

Guam CEDDERS Awarded Five Years of Federal Funding

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

The University of Guam's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service has been awarded \$2.74 million in federal grant assistance from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The grant will serve as the base funding for the center, providing \$547,000 per year.

The funding will allow CEDDERS to continue its mission to "create partnerships and pathways to increase the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families." Through its core functions — interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, research, and dissemination of information — CEDDERS supports the full inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities in all aspects of the community life. The grant will primarily support interdisciplinary training and technical assistance to the community.

"The five-year workplan we highlighted in our grant application was based on input from self-advocates, their parents, and service-providing entities in an effort to really target and serve the unique needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in Guam," said Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director of CEDDERS.

One of those unique needs, she said, is serving a culturally and linguistically diverse population.

"This core grant funding will help us focus on three areas of emphasis including the showcasing of assistive technology products that have a universal, culturally competent design," San Nicolas said. In addition to assistive technology, the grant award's focus areas include quality assurance and early intervention/education.

The core grant enables CEDDERS to apply for other grants and contracts to fund the center's numerous projects. UOG CEDDERS has generated more than \$135 million in funding in its past 25 years as a nationally designated Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

"UOG CEDDERS is one of the most prolific grant-writing and grant-winning units at UOG," said UOG President Robert A. Underwood. "This hard work has resulted in the availability of numerous — often times, life-changing — technologies and services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Guam and throughout the region."

Among CEDDERS' projects are a demonstration system supporting the acquisition and use of assistive technologies and an early hearing detection and intervention program for all newborns. The center is also influential in the region, providing technical assistance and on-site support for disability programs in the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.



Congressional Records Remarks

Guam CEDDERS Lauded in Congressional Record for 25 Years of Service to Guam and the Region



The following remarks appeared in the July 11, 2018 Extension Remarks of the U.S. Congressional Record at the request of Madeline Z. Bordallo, (D-Guam).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research and

Service (Guam CEDDERS) as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. The University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (Guam CEDDERS), previously known as Guam University Affiliated Program (Guam UAP) on Developmental Disabilities, was founded by and continues to be led by Dr. Heidi San Nicolas. She recognized the importance of Guam being funded for the full complement of Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act Federal Programs from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services including funding for a University Affiliated Program on Developmental Disabilities providing Interdisciplinary Training, Technical Assistance and Demonstration; Research, Evaluation and Dissemination of Information and best practices on Guam.

The primary mission of UOG CEDDERS is to create partnerships and pathways to increase the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Since its official founding on Feb. 14, 1993, Guam CEDDERS has remained at the forefront of providing comprehensive interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, model demonstration, clinical services, research evaluation and dissemination of information beneficial to those with developmental disabilities and their families, and advocates on Guam and in the Western Pacific Region.

Throughout the years, the organization has grown tremendously in staff, funding, and outreach. Guam CEDDERS has been able to leverage funding in excess of \$138 million to support its mission address the needs of our island's community.

Guam CEDDERS, is a dynamic, responsive and innovative organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services as one of 67 National Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Guam CEDDERS is also a member of the National Association of University Center on Disabilities (AUCD); and collaborates locally with Guam's Tri-Agency DD Act partners.

Guam CEDDERS is a valuable resource having worked directly in supporting priorities and needs within Guam's local agencies. Additionally, Guam CEDDERS has implemented and collaborated with institutions of higher education in offering training programs to build capacity in serving persons with developmental disabilities throughout the community. The Center has also partnered with local and national organizations to implement a variety of research initiatives related to disability on Guam.

Guam CEDDERS has provided leadership in areas of technology on Guam through creating loan programs for assistive technology for individuals with disabilities with the first low interest loan made in 2006. They have additionally collaborated with the Guam Election Commission to ensure accessibility of voting locations; established Guam's System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Resource Center and model accessible home; partnered with the Wheelchair Foundation and disseminated 250 wheelchairs on Guam to those in need; among many other valuable contributions.

Guam CEDDERS researched, developed, and wrote Guam's Early Learning Guidelines Supports that enabled community-based child care centers to be inclusive of children with disabilities through staff training as well as facility modifications to support the inclusion of children with disabilities.

Guam CEDDERS has supported children and youth with emotional and behavior problems through administering two SAMHSA Community Action Grants. Guam CEDDERS contributed to the organization and compilation of the first and subsequent island wide needs assessment processes and summits related to disabilities leading publication of much needed resource documents for planning, policy and program development, and likewise brought together and published proceedings from Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Consortium meetings.

