

President Krise Visits Guam CEDDERS

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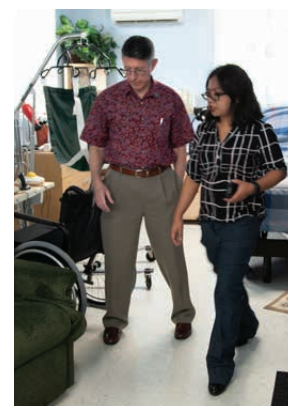


UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Center for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities
Education, Research, and Service



Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator, shows Dr. Thomas Krise, UOG President, some of the assistive technology equipment available at GSAT during a site visit on October 11.

Dr. Thomas Krise, the new President of the University of Guam, paid a courtesy visit to Guam CEDDERS staff on October 11. President Krise was provided with an overview of the organization, covering its 25-year history. Details on how Guam CEDDERS was first established, its mission, the various grants and contracts awarded, and the types of activities facilitated were summarized during the structured orientation provided by Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Guam CEDDERS Director. The extent of collaboration and partnerships with individuals and organizations on the local, regional, national, and federal levels as well as funding resources were also part of the discussions.



Dr. Krise, whose formal investiture as the 11th President of the University took place on November 16, also toured Guam CEDDERS facilities and personally met all staff. His visit provided him with the unexpected opportunity to meet some of the community stakeholders, self-advocates and advocates from the various disability groups served by the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Center. Moreover, he met some of the students from the University School of Education and their instructor who were touring the Accessible Model Home during his visit.

Dr. Krise shared that he was impressed with the accomplishments of Guam CEDDERS and that the unit has clearly played a major role in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in Guam and the region. He expressed that he intends to support continued efforts to fulfill our mission.

Issues Addressed at Annual AUCD Territorial Meeting



Representatives from the University Centers on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands attended the Territories Meeting that took place right before the Annual Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Conference. Held on November 10, the meeting covered topics that ranged from an update on Zika efforts and the LEND Program, emergency preparedness, including Territories in a national survey on disabilities, and other national Territory-related public policy updates. Information was also shared on identifying research capacity building needs for minority entities through the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) led by Dr. Corey Moore, Principal Investigator and Research Director (top right photo) at Langston University.



Guam CEDDERS Participates in Emergency Preparedness Panel



Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director (second from left), participated in a Special Interest Group (SIG) Panel Discussion with representatives from the other U.S. Territories on November 12 during the recent AUCD Conference. L-R: Dr. Kimberly Mills, Executive Director, US Virgin Islands University Center on Developmental Disabilities; Ms. Fejarang; Carol Pagan Salas, Executive Director, Puerto Rico University Center on Developmental Disabilities; and Tafa Tua-Tupuola, Director, American Samoa University Center on Developmental Disabilities.

Congresswoman Bordallo Salutes Guam CEDDERS



The Guam CEDDERS Leadership team met with Madeleine Bordallo, Guam's representative in the U.S. Congress, in her Washington, D.C. office on November 12 to discuss the work accomplished by the organization over the last 25 years and to thank her for her support over the years. Also discussed were her remarks entered into the U.S. Congressional Record to commemorate the Guam CEDDERS Silver Anniversary. L-R: Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director; June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, Congresswoman Bordallo; and Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Guam CEDDERS Director.



San Jose University Scholars Participate in GRMC Swallow Therapy



The Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC) welcomed scholars from the "Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech Pathology" (EPICS) Project on November 1. The scholars visited the Rehabilitation Department to participate in "swallow therapy" classes. The visiting scholars are graduate students in the Speech Pathology Program at San Jose State University (SJSU) through the EPICS Project, a personnel preparation grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), in partnership with the University of Guam CEDDERS. When the scholars graduate, the new Speech Language Pathologists will fill much-needed positions in Guam schools and hospitals. Participating in the classes were (Seated L-R): Cassandra Dimla; Aileen Serrano; Meagan Terlaje; Tatiana Perez; and Liahlan Cruz. (Standing L-R): Sybil Crisostomo, CCC-SLP, GRMC Speech Therapist; Gabriella Duenas; Bobbie Obillo; John Payne; Lisa Eclavea; Jasmin Advani; Christina Coles; and Dianne Sapida.

