuals, in education and employment training settings. A video that featured tools and resources essential to facilitating effective services for deaf individuals was also shared.

Jeffrey Warfield, from the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID), facilitated a presentation on accessible parking requirements, federal and local public laws, and provided guidance on access aisles, slopes, vertical clearance, accessible routes, and ramps. This information is important for agencies and businesses to know to ensure accessible parking requirements are met and are not in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Arnell Medler, a Department of Education Transition teacher, provided an overview of the transition planning process. The student's goals for post-secondary activities will assist in laying the groundwork for developing instructional objectives, community experiences, and post-secondary activities and training. This process also aids in determining the appropriate

## 24th Annual Assistive Technology Conference (cont.)

agencies, organizations, and programs that may assist students with transitioning to adult life.

Maria Bontogon, a University of Guam (UOG) student and Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council member, demonstrated the Orcam. The Orcam is a device that enables a person who is blind to access the environment and has the capability to read text, recognize faces, identify products through barcode scanning, and recognize color and bank notes. Ms. Bontogon is an Orcam certified trainer.

Finia Kachita, a Guam Community College (GCC) student and Assistive Technology user, demonstrated an application installed in her iOS phone that enables her to access print.

Students from a UOG Special Education class facilitated a presentation on low tech AT products they developed during the semester. These low tech AT products were made using materials found in the home and are cost-effective. Using the Student, Environment, Task, and Tools (SETT) Framework, the students developed case scenarios and introduced various low tech AT to accommodate a student in performing tasks in their environment. The framework is intended to promote collaborative decision-making in all phases of AT service design.

Tanya Simer and Joseph Taijeron, UOG Social Work student interns, and Leah Abelon, AT Center Coordinator, demonstrated several high tech AT devices that could be controlled using a smartphone. These devices promote independence, make communication accessible, and provide a modicum of safety for its users.

Attorney Joseph Gumataotao, UOG EEO/ADA Title IX office, and John Payne, GCC Accommodative Services, provided short

presentations on the ADA and what services are available at their respective institutions.

A recent mandate on website accessibility, which requires agencies that receive federal funds to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to be in compliance by January 18, 2018 prompted a presentation by Chantay Benitez and Colin Fitzpatrick of Flame Tree Freedom Center. These individuals shared information focusing on website accessibility.

Grace Donaldson and Greg Calvo of Pacific Human Resources Services provided information on services available that include helping people find jobs and facilitated training using guidelines from Franklin's Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, shared the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Milestones Developmental Tracker a free app, which enables parents to track their child's development on smartphones.

Participants attending the Conference were invited to visit 11 booths that displayed AT and related information. Vendors included Autism Community Together (ACT), Guam CEDDERS, DISID, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (GEHDI), GEC, GLSC-DLC, Guam State Rehabilitation Council, Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT), I'Famaguon-ta, and the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes. A Conference exit survey showed that participants enjoyed the presentations and the information provided and were extremely satisfied by the resources shared by the NDC, and are interested in the Smart Home devices.



(Left photo) Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant reads the contents of the Guam State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Needs Assessment Map to a conference attendee at the SRC information table. The Council provides Clients of DVR with a mechanism to influence the direction of rehabilitation programs in Guam in the systemic policy level. (Right photo) Stephanie Zito, Technical Assistance Specialist (left) and Tia Ivanko, Technical Assistance Coordinator from the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes deliver a presentation on how technology is an imperative tool to reduce barriers and increase communication access for individuals who are deaf in both education and employment sectors.



## 24th Annual Assistive Technology Fair “AT: Breaking Barriers to Accessibility and Independence”

GSAT hosted its 24th Annual Assistive Technology Fair on March 24 at the Agana Shopping Center. The fair provided an opportunity for 18 GovGuam and non-profit organizations to showcase the services they provide to the community and network with other agencies. GSAT staff hosted an interactive display of smart devices and demonstrated how to operate an appliance connected to a smart multi-plug using a voice-controlled personal assistant called, “Alexa.” Other displays included the UOG Bachelor of Special Education Cohort, which demonstrated low tech AT products that developed and provided “how to” flyers to participants.

Other highlights of the Fair included the accessible van display by Fukuda Enterprises, which featured a side entry ramp to accommodate passengers who use wheelchairs. “Reese the Beast” of Radio Station Power 98 emceed the event and gave vendors the opportunity to share information about the services they provide.



Jason Fukuda of Fukuda Enterprises and Ben Servino, Director of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID), assist Evelyn Duenas in entering an accessible van using a ramp. The accessible van, provided by Fukuda Enterprises, was on display to during the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Fair held on March 24 at the Agana Shopping Center.