Guam CEDDERS has provided education and context to federal policymakers and local policymakers regarding policy issues at the national and local level impacting individuals with disabilities; has sponsored focused input sessions; a Federal

Guam CEDDERS Lauded in Congressional Record (cont.)

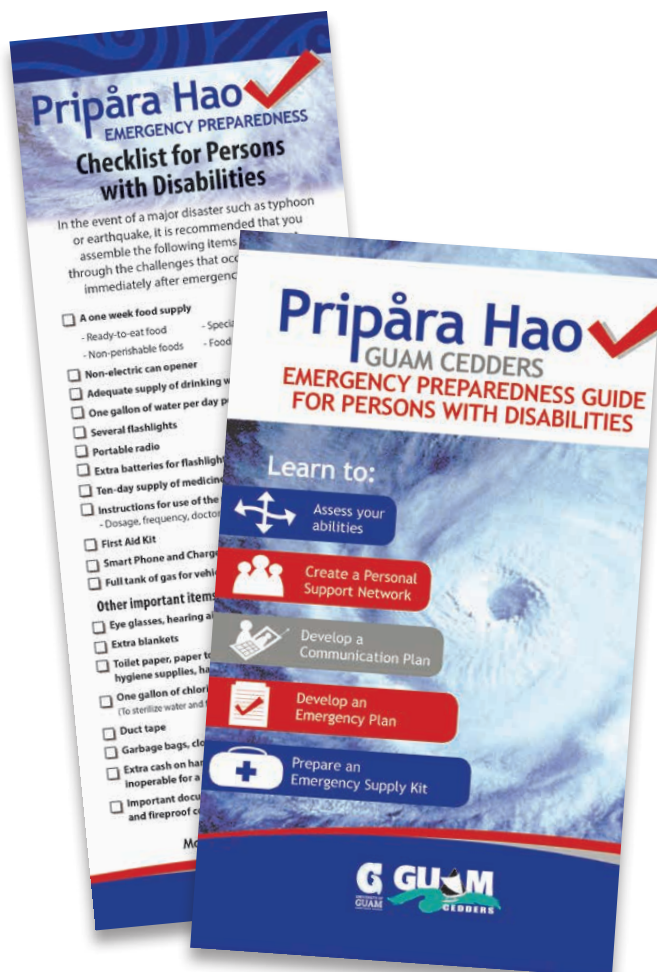
Public Hearing on the Reauthorization of IDEA; Summits and Conferences on topics including: Emergency Preparedness, Evaluation, Early Childhood, Inclusion, Employment, Self-Advocacy Transportation, and Assistive Technology; and has brought national leaders to Guam to provide Grand Rounds and other training opportunities to Guam's Physicians, specialists, and allied health providers.

Guam CEDDERS publishes many valuable newsletters and educational materials to serve its mission in a variety of languages and are available in accessible formats upon request, and are continuously updated and accessible through their website.

I commend the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service Center for their tremendous contributions to Guam and the Western Pacific area. I extend my sincere congratulations to Guam CEDDERS on their 25th Anniversary.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I thank the University of Guam CEDDERS and all government agencies and community partners for their assistance in spreading disability awareness and affirming full inclusion of all individuals with disabilities as valued, contributing citizens on Guam. I look forward to countless contributions from Guam CEDDERS as they continue to create partnerships and pathways to increase the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

“Pripåra Hao Emergency Preparedness Checklist & Guidebook For Persons with Disabilities” Reprints Available



Jenika Ballesta, Research Associate, presented copies of the “Pripåra Hao Emergency Preparedness Checklist and Guidebook for Persons with Disabilities” to Marie Libria, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council Program Coordinator. Ms. Libria will share these products during the 2018 AIDD Technical Assistance Institute, 2018 NACDD Annual Conference and related meetings, and during the “Emergency Preparedness: What Can Councils Do?” panel featuring FEMA, Alabama DD Council, and Guam DD Council.

EPICS Project Enters Fourth Year



Dr. Carol Zepecki, CCC-SLP, (standing) San José State University Professor, confers with Christina Coles, EPICS scholar, (seated, to her right) during the "Clinical Practicum Assessments" course she conducted on-site from July 23 – August 3 at the GSAT Center, University of Guam.