Guam Early Intervention System Training Focuses on Child Outcomes



Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) staff presents findings of their case studies in determining age-anchored skills in the three early childhood outcomes: positive social-emotional skills; acquisition and use of knowledge and skills; and use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs during a training facilitated by Elaine Eclavea (in purple), Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, on November 6.

Project Bisita Staff Participate in Training



Vera Blaz, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate/Project Bisita I Familia Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, facilitated the “Working with Young Children” course, which focused on child development, diversity, caring, special needs, ethics, positive guidance and discipline, observation, and assessment. The participants included home visiting staff and Guam CEDDERS Psychology Practicum student. Pictured clockwise: Vera Blaz (facing screen), Veronica Santos and Ma. Gwen Yanesa, home visitors; and Maria Bontogon, Practicum student. Not pictured: Iris Sablan and Nicole Loren, home visitors; and Emraleen Roque, data clerk.

New Guam EHDI Staff Meets with GMHA OB Ward and Nursery Staff



Tanya Simer, new Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Hearing Screening Paraprofessional, met with Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) Obstetrics Ward and Nursery staff during her orientation process on October 26. (Left photo) L-R: Tanya Simer, Guam CEDDERS; Avelina Opena, GMHA; and Marie Wusstig, Guam CEDDERS. Pictured from (Right photo) L-R: Ma. Victoria Guaio, GMHA OB Ward nursing supervisor, and Tanya Simer, Guam CEDDERS. Not pictured: Marie Wusstig, Guam CEDDERS.

For more information on Guam EHDI events and updates, please visit www.guamehdi.org

Guam EHDI Begins Sustainability Planning



The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Sustainability Planning Committee held a follow-up meeting to continue the development of initial plans for long-term system sustainability of the universal newborn hearing screening process and maintenance of the Guam ChildLink-EHDI database on November 1. Participating in the meeting were: L-R starting bottom left: Pat Mantanona, Program Coordinator, Guam Early Intervention System, Guam Department of Education; Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director/Guam EHDI Project Director; Margarita B. Gay, Administrator, Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services, Department of Public Health and Social Services; Marie Wusstig, Guam CEDDERS/Guam EHDI Program Coordinator; Joseph Mendiola, Guam CEDDERS/Guam EHDI Interoperability Data Manager; and Sherry Cruz, Service Provider, Guam Early Intervention System, Guam Department of Education.

Guam EHDI Focuses on System Enhancements

Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project Fitme has been busy working with partners to further strengthen its system to ensure the goals of universal newborn hearing screening and consistent and timely data tracking and surveillance related to screening, follow up, evaluation, and providing early intervention services as needed. To increase the timeliness of initial hearing screening data results, the EHDI team met with Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) Medical Records Administrator Sera Rios and a staffer on September 19th to discuss the possibility of having the Medical Records staff input initial hearing screening results and demographic information directly into the Guam ChildLink-EHDI (GCL-EHDI) system. During that meeting it was agreed that three Medical Records staff would receive training to access the GCL-EHDI system to address this need. The Medical Records staff began entering initial hearing screening results and demographic information directly into GCL-EHDI system twice a month, beginning on the first week of October. Previously, this data was entered monthly. This is a significant step towards the ultimate goal of system sustainability.

In addition, the Guam EHDI Sustainability Committee held two meetings to review and discuss the current initial hearing screening processes which include: outpatient follow-up hearing screening clinics, hearing screening referral process, Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE), High-Risk follow-up screening clinics, and data entry into the GCL-EHDI database. This committee was formed to develop a Draft EHDI Sustainability Plan which will be submitted to the project officer at the end of this grant period (Year 2). The committee also served as the Quality Improvement (QI) Team looking at the processes of Initial Screening, High Risk, DAE/EI and Outpatient Rescreen.