(Left photo)(Pictured L-R) Tanya Simer, Social Work Student Intern; Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant; Lourdes Ann Mesa, GSAT Advisory Council Chairperson; and Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator, manned the GSAT display table during the Annual Assistive Technology Fair. (Right photo) The Guam Client Assistance Program (GCAP) provides assistance, information, and advocacy for people with disabilities who are getting or applying for services under the Rehabilitation Act. Shown in the photo is Josepha Pedro, GCAP staff.





## Highlights from The Assistive Technology Fair (cont.)



The Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, a Tri-Agency partner, had a table at the AT Fair to share information about their program. In this photo are (L-R) Jacob Cruz, Clifford Wooten, and Victoria Perez, Developmental Disabilities Council Member.



Atty. Eric Miller and Eileen Jao Dador staff the Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center table during the Annual AT Fair.



Emcee Reese the Beast from Power 98 hands the microphone over to Ann Marie Cruz, President of Guam Positive Parents Together, to share information on their program during the 24th Annual AT Fair. Pictured (L-R) are also Gisela Cruz, Ann Marie Cruz, Reese the Beast, and Jeannie Hollis, ASL Interpreter.



## UOG Students Visit GSAT Center



Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator (back center), facilitated a presentation and demonstration on Assistive Technology to students in the "Introduction to Exceptional Individuals" Course at the University of Guam on March 29. Pictured is Dr. Catherine Cardenas (Back right).

## GSAT Participates in Ability Fair



Shawni Acfalle, GSAT Center Assistant, demonstrates an Assistive Technology device that can provide assistance to persons who are deaf/hard of hearing during the Ability Fair on May 18 at the Sinajana Community Center. The Fair, hosted by Guma Mami, featured various arts and crafts produced by individuals with disabilities. The fair also provided an opportunity for people with disabilities to meet potential employers.



## CEDDERS Projects Share Information During Autism Awareness Fair



Representatives of the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) and Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHD) attend the 11th Annual Autism Awareness Fair held on Saturday, April 14 at the Agana Shopping Center (Pictured L-R: Shawni Acfalle, GSAT AT Center Assistant; Joseph Tajeron, Social Work intern; Ruth Leon Guerrero, Office Technician (standing); and Marie Wusstig, Guam EHD Coordinator).

## UOG Social Work Students Explore Guam CEDDERS Practicum Placement



Guam CEDDERS participated in the University of Guam, Social Work Practicum Fair held at the UOG School of Business and Public Administration Building on April 20. The fair provided an opportunity to inform Social Work students about different UOG programs and help them choose a field placement during their senior year. Vera Blaz (left) Guam CEDDERS Training Associate, looks on as Tanya Simer (middle), GSAT Social Work student intern, shares information with Tiffany DeMesa during the Practicum Fair.

## Guam EHDI Project Have Busy Quarter

The first year of the current Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam GEHDI) Project period ended on March 31, and so we are now into Year 2 of the current three-year funding cycle. For many reasons, this past quarter seems to have been busier than usual for the Guam EHDI Team. Here is a summary of activities that have recently taken place.

The Guam EHDI Advisory Committee held the second of its Year 1 meetings on March 6. Membership in the committee met its target of having 25% (of the 19 members) be parents and a sibling. The EHDI Learning Community (LC) also met later that day with the topic of discussion focused on parent and family engagement and leadership development. Susan Dugan, project coordinator for the Project Fitme Deaf/Hard of Hearing Parent Support Group, through a partnership with Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT) shared her challenging and emotional experiences as a parent of child who has a significant hearing loss. The service providers and professionals expressed that hearing Ms. Dugan's presentation was beneficial in reminding them of the personal impact early hearing screening

and detection of hearing loss can have on developing children.

The second Learning Community meeting took place on June 1, with the focus on this meeting being on the Shared Plan of Care (SPoC). A very lively discussion took place at this meeting, with numerous points and suggestions made to customize an SPoC template to best suit the needs of our families on Guam. Prior to this LC meeting, three Sub-Learning Community meetings were facilitated by the Guam EHDI audiologist consultant involving staff from GEIS, the Northern and Southern Public Health Clinics, and parents attending the Head Start Parent Conference.