Summer 2018 marked the ending of Year 3 of the Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech Pathology (EPICS) Project. With the first two years devoted primarily to completing program pre-requisites, the 19 graduate students, also called "scholars," who are in the program completed two courses through a combination of online and on-site platforms this summer.

Dr. Carol Zepecki, CCC-SLP, San Jose State University (SJSU) Professor, took on the herculean responsibility of teaching both of these classes. EDSP 276: Clinical Practicum Assessments was quite a challenging course, as 24 assessments were conducted with individuals from 2 to 55 years who have a range of abilities and challenges. Each scholar was directly involved in three assessments, with each session streamed live from up to three different assessment rooms into the classroom to maximize the experience by allowing the rest of the scholars to observe. EDSP 221: Research Methods, an intense course in itself, also took place over the same period of time. Both of these classes required intense on-line preparation before the July 23- August 3 on-site class time, as well as on-line follow-up afterwards to finalize activities.

Also assisting in the scheduling and facilitating the process and report writing for the assessment class were Keokia Mendiola, CCC-SLP, a Guam-based Speech Pathologist, who recently assumed the role of adjunct Clinical Practicum Supervisor for the project and Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, who serves as EPICS liaison. Guam CEDDERS staff who also assisted in the on-site logistics for the assessments were Ruth Leon Guerrero, Joshua Usalla, Jenika Ballesta, Leah Abelon, and Shawni Acfalle. A collaborative personnel preparation

project between SJSU and Guam CEDDERS funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, the goal of EPICS is to train Speech Language Pathologist from Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to help meet the critical need in the region for speech and language services.



EPICS scholar Liahanni Cruz (right) conducts an assessment with Sophia Ulloa (left), as part of the "Clinical Practicum Assessments" course.

EPICS Language Assessment Course Snapshots



(Left-Right) Aileen Serrano, EPICS scholar, engages Audrey Santos during an assessment session that took place on August 2.



Dr. Carol Zepecki, second from left, poses with Ignacio Dela Cruz, Kathy Ruszala, and Tricia Taitano, CNMI Scholars, during the luncheon held at the end of the on-site classes.



EPICS scholar Camille Gonzales (right) takes the lead in facilitating this language assessment session with Aleah Victoria Cruz (left) on July 25.



Dr. Carol Zepecki (front row, center) proudly shows off her Latte Stone plaque presented to her by the EPICS scholars at the conclusion of the on-site two summer classes.



(Left-Right) Miguel Borja focuses on a language activity during an assessment session facilitated by Cathy Ruszala, EPICS scholar.

Guam Positive Parents Together Launches Guam EHDI Parent Group



Guam's Positive Parents Together Inc. (GPPT), Project Fitme Parent Support Group members, are pictured with Dr. Renee L.G. Koffend, who conducted a training and learning session on hearing loss, audiological evaluations, types of hearing aids, and hearing aid maintenance on July, 14. Pictured from left to right is Renee L.G. Koffend, AuD, CCC-A; Evelyn and Gátbo Topasna; Jay-Lynn Mendiola and Liam Cruz; Trisha and Caleb Suzuki; and Susan R. Dugan, GPPT Project Fitme Project Coordinator.

The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project has made significant strides this last quarter in addressing the goal of facilitating parent and family engagement. As reported in the June issue, Guam EHDI has a formal agreement with Guam's Positive Parents Together, Inc. (GPPT) the non-profit parent-driven organization for children with disabilities since May. This agreement focuses on building and supporting a deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) Parent Mentor and Support Group, facilitating activities to empower parents of D/HH children to become advocates for their children, and identifying parents to serve as mentors by sharing their experiences with other families of newly identified infants with a hearing loss and providing information to help parents make the best-informed choices for their children. The GPPT D/HH Parent Support Group aims to assist families navigate through the early intervention system and provide parents with information related to options available for their child, so they can make the best intervention choice to meet the health and communication needs of the child and family.

Susan Dugan, who serves as the Project Coordinator, hit the ground running in June with outreach, recruitment, and planning activities. She attended the Guam EHDI Evaluation and Learning Community Meetings, participated in the

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Health Outreach Fair, and attended a "Learn the Signs, Act Early" Training to strengthen her skills in developmental monitoring. Facilitating three Parent Mentor Support Group meetings were the major activities for this past quarter. In addition to Ms. Dugan, a retired social worker and parent of a D/HH adult, the parent mentor group includes Joyce Terejeras, Trisha Suzuki, and Evelyn Topasna, all parents of children with hearing loss. This group met to discuss training needs and to review the Shared Plan of Care (SPoC). The parents agreed that having a SPoC is a helpful tool that provides professionals they encounter with a good understanding of what the child and family needs are and can easily be updated.