The first meeting held on October 12 included representatives from Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) and the Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Maternal Child Health Program, the Guam EHDI Project Director, Project Coordinator, and the QI & Evaluation Coordinator. The committee reviewed the Initial Hearing Screening Process at all civilian birthing sites which includes initial hearing screening and outpatient hearing screening processes. The objective of the meeting was to review the current initial hearing screening processes at the birthing

Continued on page 7

sites, GEIS, DPHSS, and Guam CEDDERS. At the conclusion of this meeting, agreements were made to improve the timeliness of initial hearing screening data entry and input on how to improve the current system. Patricia Mantanona, GEIS Program Coordinator, recognized the need for GEIS staff to enter the initial hearing screening referral results as part of system sustainability and volunteered to have staff from GEIS input these results into GLC-EHDI database. A renewal of a previous plan to provide hearing screening to infants at the six-month well-baby check-up was also discussed. Guam EHDI is exploring the possibility of holding six-month well-baby hearing screenings at the Southern Community Health Center.

On November 1, the Guam EHDI Sustainability Committee met to discuss the Guam ChildLink-EHDI database. Present at this meeting were the GEIS Program Coordinator, DPHSS Administrator of The Bureau of Family Health & Nursing Services, and Guam EHDI staff. Initial hearing screening results from our private birthing site partners (Sagua Mañagu and Guam Regional Medical City) are entered on a weekly basis and the government operated hospital enters hearing screening data on a monthly basis using batch files. In an effort to increase the timeliness of data entry into the GCL-EHDI system, GEIS began entering GMHA initial hearing screening referral results in mid-October, ensuring the most current information for these infants is available in the database. Efforts to revisit the possibility of GMHA increasing the frequency of inputting hearing screening data from a monthly schedule to a bi-monthly schedule is being explored. The November meeting also generated a solution to improve the DAE referral process for Medicaid and MIP patients receiving a hearing screening at the six-month Follow-up

Hearing Screening Clinic at DPHSS Central. The discussion led to an agreement to hold the hearing screening on the same day that the Nurse Practitioner would be on duty at DPHSS Central. This would allow for an infant with Medicaid or MIP insurance to receive a same day medical referral to the audiologist should the infant be referred for a diagnostic evaluation after the six-month follow-up hearing screening. These refinements to the overall data system are significant steps in creating and fostering the evolution of system sustainability.

Guam EHDI welcomed Tanya Simer, Hearing Screening Paraprofessional, as the newest member of the team in October. Ms. Simer received training from EHDI staff in the area of hearing screening using an OAE and AABR devices; data verification; tracking and managing Lost to Follow-up cases; and scheduling of hearing screening appointments for the monthly 6-month Follow-up Hearing Screening Clinic held at DPHSS Central. She also provided assistance at the October 23rd GEIS/DOE Audiology Program Outpatient Hearing Screening to increase her skills at providing hearing screening to infants. Ms. Simer also represented Guam EHDI at the 2018 Head Start Parent Conference along with Susan Dugan, Project Fitme Parent Support Coordinator. Ms. Dugan works in this role under Guam's Positive Parents Together, Inc., a non-profit organization, which has an agreement with Guam EHDI to facilitate parent and family engagement activities. This includes training parents who have older children who are deaf or hard of hearing to serve as mentors and provide supports to parents of children who are newly identified with hearing loss. See related story on "Guam EHDI Parent Engagement Activities Rev Up" on page 9.