Two Evaluation Workgroup Meetings to obtain input on the progress on several of the project's Aims were facilitated by Joseph Mendiola, Guam CEDDERS Interoperability Manager. Serving as the Guam EHDI Quality Improvement/Evaluation Coordinator and Performance Monitor/Surveillance Supervisor, Mr. Mendiola met on March 29 with Guam ChildLink-EHDI stakeholders and data system users. During this meeting, he provided an overview on the progress Guam EHDI has made over the past year which includes the reorganization of the EHDI

*Continued on next page*

### **Additional Guam EHDI accomplishments this past quarter:**

1. Seven new users were trained to access Guam ChildLink-EHDI. Currently, Guam ChildLink-EHDI is capable of receiving electronically transmitted hearing screening results from Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and is refining its electronic data exchange between the Electronic Health Records (EHR) at DPHSS and Guam ChildLink-EHDI.
2. DPHSS currently hosts a monthly High- Risk hearing screening clinic at Central Region Community Health Center in Mangilao, in an effort to strengthen the EHDI system as the project looks at system sustainability.
3. Guam EHDI continues to monitor the initial hearing screening data, outpatient rescreen data, Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE) data, and Early Intervention (EI) enrollment data to ensure infants receive services in a timely manner.
4. Guam EHDI executed a Memorandum of Agreement with Guam's Positive Parents Together, Inc. (GPPT) to provide leadership and advocacy training to parents of children who are deaf/hard of hearing and to establish a D/HH Parent Support Group. Three parent mentors were identified during a June parent meeting.
5. Guam EHDI staff participated in 18 community outreach events facilitated by non-profit organizations and government agencies between April 2017 and March 2018 to publicize the importance of universal newborn hearing screening and early identification of hearing loss.
6. The Guam EHDI Team attended the Annual EHDI Meeting held March 18th – 20th in Denver, Colorado. The EHDI Team attended the Territories Meeting to share progress made within each entity and to learn about the resources and support offered by the new Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language & Learning (FL3). The Team also conducted a Poster Presentation titled, "Getting the Word Out" and met with Sadie Silcott, EHDI Project Officer.
7. During the annual National EHDI Conference, Guam received the "Distinguished EHDI Website of the Year Award for 2018." This recognition was truly appreciated as the staff worked diligently to re-design the website content to ensure timeliness, provide relevant information for families and professionals, and is accessible to individuals with disabilities.



## Guam EHDI Project Updates (cont.)

Advisory Committee to ensure 25% of its membership include parents/siblings of children who are deaf or hard of hearing; the establishment of a EHDI Learning Community to engage health care professionals and families and to increase knowledge and engagement within the EHDI system; the increase in the number of outreach events Guam EHDI participates in; the increase in the number of new users for Guam ChildLink; the implementation of an interoperability plan between Guam ChildLink-EHDI and the Electronic Health Records (EHR) at the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS); the improved access to early intervention and language acquisition; and improvements in family engagement, partnership, and leadership within the EHDI programs and systems.

A second Evaluation Workgroup Meeting was held on June 1 with EHDI ChildLink users and was also facilitated by Mr. Mendiola. Participants of the Work Group included three parents, an audiologist, and representatives from the three civilian birthing sites, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA), Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center (SMBC), and Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC), as well as from Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) and Guam EHDI staff. Mr. Mendiola provided data on completions of Diagnostic Audiological Evaluations (DAEs) and the accessing of Early Intervention Services. Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback for system enhancement

Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback for system enhancement which is summarized in the yellow box below.



On March 20, Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project Fitme received the 2018 Website of the Year Award at the Annual National EHDI Meeting held in Denver, Colorado. Karl White, Ph.D., Director of the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM), commented on the improvements and accessibility of the site. The website was designed and constructed by Sherry Guerrero, former Disability Media Specialist, with content written and organized by the Guam EHDI Team. Accepting the award on behalf of Guam EHDI were (Front Row, L-R): Joseph Mendiola and Marie Wusstig. (Back Row, L-R): Karl White and Tony Ronco, Parent with Hands and Voices.

### Evaluation Work Group Recommendations:

1. Increase the frequency of Guam Memorial Hospital Authority data upload from monthly to bi-weekly.
2. Add the following refinement features in ChildLink: add rescreen appointment date and time fields, rescreen appointment date and time to outpatient rescreen interactive list, option to scan and upload Universal Referral Form to initial screening tab.
3. Edit Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE) consent/ results form/field: add Mother's date of birth, add "unknown" to severity listing; add total number of additional tests conducted; add list of recommendations from audiologist (No further follow-up needed, Follow-up recommended in ( ) months, Follow-up with ( ) and schedule next evaluation in ( ) months); and add person conducting evaluation.