July and August were busy months for our GPPT partners involved with Guam EHDI. The Parent Mentor group attended training on July 14 conducted by Renee Koffend, Aud., CCC-A, who serves as an audiologist consultant to the Guam EHDI Project. Dr. Koffend provided training titled "Introduction to Deaf and Hard of Hearing," which provided families with hands on practice for the care and maintenance of hearing aids and a quick lesson on how to read an audiogram. To assist in networking and information gathering, Ms. Dugan attended several training sessions facilitated by systems partners such as Guam Early Intervention System, and the Department of

GPPT Parent Support Group (cont.)

Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In an effort to increase public awareness about the support group, Ms. Dugan also participated in various community outreach events such as the Power of Play Outreach at Hemlani Apartments in Harmon sponsored by Kariñu and the Breastfeeding Awareness Fair facilitated by Breastfeeding Action Team, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Consortium. The children of the GPPT Parent Mentor Support Group were also invited to attend a three-day Deaf Culture Day Camp held at Hurão Cultural Camp. One child was able to attend all three days of the Deaf Culture Day Camp.

For more information about the Parent Support Group and future events, please contact Susan Dugan at: 688-4YOU (4968) or at susandugan60@gmail.com.



(Right photo) Guam's Positive Parents Together Inc (GPPT), Project Fitme Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Parent Support Group coordinated a training and learning session on July 14 for families to learn more about hearing loss, audiological evaluations, types of hearing aids and hearing aid maintenance. The session was conducted at the Guam Hearing Doctors Clinic by Renee L.G. Koffend, AuD., CCC-A. Dr. Koffend (right) demonstrated one of the many tests to determine if an individual has some form of hearing loss on Liam Cruz (middle), son of Jay-Lynn Mendiola (left).



Gätbo Topasna poses with Trisha Suzuki and Caleb Suzuki during the parent mentor training session conducted by Renee Koffend, AuD., CCC-A on July 14.

Nursing Supervisors Review Hearing Screening Compliance Survey



(Left-Right) Marie Wusstig, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate, met with Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) nursing supervisors, Avelina "Bing" Opena, RN, NICU supervisor, and Ma. Victoria "Marivic" Guiao, RN, OB Ward supervisor, to review results and recommendations of the Hearing Screening Compliance Survey on July 11. Supervisors provided additional input for the training objectives for the "Hearing Screening Protocol and Equipment Training," scheduled for July 16 – 17, which was facilitated by, Renee L.G. Koffend, AuD, CCC-A, Guam EHDl Audiologist Consultant.

Guam EHDl Project Fitme/ GPPT Attends Community Outreach



Susan R. Dugan, Guam Positive Parents Together, Inc. (GPPT) Project Fitme Project Coordinator, participated in the Power of Play Community Outreach at the Hemlani Apartments on July 27. Ms. Dugan shared information on the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDl) Project with the residents of this community, and more specifically, information about the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Parent Support Group.

Guam EHDl Advisory Committee & Learning Community Meet



The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) Project Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting on August 22. Topics discussed included updates from birth sites and Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) on the status of new born hearing screenings and intervention services for newborns that require hearing services. Committee Members also provided feedback related to the various Guam EHDl activities and goals, with particular emphasis on providing supports and information to families with children who are newly identified as having a significant hearing loss.

**2018 CEDDERS Annual Report
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Guam ICC Facilitates Strategic Planning



Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood (EC) Consultant, reviews the Agenda and contents of the Guam Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Orientation & Strategic Planning event held at the Dusit Thani Guam on July 17.

CNMI Early Childhood Staff Complete Outcomes Training



Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, facilitated the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Training for over 80 CNMI PSS Early Head Start/ Head Start Program staff at the Kanoa Resort in Saipan on August 9.



Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, guides a discussion with a group of CNMI PSS Early Head Start/Head Start Program Staff during the ECO Training held at the Kanoa Resort in Saipan on August 9.