GMHA Medical Records Staff Receive Training on Guam ChildLink-EHDI

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) Medical Records staff received training to input hearing screening information of infants born at GMHA into Guam ChildLink-EHDI on September 26. L-R: Joseph Mendiola, Guam CEDDERS/Guam EHDI Interoperability Data Manager; Nova Naguit, GMHA Medical Records staff; Sera Rios, GMHA Medical Records Administrator; and Geraldine Dollaga, GMHA Medical Records staff.



Projects Participate in Guam Head Start Parent Engagement Conference



The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHD) Project Fitme participated in the 2018 Guam Head Start Parent Engagement Conference on October 27. Information about initial screening for newborns was shared with participants. Pictured with participants is Tanya Simer (left), Guam EHD Hearing Screening Paraprofessional.



The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) staff shared information about GSATs programs and services, with particular emphasis on various assistive technology devices that can assist children with communication and mobility. Pictured with an attendee is Shawni Acfalle (left), GSAT Center Assistant.



Guam EHD Project Fitme with Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT) participated in the 2018 Head Start Parent Engagement Conference at Dusit Thani Guam Resort. Information on the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Parent Support Group was shared with attendees. Pictured with attendees are Susan Duggan (seated left), GPPT Project Fitme Coordinator, and Tanya Simer (second from left), Guam EHD Hearing Screening Paraprofessional.

GPPT/Project Fitme Facilitates Parent Leadership Training on Self-Advocacy



Susan Dugan, GPPT/Project Fitme Coordinator, facilitated a Parent Leadership Training on Self-Advocacy for parents and family members at the Hagatna Library on November 17. The training focused on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Individualized Education Program (IEP), Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC) and other resources parents can access to ensure their child receives Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Additional information provided on how Parent Mentors can offer additional support as parents navigate resources for their children's needs. L-R: John Mabayag, Jay-Lynn Mendiola, Trisha Suzuki, Caleb Suzuki, Susan R. Dugan, Program Coordinator; Evelyn Topasna, and Ashley Babauta. See page 9 for an additional photo of this event.

GPPT Facilitates Guam EHDI Parent Engagement Activities

Guam's Positive Parents Together/Project Fitme continues to be active in reaching out to parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Activities this past quarter included participating in outreach events, conducting Parent Support Group meetings and Parent Mentor Leadership Trainings, and collaborating with other partners within our community.

Two parents, Trisha Suzuki and Susan Dugan, along with Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, attended the annual Hands & Voices Leadership Training in Cheyenne, Wyoming, from September 14-16. Ms. Suzuki and Ms. Dugan reported that the various plenary, breakout sessions and exhibits were very informative and provided insight on services and options of communication/education and transition services available for D/HH children. The leadership training further emphasized that parents must be informed of the various types of communication modalities so that parents can take ownership in making informed choices. The plenary sessions focused on parents sharing their stories on how their personal journeys impacted their child with hearing loss, their families and the community. Parents must take an active role in advocating for their child and not be dependent on the professionals to "tell them" what's best for their child. An informed parent is the best advocate for their child.

In September, three parents signed a "Commitment Letter" to be trained as Parent Mentors. Parent Mentors agree to be trained in various areas relevant to parents who have a child with a hearing loss ages 0-3 to provide parent-to-parent support. Parents identified specific topics they felt would guide them in providing support to other parents. In September

and November our GPPT/Project Fitme Project Coordinator, in collaboration with government and private agencies, provided an overview for the Parent to Parent Support Group and Parent Mentors on the following topics: Individual and Family Service Plan (ages 0-3), Individual Education Plan (ages 4-21), and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Self Advocacy.

GPPT/Project Fitme also continues to conduct public awareness of its program. The Project Coordinator provided training to 30 Child Care providers and teachers at Guam Community College, presented an overview of our program to the staff of DPHSS Karinu at Northern Public Health, displayed information at GDOE Annual Head Start Parent Conference, and attended two Guam Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities (GAPSD) general meetings. Aside from providing information on Project Fitme, the Project Coordinator sought the assistance of GAPSD in addressing ways to access student use of GDOE provided hearing devices at home. Allowing the student to bring home the hearing device allows parents to assist their child with homework and other educational requirements.