Joseph Mendiola, Interoperability Data Manager, facilitated a Workgroup Evaluation Meeting with Guam Childlink-EHDI stakeholders and data system users on March 29. Mr. Mendiola, who also serves as the Guam EHDI Quality Improvement and Evaluation Coordinator, gave an overview on the progress Guam EHDI has made over the past year. Stakeholders were also asked to provide input to improve the quality of the data collected and ways to improve the EHDI services on all levels of the hearing continuum. Pictured (Left to Right – Renee Koffend AuD., Audiologist; Marie Wusstig, GEHDI Coordinator; Pamela Sablan, Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC); Brittney Babauta, GRMC; Cid Mostaies, Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS); Barbara Leon Guerrero, Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS); Margarita Gay, Administrator, DPHSS Bureau of Family Health & Nursing Services; and Mr. Mendiola. Not shown: Terrie Fejarang, Guam EHDI Project Director; Mary Kidd, Guam EHDI Consultant; Ruth Leon Guerrero, Guam EHDI Office Technician; and Jenika Ballesta, Guam EHDI Hearing Screening Facilitator.

# Guam CEDDERS/Boys Town National Research Hospital TeleAudiology Project Promotes Best Practices

With support from an administratively determined funding supplement from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDl) Project, facilitated an effort to expand Guam EHDl's tele-audiology capacity. Guam's rural remote location and lack of a pediatric audiologist to serve the community makes for the use of telemedicine an ideal choice for the region. Guam currently has only two audiologists in private practice, one of which provides care for infants zero to three years of age. The growth in information and communication technologies (ITC) in recent years has led to the use of telemedicine as a viable model and option for healthcare delivery.

In collaboration with a team of audiologist from the Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH), a series of 18 sessions took place with Renee Koffend, AuD., the Guam EHDl audiology consultant. Best practices in current tele-audiology practices, pediatric hearing aid verification, unsedated pediatric

Automated Brainstem Response (ABR) assessment protocol and interpretation, speech perception testing, conductive hearing loss and bone conduction amplification devices, current information on intervention options for unilateral hearing loss with and without atresia, pediatric cochlear implants, and case reviews or discussion of complex cases were addressed. Angie Mister, AuD., the EHDl Project Director for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, also participated in 12 of the 18 sessions.

As shared by Dr. Koffend, "this opportunity has led to immediate improvements and enhancements to our local system and practice of working with young children with hearing loss. It has resulted in significant improvements and we are very appreciative of the effort on the part of the Boys Town audiology team who were very collaborative and most gracious in sharing their cutting-edge research that informs best practices. I highly recommend this model to areas that are rural and remote, such as ours, especially to consult with in complex cases."



Marie Wusstig, Guam EHDl Training Associate (left) and Jenika Ballesta, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate (right), shared information with parents on Guam EHDl program during the DPHSS Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair at the Micronesia Mall on May 12.



## Guam EHDl Events



Marie Wusstig and Terrie Fejarang, Guam EHDl staff members, facilitated the second Learning Community Meeting held on June 1. Learning Community participants included three parents and a sibling, a pediatrician, an audiologist, nursing supervisors from Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and Guam Regional Medical City, and representatives from Sagua Mañagu, Guam Early Intervention System and Guam EHDl. A lively interactive discussion took place on the promotion of a Shared Plan of Care.



Joseph Mendiola, Guam EHDl Interoperability Manager (far left, back to camera), facilitated the Evaluation Work Group meeting with EHDl ChildLink users on June 1. Participants of the Work Group included three parents, an audiologist, and representatives from the three civilian birthing sites, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center, and Guam Regional Medical City, as well as from Guam Early Intervention System and Guam EHDl staff.



On June 3, Jenika Ballesta (right), Guam EHDl Hearing Screening Facilitator, and EDLynn Beyond (left), Guam CEDDERS Student Office Assistant, share information on the Guam Hearing Detection & Intervention Project during the University of Guam Triton Expo at the Agana Shopping Center. UOG hosted the Expo to showcase university programs available.



## Parent Café Host Training

Guam CEDDERS, in collaboration with Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS), sponsored a “Parent Café Host Training” on May 3. Seventeen participants that attended the 4-hour orientation on the Strengthening Families Approach and Parent Café comprising of staff from GEIS and Guam Head Start Program. Elaine Eclavea, Early Childhood Consultant, co-facilitated the training along with Keith Villaluna, CEDDERS Data Specialist. Mrs. Eclavea highlighted the purpose of this approach is to build families’ strengths, promote optimal child development, and reduce child abuse and neglect. Participants discussed in depth the five protective factors: Parent Resilience,

Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Supports in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children.

Upon completing a thorough review of the protective factors, the participants discussed the Parent Café approach. The Parent Café methodology brings parents and caregivers together using a series of structured conversations that directly or indirectly address the protective factors.

Participants were actively engaged in the learning and indicated in the evaluation survey that this training will help them do their job better.