GDOE Continues Road Map to Improving Reading Achievement

On August 13, Guam Department of Education (GDOE) opened school year 2018-2019 with the four elementary State Systemic Improvement Project (SSIP) schools: Chief Brodie, JM Guerrero, MU Lujan, and Price convening to continue its deliberate efforts to improve reading achievement. This one day professional development held at the Hilton Hotel included close to 175 school administrators, teachers, teacher assistants, and other school personnel from the four elementary SSIP schools and Division of Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction personnel.

The session re-focused school and division personnel on the use of the aimsweb universal reading screening data for planning instruction and needed interventions. The day started with a reflection on last school year's May 25 professional development evaluation summary to set the stage for the day's activities. Topical areas covered throughout the day included:

- data literacy for improving reading instruction;
- use of data as part of the "Plan" step of the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle;
- evidence-based reading interventions as part of the "Do" step of the PDSA cycle
- understanding the "Study" and "Act" steps of the PDSA cycle.

The session activities were facilitated by the four elementary SSIP school administrators and Guam CEDDERS' consultants Nieves Flores, Ed.D., and June Quitugua. A full day of engagement to open the school year continued the road



Annette Raguindin (left) and Bertha Cruz (right), 5th grade teachers at M.U. Lujan Elementary school work with Joshua Blas (middle), GDOE SSIP Project Director, review student data and analyze reading errors from students' aimsweb Oral Reading Fluency screening results to use the data as part of the "Plan" step of the PDSA cycle.



(Left-Right) Valene Salas, GATE teacher, works with Aurelia Perez and Francesca Sison, 5th grade teachers at J.M. Guerrero Elementary School to graph percentile rank-scores to determine the level of intervention for each student who requires the additional assistance.



First grade teacher, Jalma Manglona (standing), at Capt. H.B. Price Elementary School, delivers a lesson on phoneme segmentation to her 1st grade colleagues from the four SSIP schools, using instructional techniques that demonstrate explicit instruction.



The Team from Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School work together to increase their knowledge and skills on data literacy for improving reading instruction. (Left-Right) Celeste Lizama, 4th grade; MaryLeah Pervez, 4th grade; Darlene Castro, Principal; Franky Indalecio, GATE; Kelly Escudra, GDOE Curriculum & Instruction; Delia Taijeron, ESL and Joycelyn Aguon, 5th grade.

GDOE School Teams Review Core Access

Last school year, Mary Schillinger, M.S., EDLD, Educational Consultant from California, added Guam to her map of consultation areas where she supports school districts improve educational results for students with disabilities. She facilitated collaborative activities for Guam Department of Education (GDOE) school teams to practice “how” the alignment of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provides the framework for improving educational results for students with disabilities. This August, Ms. Schillinger returned to Guam to continue facilitating collaborative activities with school teams, but this time, the focus was on practicing how essential standards should be applied to programming and instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

In collaboration with the Division of Special Education and technical support from Guam CEDDERS, Ms. Schillinger facilitated two 2-day sessions, August 27-30 at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa, for elementary and secondary school teams comprised of school administrators, general education and special education teachers, and related service personnel.



On August 29, Mary Schillinger (standing/right) provides support to the Inarajan Middle School Team members during the IEP goal development review activity. (Seated Left-Right): Courtney Rosario and Gabrielle Duenas, Special Education Teachers. (Standing Left-Right): Patricia San Nicolas, Consulting Resource Teacher, and Ms. Schillinger.



Mary Schillinger (standing) confers with the PC Lujan Elementary School Team during the August 27-28 session. (Left-Right) Jhaymie Bejerana, Student Teacher; Ms. Schillinger; and Liz Umagat, Special Education Teacher.

Using her resource, *Aligning Instruction and IEPs to Essential State Standards for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*, Ms. Schillinger engaged school teams in reviewing how students with significant cognitive disabilities can have access to the Core to meet GDOE’s prioritized CCSS. As a result, the evaluation summaries compiled at the end of the two-day sessions indicated that school teams increased their knowledge in the following areas below:

1. Overarching goal for educating students with significant cognitive disabilities;
2. Aligning IEP goals to the CCSS for students with significant cognitive disabilities;
3. Writing compliant Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFPs) and goals for students with significant cognitive disabilities;
4. Developing goals with appropriate levels of rigor for students with significant cognitive disabilities;
5. Supporting executive functioning skills for students with significant cognitive disabilities; and
6. Implementing instructional strategies for teaching essential standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Palau SSIP Team Gathers Input from Teachers



Mayleen Ngiriou (standing in front), KES Principal, reviews OSEP's RDA, the cornerstone of the SSIP development, implementation, and evaluation.