With the assistance of Guam EDHI Program Coordinator Marie Wusstig, a Learning Community Meeting was held via Zoom in November. Ms. Dugan presented and gave feedback on several sessions she attended at the Hands & Voices Leadership Training in Wyoming.

Last but not least, a big HAFA ADAI to Ashley Babauta, who was hired as the GPPT/Project Fitme Administrative Staff. Ashley has been such an asset in assisting our Project Coordinator in various areas including technical and event support, attending the Parent Support Group Meetings, and Parent Leadership Training.



GDOE Features “A Teacher’s Guide to Special Education”

Guam CEDDERS in partnership with the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), Division of Special Education, facilitated two 2-day sessions with GDOE school teams, including charter schools. School teams were comprised of the school administrator, a general education teacher, a special education teacher, and a parent. Training for secondary teams was held on December 10-11 and elementary teams on December 12-13 at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa. With over 130 participants each session, the training featured the authors of “A Teacher’s Guide to Special Education,” David Bateman, Ph.D and Jenifer Cline M.A., CCC-SLP. Dr. Bateman is a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Special Education at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches Special Education courses. Ms. Cline is a School Improvement Specialist at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. She conducts school-level professional development activities related to the special education process.

The two-day school team sessions addressed daily issues general educators were likely to encounter in working with students with disabilities. In addition, information was provided to assist teachers in understanding the special education law and processes, their roles in providing accommodations and special education services, service delivery options, and how to work collaboratively with teams to implement best practices for students with disabilities.



Participants and co-authors, Dr. David Bateman and Jenifer Cline (behind projector), took a moment to display their copies of “A Teacher’s Guide to Special Education.” The book was used in the training as a practical reference for classroom teachers centered on topics such as special education law and processes, instructional best practices, accommodations and modifications, and creating an inclusive classroom.



Using the book provided to all school team members, co-author Jenifer Cline (standing) showed participants where to find information regarding daily issues general education teachers face in working with students with disabilities.



Each school team member participated in a pre and post self-reflection activity assessing their knowledge and skills related to the training outcomes. The activity required each member to place a dot on the chart indicating their level of knowledge and skills both at the beginning and at the end of the two-day training.

“A Teacher’s Guide to Special Education” (cont.)



Dr. David Bateman (seated second from left) worked with the elementary school team from Marcial Sablan Elementary as they discussed the pre-referral process. School teams reviewed the specific steps in the pre-referral process to ensure that all students with disabilities are properly identified.



M.U. Lujan Elementary school team members from (L-R)- Natasha Dela Cruz, principal, Mali Badua, speech language pathologist, and Gabrielle Fejeran, special education teacher were hard at work during a break-out activity. School teams had to correctly sort various special education laws and processes. The activity was collaborative, fun, and engaging!



Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Special Education gave opening remarks to set the stage for the two-day training sessions.

Guam EHDl Brochures Presented to Village Mayors' Offices



The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDl) Project provided copies of the Guam EHDl brochures and Neni Directory to the Barrigada and Mangilao Mayors' offices on October 3. These publications promote the importance of early childhood development, developmental screening, and included contact information on early childhood programs, supports, and services for families. **(Left photo)** L-R: Tanya Simer, Guam EHDl Hearing Screening Paraprofessional and Carmine Aquiningoc, Barrigada Mayor's Office staff. **(Right photo)** L-R: Jenika Ballesta, Guam EHDl Research Associate; Alan Ungacta, Mangilao Mayor; and Tanya Simer.