## GEIS Staff Attend Early Childhood Coaching

Fourteen staff of the Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) continue building their capacity in using early childhood coaching in their interactions with families in home or community settings. With a follow-up coaching training held on May 3. The focus of the training was for providers to continue to practice the characteristics of coaching within the child’s natural learning environments that are of child’s interest, occurs within everyday

opportunities, and are reinforced by parents.

The diagram below illustrates the GEIS Coaching framework that aligns with the Routines Based Intervention model that GEIS is implementing as part of Guam’s State Systemic Improvement Plan. Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, facilitated the Early Childhood Coaching booster training.



Elaine Eclavea (second from left) checks in with the GEIS team during a group activity. Pictured (L-R): Mike Cepeda, Elaine Eclavea, Sangi Susuico, and Ramon Castro.



Charlita Harper, R-Leen Mario, Nicole Morcilla, and Liz Blas discuss a case study during the Early Childhood Coaching training conducted by Elaine Eclavea.



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## Help Me Grow Care Coordinators Training

Since 2012, the Early Learning Council (ELC) in partnership with all early childhood serving agencies have been working closely in reviewing and discussing how Guam could align its services and supports like the Help Me Grow (HMG) System and become part of the HMG National Network. The mission of HMG is to promote children's optimal healthy development through the lens of early detection, assessment, or linkages to programs and services.

The HMG system is comprised of four core components: 1) Centralized telephone access point for connecting children and their families to services and care coordination; 2) Child health care provider outreach to support early detection and intervention; 3) Community outreach to promote the use of HMG and facilitate networking for families and service providers; and 4) Data collection to understand all aspects of the HMG system, including gaps in and barriers to services.

To continue this effort, the Department of Education, Division of Special Education: Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) and the Department of Public Health and Social Services,

Project Bisita I Familia, in coordination with Guam CEDDERS, facilitated a two-day training for 23 Care Coordinators who will provide assistance to the NENI 3-1-1 warm line: Guam's centralized telephone access point. The NENI 3-1-1 Care Coordinators are comprised of staff from DOE: GEIS and DPHSS: Project Bisita, Medical Social Services, Kariñu, and Maternal Child Health. The training ensured that Care Coordinators understand the early childhood programs, developmental milestones, child development, and developmental screening. Day two of the training included presentations from various community, private, and public agencies that provide services and supports for children birth to 8 years of age and their families. Presentations included Sanctuary Inc, Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, Department of Integrated Services, and various programs within DHPSS.

The ELC, in collaboration with GEIS and Project Bisita I Familia, continues to work closely with the staff from the HMG National Network in aligning Guam's services to mirror the other three components of the HMG system in the near future.

## Healthy Mothers Equals Healthy Babies Proclamation Signing



Guam CEDDERS participated in the proclamation signing for the "Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair" facilitated by the Department of Public Health and Social Services Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services Maternal Health and Child Health Program. This year's theme is "Healthy Families = Healthy Babies." Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio presided at the event held on May 9 and attended by government representatives.

## Project Bisita Parent Café



Jenika Ballesta, CEDDERS Research Associate (front left), and Vera Blaz, CEDDERS Training Associate (middle row center), co-facilitated the Project Bisita I Familia Parent Café on May 18, at the Pacific Start Hotel. The theme for the cafe was "Taking Care of Yourself." Thirteen parents participated in the event.



## Special Education Leadership Transitions in Palau



With 36 years of service to the educational community of the Republic of Palau, Helen Sengebau retired as the Special Education Coordinator, Ministry of Education in April 2018. Helen spent her educational career as a special education teacher, consulting resource teacher, and the special

education coordinator. Throughout her career, Helen served as a leader in the improvement efforts of the educational services provided for children and youth with disabilities in the Republic of Palau. In celebration of her retirement, the special education staff reflected on how leadership was about making others better. They thanked Helen for making them want to be better; a leadership quality that Helen possessed. One staff member expressed, "Working with you was a privilege. I may have changed jobs, but what's not changed are the valuable lessons you have taught me. Thank you for being the perfect mentor, boss! You will be missed but not forgotten." What are the valuable lessons? Helen would say, "It takes honesty, commitment, patience, and love."

Helen also supported the regional efforts to improve special education and related services in the Pacific island communities. She will be missed by her special education family throughout the Pacific.



*Helen (left) shares a smile with June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, to celebrate her retirement.*

Helen may have transitioned from her educational career to her family commitment, but she will always be an advocate for children with disabilities and will continue to serve her community and families.