On July 31, Mayleen Ngiriou, Principal of Koror Elementary School (KES), led Palau's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) review with the KES Grades 1-3 teachers and special education teachers. The afternoon session started with a refresher of the Office of Special Education Programs' Results-Driven Accountability (OSEP's RDA), the cornerstone of the SSIP development and implementation for improving English reading achievement for all students in grades 1-3 at KES. Palau's SSIP Work Team members then reviewed KES progress data for English reading achievement in the early grades. More importantly, the meeting was an opportunity to gather input from the teachers on the critical supports needed to improve their English reading instruction for improving English reading achievement by all students in the early grades.

Palau's SSIP implementation process includes gathering relevant data and information from key implementers, the

teachers, on how supports can be provided to strengthen their efforts to improve instructional practices. The July 31 session was one of these instances for gathering this input to assist the SSIP Work Team refine the technical assistance and training activities for the new school year. Teacher input gathered included the need for continued training on how to use screening data to create differentiated lesson plans and to provide models or examples for implementing differentiated instruction. The teachers also shared the need for more opportunities for collaboration between general education and special education teachers. In addition to planning targeted activities for the new school year, gathering input from the teachers on a regular basis provides the Palau SSIP Core Team with a better understanding of the systemic implications of the SSIP.

Palau SSIP Team Gathers Input from Teachers (cont.)



Lily Madris (standing), Assessment Specialist, Ministry of Education, one of Palau's SSIP Work Team members, reviews SSIP progress data for the KES 1st grade cohort for the last three years.



June De Leon (standing), Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS, reviews the evaluation data reported in Palau's SSIP Phase III, Year Two Report, and the priorities for the evaluation measures this 2018-2019 school year.

GSAT Participates in Bae Day Fair



On August 5, the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) participated in the Bae Day Island-wide Fair at the Agana Shopping Center. The community event, hosted by Spark, a program under the Westcare Pacific Islands, hopes to raise awareness of healthy relationships and provide opportunities for families to engage in conversations and activities that strengthen their relationships. Pictured here are two participants who visited the GSAT table to learn about the various devices used to keep the home monitored as well as adaptive grooming aids for individuals who have limited hand function.

New Assistive Technology Device Available at GSAT



On August 15, Tom Manglona visited the Guam System for Assistive Technology to try the Therapy Mouse, a motion-sensing and pointing device that enables individuals who have difficulties using their hands to control a computer. The Therapy Mouse functions can be accessed through the provided clicker or adaptive switches depending on the client's needs.

Planning Begins for National Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities



Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) Director Ben Servino met with community representatives on August 23 to plan for the National Disability Employment Awareness Month scheduled for October. This year's theme is "America's Workforce: Empowering All." The yearly event celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates the community about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. Individuals who attended the meeting included a parent of an individual with a disability, representatives from Guam CEDDERS, National Family Caregiver Support Program, Guam State Rehabilitation Council, Developmental Disabilities Council, Guam Client Assistance Program, Department of Public Health and Social Services, ICan Resources, and Pacific Ability Resources Inc.

Business Student Researches Accessibility Supports



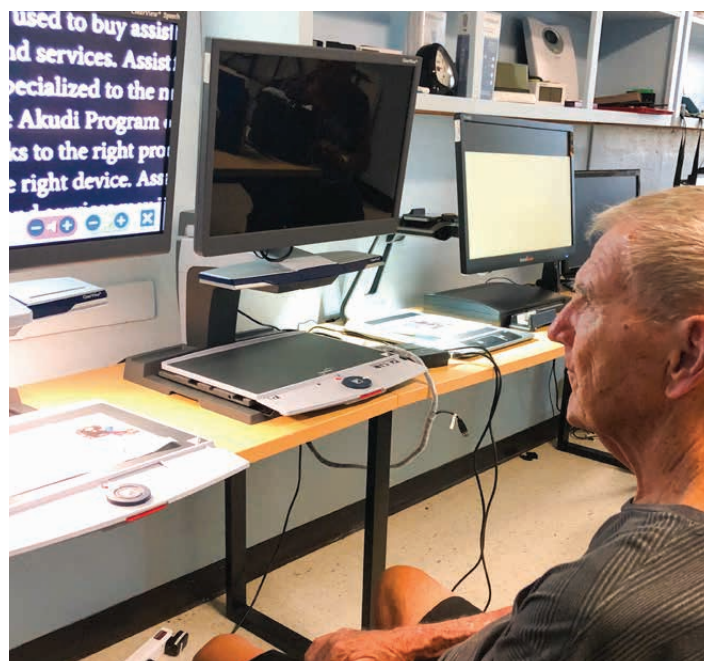
(Left-Right) Business Major, Katarina Manosa interviewed Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator, on recommendations relating to assistive technology and access for individuals who use wheelchairs. The interview was part of a class assignment for Dr. Richard Colfax's class in BA241-Human Resources Management Class.