Self-Advocacy Focus Group Provides Input



A series of focus group sessions were held, beginning October 18, to obtain input for updating the Guam CEDDERS "Self-Advocacy Curriculum". Sessions were facilitated by Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS Consultant and Maria Bontogon, Guam CEDDERS UOG Practicum Student, with assistance from Tanya Simer, Guam CEDDERS staff. Shown during the third session were (L-R) seated: Evelyn Duenas and Tom Manglona. Standing: Mary Kidd, Candace Perry, Tanya Simer, Victoria Perez, and Jacob Perez. Not shown: Julie Cruz who participated via phone.

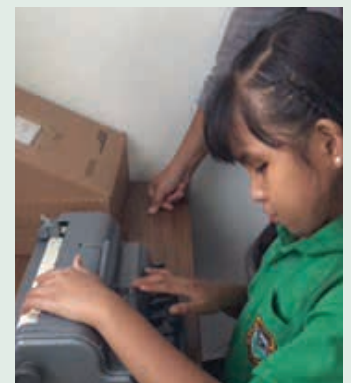
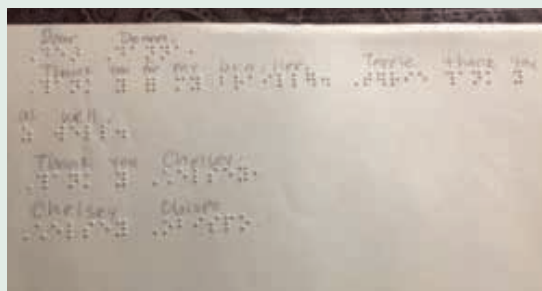
Vision Instruction Consultant Works with Students in Pelelui, Palau



June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director and Donna McNear, Vision Instruction (VI) Consultant, conducted a school and home visit on Pelelui, Palau on October 15 to support a student with visual impairment to increase her skills in Braille and Orientation and Mobility. **(Top left)** Donna McNear (standing at top of stairs) facilitates an orientation and mobility lesson with Beatrice Barmellio, a 7th grade student, on walking up and down the stairs at her home. **(Top right)** Ms. McNear provides technical guidance (hand-over-hand) for reading Braille with Beatrice Barmellio. **(Bottom left)** Gwenthyan Williams (standing), Special Education Teacher, observes Beatrice Barmellio read out loud a passage in Braille.



A Thank You Note to Donna McNear



Through the efforts of Ms. McNear, three Brailers from the Massachusetts Accessible Instructional Materials Library, headed by Carrie Brasier, Library Director, were delivered for dissemination to students in Guam and the region. Shown here is Chelsey Obispo, an elementary school student in Guam, who used the Brailer to write a thank you note to Ms. McNear.

Pacific Entities Honor NASDSE Executive Director



Representatives from the Pacific entities presented a hand woven souvenir to Bill East, Executive Director, National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), as a Pacific THANK YOU for his guidance and support of the priorities and needs for improving educational results for children with disabilities in the Pacific on October 8. Bill, pictured holding the souvenir, was given special recognition for his approaching retirement from NASDSE in January 2019.

USDOE OSEP Representatives Conduct TA Visit to Guam



USDOE Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) conducted an on-site technical assistance visit to Guam Department of Education (GDOE) on September 26-28, 2018. The visit included meetings with teachers and parents of students with disabilities and classroom observations at the four State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) target elementary schools. On September 27, Judy Gregorian, Associate Division Director, Monitoring & State Improvement Planning Division, OSEP, visited Juan M. Guerrero (JMG) Elementary School, one of the four SSIP schools. The meetings and observations provided an opportunity for Ms. Gregorian to hear and see how JMG is improving its infrastructure to increase reading achievement for students with disabilities. **(Right photo)** L-R: Judy Gregorian; Yolanda Gabriel, GDOE Assistant Superintendent, Division of Special Education; Ann Flores, 3rd Grade Teacher; Janel Perez, 2nd Grade Teacher; and Rebecca Bidaure, English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher.