*Helen poses with the Palau Ministry of Education leadership during her retirement dinner April 27. L-R: Nora Renguul, Acting Special Education Coordinator; Helen; Debbie Tkel-Sbal, Director of Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction; and Sinton Soalablai, Minister of Education.*



# GDOE Continues Road Map to Improving Reading Achievement

On May 25, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) State System Improvement Project (SSIP) continued its road map for improving reading achievement with the four SSIP elementary schools: Chief Brodie, JM Guerrero, MU Lujan, and Price. Facilitated by Guam CEDDERS, the one-day professional development session was held at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort with the four SSIP school administrators, teachers, teacher assistants, instructional coaches, and consulting resource teachers-technical assistance. The session continued previous professional development focus on the use of the district's aimsweb screening data for improving reading achievement and the continuous improvement cycle of Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA).

As the culminating professional development activity for school year 2017-2018, the four SSIP schools began the day with reflections by grade-level across schools – celebrations, challenges, and questions related to how they have been improving reading achievement throughout the school year. The day continued with reviewing their reading screening results, graphing percentile rank scores and performance level scores, and analyzing the scores for intervention considerations. The afternoon activities included a cross-walk activity of the current aimsweb and the aimsweb plus to determine implications for

changes to the guidelines in the new school year. The day ended with revisiting the miscue analysis and intervention process. This event provided a day of engagement to close the school year, but more importantly, to begin planning for the new school year in August 2018.



Learning from each other across the four SSIP schools was emphasized during the one-day SSIP professional development on May 25. Grade-level teachers share their celebrations, challenges, and questions for improving reading achievement. Pictured L-R: Kathy San Nicolas, Principal, Price Elementary; Gina Call, 1st Grade Teacher, Price Elementary; Ron Gogo, Consulting Resource Teacher-Technical Assistance; and Belen Daling, 1st Grade Teacher, Chief Brodie Elementary.



Reviewing reading screening results include grade-level teams graphing their student results data by individual and class summaries to determine reading intervention needs. Photo shows the four SSIP schools by grade-level teams analyzing their student reading screening results during the May 25 professional development.

## Visit our websites for resources and events



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## Geary County Consultants Share their Related Service Focus with Guam DOE Special Ed Speech Dept. Staff

“Related Services: The What, The How, The Why” was the focus of the two-day professional development held May 29 and 30 at the University of Guam for Guam Department of Education (GDOE) speech-language pathologists and assistants. Rebekah Helget, Special Education Director of Geary County, Kansas State, and Laura Thompson, Speech-Language Pathologist of Geary County, Kansas State, facilitated the two-day session. Ms. Helget and Ms. Thompson shared how Geary County Unified School District Number 475 provides speech-language pathology services for students with disabilities. Speech-language services in schools are provided when a student’s educational and academic experience has been significantly impacted by their communication needs. This means that related services, including speech-language services, must be both educationally relevant and educationally necessary.

The two-day professional development included a review of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provisions for special education and related services; the difference between clinical therapy and educationally relevant services; Geary County’s guides for implementing services in supportive and minimally intrusive ways; methods for collaborative, team-

based decisions for services; and data collection and training strategies to support professionals working with students in the classroom environment.

On May 31, Ms. Helget and Ms. Thompson continued meeting with the speech-language pathologists and assistants to discuss next steps in support of GDOE’s efforts to improve related service delivery provisions, especially for those children with disabilities who require speech-language related services. At the end of the session, a Speech-Language Task Force was created to review what was shared during the two-day professional development and how Geary County’s resources can be applied on Guam for improving related services.

In addition, Ms. Helget and Ms. Thompson facilitated an evening session at the University of Guam on May 30 with parents of children with disabilities receiving speech-language related services. The session was an opportunity for parents to learn how Geary County implements their level of related service supports continuum and the use of an Intervention/Exit Service Plan developed during the initial Individualized Education Program meeting and reviewed annually for appropriateness.



Consultants Rebekah Helget and Laura Thompson met with Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent, Guam Division of Special Education, and June De Leon, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS, on May 27 in preparation for the professional development activities. L-R: June De Leon, Laura Thompson, Rebekah Helget, and Yolanda Gabriel.



GDOE Speech-Language Pathologists and Assistants posed for a group photo with Geary County Consultants Rebekah Helget and Laura Thompson on May 31.



## Guam DOE Speech Department Staff Attend Workshop



Speech-Language Pathologists and Assistants participate in the “Related Services: The What, The How, The Why” two-day professional development on May 29 & 30. L-R: Christine Franquez, Merleen Daniel, Brianna Taitano, and John Payne. Back row: Kim Volsteadt, GDOE Compliance Monitor. See page 16 for related story.