ROSS Program Explores GSAT Services



Ronnie Santos from the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority Resident Opportunity Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program met with Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator, on August 28 to explore the various Assistive Technology devices and GSAT services available for ROSS clients. The ROSS program assists the elderly and individuals with disabilities by linking these individuals to services within the community that can help sustain and maintain independent living.

Assistive Technology Device Demonstrated



Charles Sallinger and Irene Bustos-Sallinger visited the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) on August 28 to explore Assistive Technology options for individuals with visual impairments. GSAT demonstrated the Clearview + Speech CCT, a 24" video magnifier with color contrast and text to speech capabilities; the Eyepal ROL, a portable scanner and reader; and the Smartview Versa Portable Electronic Magnifier, a handheld electronic magnifier that magnifies up to 15x and also has color contrast features. Through the short term device loan, Mr. Sallinger borrowed the Smartview Versa portable electronic magnifier to help determine if the device will meet his needs.

GSAT Advisory Council Holds General Membership Meeting



The GSAT Advisory Council held their General Membership Meeting at the GSAT Conference Room. Topics included the progress of GSAT's State Level and Leadership Activities, Assistive Technology purchases, and a report on the recently concluded Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) Conference on July 24. In attendance were, (pictured from left, clockwise) Evelyn Duenas, Vice – Chairperson; Benito Servino, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Representative; Crystal Koch and Naomi Sanchez, Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC) Representatives; Raymond Sayas, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDCC) Representative; Barbara Johnson, Secretary; Lourdes Ann Mesa, Chairperson. Present but not in the photo: Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator and Ivan Babauta, ASL Interpreter.

ADA Workshop Addresses Accessibility



Leah Abelon, Guam System for Assistive Technology Center Coordinator, presented an interactive workshop entitled "Creating Accessible Office Documents and Using Windows Ease of Access at the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) Computer Lab on July 27. Participants included staff from DISID, Public Defender Service Corporation, and AmeriCorps. The workshop highlighted topics on visibility, audibility, and mobility. The workshop also focused on ensuring that documents are structured correctly for individuals with disabilities to be able to access them.

ADA Recognition & Awards Presentation



Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio and Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) Director Ben Servino presented Certificates of Appreciation on July 31 to individuals who facilitated ADA Workshops during ADA Awareness Month activities in July. GSAT Center Coordinator Leah Abelon facilitated a workshop on Creating Accessible Office Documents and Using Windows Ease of Access. Other recipients include representatives from Pacific Human Resource Service Inc., staff from DISID, and ADA Coordinators. Also present during the ADA Recognition and Awards Presentation was former Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks.

LTSAE: Tips & Tools for Monitoring Children's Early Development Training for Head Start Family Advocates



Jenika Ballesta, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate (seated left), facilitated training on "Learn the Signs. Act Early," for aims to improve early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities in children to enable families to access needed services and supports. Not shown in picture: Vera Blaz, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate.

Kariñu Peer Family Support Group

Kariñu staff facilitated a Peer Family Support Group on July 17. Parents enrolled in Kariñu were invited to participate in the event. Staff from Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Healing Hearts Crisis Center and the Department of Public Health and Social Services Bureau of Social Services Administration facilitated a Personal Safety Training: "Red Flag, Green Flag" for parents and children, utilizing a candid conversation approach about appropriate and inappropriate touch. Jamie Freitas, a Kariñu parent, demonstrated how to make Spam Musubi to participants during the event. The Peer Family Support Group provides opportunity for parents to connect with other parents who share similar situations and challenges.



Children who attended Kariñu's Peer Family Support Group on July 17, enthusiastically raise their hands to answer questions about touch during a presentation by Healing Heart and the Department of Public Health and Social Services Bureau of Social Services Administration.