Guam CEDDERS Assists with OSEP Palau On-site TA Visit



USDOE Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Judy Gregorian, Associate Division Director, Monitoring & State Improvement Planning (MSIP) Division; Genee Norbert, Republic of Palau (ROP) State Lead, MSIP; and Charlie Kniseley, Fiscal Facilitator, MSIP, conducted an on-site technical assistance visit to ROP Ministry of Education in support of ROP's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) efforts to increase English reading achievement for all students on September 24-25. A major activity conducted was visiting ROP's SSIP target school, Koror Elementary School (KES). On September 24, the OSEP visitors observed the instructional engagement strategies during the reading block in three classrooms and met with the KES administrators and grades 1-3 general education and special education teachers. Pictured L-R are the KES administrators and the three teachers of the classrooms observed: Mayleen Ngiriou, Principal; Atanacia Ubedei, Special Education Teacher; Genee Norbert; Delina Kebekol, 3rd Grade Teacher; Judy Gregorian; Valeria Rengulbai, 2nd Grade Teacher; Charlie Kniseley; and Rosa Lynn Florendo, Vice-Principal.



USDOE OSEP visitors take a team photo on September 24 with the Palau State Systemic Improvement Plan target school team comprised of Koror Elementary School administrators and grades 1-3 general education and special education teachers; the Ministry of Education training, curriculum, and special education specialists; the acting special education coordinator; and Guam CEDDERS associate director.

GDOE Continues Roadmap for Improving Reading Achievement



Melissa Limo, principal from JM Guerrero Elementary School, presents at the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) State Systemic Improvement Project (SSIP) training on Nov. 6. The presentation centered on how to determine the Rate of Improvement (ROI) for students and how to use the data to make instructional modifications to meet learner needs.



JM Guerrero Elementary School teachers were engaged in discussion at the GDOE SSIP training on Nov. 6 at the Hilton Guam Resort Spa. The training focused on the use of the Continuous Improvement Cycle framework to improve reading achievement in elementary grades. Guam CEDDERS consultants, Dr. Nieves Flores (standing) and June Quitugua, facilitated the training.



Teachers from M.U. Lujan Elementary School were hard at work reviewing their student data during the GDOE SSIP training. (Standing) Natasha Dela Cruz, Principal, M.U. Lujan Elementary; (Seated L-R) Cassandra Reyes and Debbie Shimizu, Fourth Grade teachers.



Captain H.B. Price Elementary School teachers were highly focused on calculating the Rate of Improvement for their students during a session at the GDOE SSIP training on November 6. L-R: Bertilla Yamasta, Chamoru teacher; Marcia Cruz, Second Grade teacher; and April Torres, Second Grade teacher.



Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School kindergarten teachers presented their Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle to participants. L-R: Pearl Hamada and Bianca Nguyen.

Guam System for Assistive Technology Has Busy Quarter

The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) has had quite a busy quarter. In addition to the day to day activities in the office assisting clients find the right assistive technology to meet their needs, GSAT has been reaching out to extend their services to those in the community as well.

GSAT staff shared information about its services and available devices at the 2018 Guam Head Start Parent Engagement Conference at the Dusit Thani Resort on October 27. GSAT showcased some of the assistive technology devices for children who may need some assistance in learning.

A collection of devices were displayed for families to see and learn about. Among these devices were the Logan Proxtalker, which assists with speech and communication, switch adapted toys for recreational crafts and activities, and sensory cards for blind and deaf children.

In addition, GSAT staff demonstrated AT devices to UOG students in Dr. Catherine Cardenas' ED 215 Introduction to Exceptional Children course on October 11, and conducted a Model Home tour for staff of NewGen Physical Therapy on November 13.

UOG Students Visits the Assistive Technology Center



Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator (right), conducted a presentation and demonstration tour on Assistive Technology for students from Dr. Catherine Cardenas' ED 215 Introduction to Exceptional Children class on October 11. Information of GSAT services and categories of AT were discussed.