## GDOE Principals Present on Outcome Measures for Guam’s State Systemic Improvement Plan

Melissa Limo, Principal, JM Guerrero Elementary School, and Natasha Dela Cruz, Principal, MU Lujan Elementary School, co-presented during the May 23 webinar facilitated by the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) entitled “Using Local Assessment Data to Measure Progress Toward the State-Identified Measurable Result (SIMR).” The NCEO virtual opportunity featured three states/entities: Guam, Louisiana, and Kansas. The topics shared included collaborating with local sites on assessments and data use; data collection and analysis strategies; and strategies to actively engage stakeholders in SIMR activities.

Ms. Limo and Ms. Dela Cruz highlighted Guam’s State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) efforts to increase reading achievement for students, including students with disabilities. They represented two of four Guam Department of Education (GDOE) SSIP schools that have come together to improve their school infrastructure for enhancing reading achievement. They shared how the four GDOE SSIP schools established guidelines for administering and analyzing the district’s universal reading screening to improve reading instructional practices.



(Left photo) (L-R facing screen) Natasha Dela Cruz and Melissa Limo co-present during the May 23 NCEO webinar. Displayed on the screen are the presenters from three states featured in the webinar: Louisiana, Guam, and Kansas. (Right photo) (L-R) Melissa Limo and Natasha Dela Cruz prepare to co-present during the NCEO webinar on May 23 at 6am at Guam CEDDERS’ House 18, Dean Circle. Attending the webinar at House 18 not shown: Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Special Education; Terese Crisostomo, Program Coordinator, Division of Special Education; and June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director.

# SW Practicum Student Completes Year-Long Placement

By Tanya Simer

My internship contract is completed and it is time to say goodbye. My time here at Guam CEDDERS will never be forgotten. It is one of my memorable journeys in becoming a social worker.

I am not a person who is comfortable with new experiences. I had mixed emotions during my first day of placement here at Guam CEDDERS. I thought being comfortable was going to take me awhile, but the staff proved me wrong. On my first day I was introduced and greeted by everyone with a warm welcome. In an instant my mixed emotions turned into feeling a part of the team. From that moment I knew that it was going to be an amazing journey. My time here has enhanced my knowledge of working with individuals with disabilities, their families, and assistive technology devices.

My first semester involved new challenges and limitless opportunities for professional and personal growth. I was involved in trainings, meetings, and a few community outreach events. I conducted research on various assistive technology devices to understand their function and use. I created augmentative/alternative communication device activities for elementary students. I also took advantage of the opportunities given, such as the Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Individualized Education Plan (IEP) workshop. Attending this workshop helped me personally as an advocate for my nephew's education. He now receives services he needs from Special Education because of being knowledgeable about our rights with the IEP process.

My second semester involved conducting numerous presentations and facilitating projects. I was involved in outreach activities at various agencies and fairs to spread awareness about the services GSAT provides and assistive technology devices. I

was also involved in planning, preparing, and executing GSATs annual conference and fair events. The process was not an easy task. It required a team effort and dedication to make these events successful. That is what I love about Guam CEDDERS, it is all about team work and reaching out to the community.

Overall, through my experiences and opportunities during my time at Guam CEDDERS, I have increased my skills and knowledge and am confident that I am ready to move forward with my profession as a social worker.

Thank you, Guam CEDDERS!



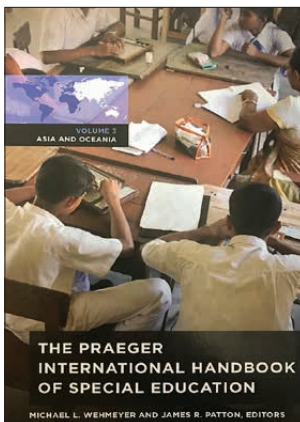
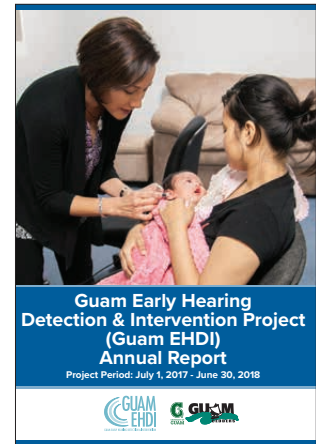
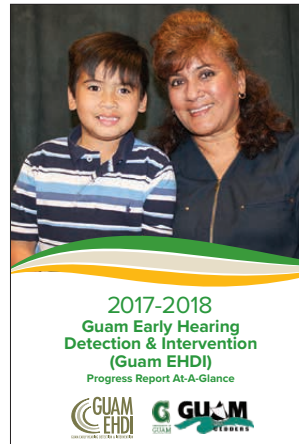
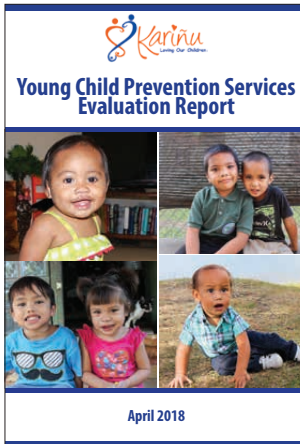
Tanya Simer, proudly displays her diploma after participating in the University of Guam Fañomnåkan 2018 Commencement Ceremony.