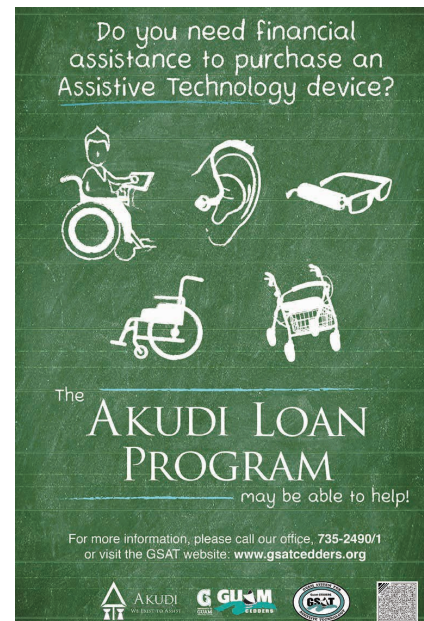


Parents and children sign in at the Kariñu Peer Family Support Group held at the Pacific Star Resort and Spa on July 17.



Kariñu staff and parents pose for a photo after the Peer Family Support Group meeting on July 17, at the Pacific Star Resort and Spa.

Products Produced This Quarter



Guam CEDDERS Welcomes New Staff



Joshua Usalla
Disabilities Media Specialist

Joshua Usalla joined the Guam CEDDERS staff as the Disability Media Specialist on July 9. Joshua, a graduate of the University of Guam, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts. His work experience includes serving as an Art teacher at Tiyan High School which included students with disabilities. He has also worked as a graphic artist at two private businesses.

Welcome aboard, Josh!

Psych Student Starts Fanhuchanan Practicum

Maria Bontogon, a junior in the University of Guam psychology program, recently joined Guam CEDDERS as a practicum student for the Fanhuchanan (Fall) Semester. Maria will be assisting with facilitating research and focus groups with stakeholders to update the Guam CEDDERS Self-Advocacy Curriculum and will also be part of the team to pilot the updated Self-Advocacy workshop. She will also be assisting residents interested in various assistive technology devices that support individuals with visual impairments.

Welcome aboard, Maria!



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, June Quitugua, Keith Villaluna, and Marie Wusstig.

Alternative formats (e.g. Braille or large print) 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

Sept to Dec

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Sept 6: Getting Your Child READY to Achieve Their Next Milestones, 10:00am-12:00pm, GSAT House 19 Dean Circle UOG

Sept 7: Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting, 3:30pm-5:00pm, GSAT House 19 Dean Circle UOG

Sept 12: Guam Developmental Disabilities Council General Membership Meeting, 11:00am-2:00pm, Holiday Resort

Sept 13: GEIS/DOE Audiology Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, DOE Audiology Program, Tiyan

Sept 25: Part B Webinar with Donna McNear, VI Consultant, 9:00am, Guam CEDDERS House 17 Dean's Circle UOG

Oct 2: White Cane Awareness Proclamation Signing, 11:00am-12:00pm, Governor's Complex, Adelup

Oct 9: GSAT Advisory Council Executive Meeting, 3:30pm-4:30pm, Conference Room B, GSAT House 19 Dean's Circle UOG

Oct 19: NDEAM Conference/Resource Fair for Employers, TBA

Oct 23: GEIS/DOE Audiology Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, DOE Audiology Program, Tiyan

Oct 23: GSAT Advisory Council General Membership Meeting, 3:30pm-5:00pm, Conference Room B, GSAT House 19 Dean's Circle UOG

Oct 27: NDEAM Conference/Job Fair for Qualified Applicants with Disabilities, TBA

Nov 6: GEIS/DOE Audiology Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, DOE Audiology Program, Tiyan

Nov 30: Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 12:00pm-3:00pm, TBA

Dec 21: GEIS/DOE Audiology Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, DOE Audiology Program, Tiyan

For more information on any of these events, please call 735-2479 or visit www.guamcedders.org

PROJECT FITME

Are you a parent with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing?

*You are not alone...
We Understand...*

"I was so unprepared for the news."

"I don't know what to do...what now?"

"What if I don't make the right decision?"

"Our child is the first deaf person we've ever met."

"Why does everyone think they know what is best for our child?"

We are here to provide Parent Support,
Resources and Empowerment to families
with children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

For more information, contact
688-4YOU (4968)
susandugan60@gmail.com