NewGen Physical Therapy Clinic Staff Visits GSAT

NewGen Physical Therapy Chief Executive Officer Dr. Luan Nguyen and his staff visited GSAT to explore the various Assistive Technology devices and services available on November 13. GSAT Center Coordinator Leah Abelon conducted a presentation of new mobility devices and a tour of the Model Home. She also received recommendations from the NewGen staff regarding potential additional AT devices to add to the GSAT device inventory. L-R: Janay Masga, Grace Almonte, Dr. Luan Nguyen, Dr. Leonard Campos, Leah Abelon, Ashley Cabral and Ashley Chua.



For more information on GSAT events and updates, please visit www.gsatcedders.org

Self-Advocacy “Scenario Videos” Shown at Advisory Council Meeting



Guam CEDDERS staff and Advisory Council members viewed video clips on self-advocacy during the November 30 Advisory Council Meeting. Several video clips were staged to supplement content and to illustrate strategies that promote self-advocacy for persons with disabilities. The scenarios were produced in collaboration with Maria Bontogon (shown on screen in video), Guam CEDDERS Psychology Practicum student and Advisory Council member.

Guam CEDDERS Disability Media Specialist Participates in Career Day



Joshua Usalla, Guam CEDDERS Disability Media Specialist, participated in Tiyan High School's Career Day on October 20. Information shared in his presentation included the broad range of graphic design skills used in the various types of media which include print/digital media, photography, video, and audio. Tips were also provided to promote universal design, maximizing accessibility, and portraying individuals with disabilities appropriately.

Autism Community Together (ACT) Public Service Announcement Completed

Guam CEDDERS, in partnership with the Autism Community Together (ACT) Guam, recently completed a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) publicizing the existence and mission of the group. The PSA, through the support of Matson Shipping, has been airing on local channels since September.



Guam CEDDERS Welcomes New Staff



*Tanya Simer, BSW
Hearing Screening Paraprofessional*

Tanya Simer joined Guam CEDDERS staff on October 1 as the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project's Hearing Screening Paraprofessional. She completed her practicum placement with Guam CEDDERS during her senior year and received her Bachelor of Social Work degree in May 2018 from the University of Guam and has experience working in the field of Special Education.

Welcome aboard, Tanya!



*Josephine Cruz, EdD
Training Associate*

Josephine Cruz, Ed.D., is Guam CEDDERS' newest Training Associate. Dr. Cruz came on board on December 3 and will be assisting with various training and technical assistance activities. Dr. Cruz received her undergraduate from the University of Guam, graduate degree in Education from the University of Portland, and her doctorate from Argosy University. She has over 20 years experience in the field of education.

Welcome aboard, Josephine!



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

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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

**Jan - Mar
2019**

Jan 3-4: Saipan, CNMI TA On-Site Visit
Jan 10-11: Saipan, CNMI TA On-Site Visit
Jan 15-17: Palau TA On-Site Visit
Jan 19: Intro to D/HH for Mentors & Family Support Group, 8:00am, Guam Hearing Doctors
Jan 19: Guam Part B APR Stakeholder Input Session, TBA
Jan 21-25: FSM National SPP/APR Meeting, Kosrae, FSM

Jan 28-31: Palau TA On-Site Visit

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

Feb 16: Navigating the System Parent Training, 8:00am, Hagatna Library

Feb 20: Guam EHD Advisory Committee Meeting, 11:00am-2:00pm, TBA

Mar 1: GSAT Conference, 8:00am, TBA

Mar 9: GSAT Fair, 8:00am, TBA

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

SAVE THE DATE

25th ANNUAL AT CONFERENCE/EXPO & FAIR

Empowering Diverse Communities Through Innovative Technology

Conference/Expo

Friday, March 1, 2019

Time: 8am-4pm

Venue: TBA

Fair

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Time: 10am-2pm

Venue: Agana Shopping Center

For more information call Leah Abelon at **735-2490** or
email leah.abelon@guamcedders.org

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