Joseph Taijeron and Tanya Simer, Guam CEDDERS Social Work interns, and Shawni Acfalle, GSAT AT Center Assistant share information on Assistive Technology to individuals during the Southern Adult Day Care outreach on February 9. Mr. Taijeron and Ms. Simer both completed a year long practicum placement ending in May with Guam CEDDERS.



## Products Produced This Quarter



(Product at left) Guam CEDDERS facilitated the production of a Kariinu Project Report that was published as a supplement in the Guam Pacific Daily News on June 30.

(left) Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Jef Limtiaco, June De Leon, and Terrie Fejarang co-authored a chapter on Special Education Services in Guam that was published in "The Praeger International Handbook of Special Education," Michael L. Wehmeyer and James R. Patton, Editors.

## Chuuk Educator Visits Guam CEDDERS



Clark Graham, an administrator with the SHIP-HOOPS Program and Akoyikoyi School in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, paid a visit to Guam CEDDERS on May 15. Mr. Graham met with Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, to learn about Guam CEDDERS and educational resources available that would benefit Akoyikoyi School, which is supported through a non-profit organization.



University of Guam  
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Guam CEDDERS  
Office of Graduate Studies,  
Sponsored Programs, & Research  
University of Guam  
303 University Drive  
Mangilao, Guam 96913  
Phone: (671) 735-2480/1  
Fax: (671) 734-5709  
TTY: (671) 734-6531  
Email: heidi.sannicolas@guamcedders.org

*I Tellai* is a quarterly publication of Guam CEDDERS.  
Director: Heidi San Nicolas, Ph.D.  
Editors: Terrie Fejarang, June De Leon & Vera Blaz  
Layout & Design: Jenika Ballesta

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, Tanya Simer, 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 Jenika Ballesta 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

Jun-Sept  
**18**

**Jun 1** Guam EHDI Evaluation Meeting, 11:00am-2:00pm, Three Square Restaurant

**Jun 3** UOG Expo, 10:00am-2:00pm, Agana Shopping Center

**Jun 9** Immaculate Heart of Mary Health Fair, 4:00pm- 7:00pm, Toto Church

**Jun 15** DPHSS High Risk Hearing Screening Clinic, 8:30am-11:15pm, DPHSS Mangilao

**Jun 20** Akudi Loan Review Committee Meeting, 10:00am-11:00am, GSAT House 19 Dean Circle UOG

**Jun 21** Guam State Rehabilitation Council General Membership Meeting & Meet and Greet Event, 10:00am-1:00pm, DVR Conference Room

**Jun 22** Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Planning Meeting, 10:00am-11:00am, DISID 7th Floor DNA Building

**Jun 22** Assistive Technology Outreach, 4:00pm-5:00pm, Health Services of the Pacific

**Jun 22** Learn the Signs, Act Early Training for Head Start Family Advocates, 8:00am-10:30am, TBA

**Jun 27** Project Bisita Parent Cafe, 9:00am-2:00pm, Pacific Star Resort

**July 23-Aug.3** Educating Pacific Islanders Clinicians in Speech Pathology On-Site Graduate Summer Classes, 8:00am-5:00pm, GSAT House 19 Dean Circle UOG

**Jul 27** Assistive Technology Solutions and Creating Accessible Office Document Training, 9:00am-11:00am, DVR Conference Room, DNA Building

**Aug 13:** Guam SSIP Professional Development

**Aug 22** Guam EHDI Advisory Committee and Learning Community Meetings, 11:00am-2:00pm, Pacific Star Hotel

**Aug 27-31:** Guam School Team Sessions with Mary Schillinger.

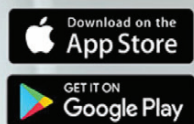
**Sept 10-13:** Guam School Team Sessions with David Bateman and Jenifer Cline.

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

## Guam CEDDERS Director Attends “State of the States in Developmental Disabilities” Planning Meeting



On May 23, Heidi San Nicolas, Guam CEDDERS Director (second from left), met with Amie Lulinski, Coleman Institute; Dr. Kimberly Mills, University of the Virgin Islands UCEDD Director; and Tafa Tua-Tupuola, Director, American Samoa UCEDD, to discuss the upcoming “State of the States in Developmental Disabilities” report. The group pictured is writing a letter of request for the Territories to be included as the just released RFP did not include Territories.



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