

Pacific VIP Scholar Receives Top Student Award



Program administrators and faculty gather on May 29 to honor Diane Artero, Pacific VIP Scholar who received the prestigious Book Award for Academic Excellence from the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) Vision Studies/School for Global Inclusion and Social Development. (L-R): Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director, Guam CEDDERS; Jan Barron, UMB Faculty; Dr. William Kiernan, Dean, School of Global Inclusion and Social Development and Director of UMB University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); Marybeth Dean, UMB Faculty; Glinda Hill, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Project Officer; Diane Artero; Robert McCulley, UMB Faculty and Pacific VIP Liaison; and June De Leon, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS and Pacific VIP Project Director.

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

The University of Massachusetts – Boston (UMass Boston) Vision Studies Program is pleased to announce that Diane Artero from the Pacific Vision Instruction Project (Pacific VIP) has received the Vision Studies/School for Global Inclusion and Social Development Award for Academic Excellence in TVI. Ms. Artero is a stellar scholar who is graduating with her M.Ed. in Vision Studies with a specialization in Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment (TVI) and certificate in Orientation and Mobility (O&M). Ms. Artero received a Book Award at Convocation on May 29 at UMass Boston. The award stated:

Diane Artero is currently completing her Master's degree in Vision Studies in the areas of Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment and Orientation and Mobility. She has maintained a 3.9 GPA and is currently working as a teacher of students with visual impairment in Guam. She is one of the scholars in our Pacific Program in Guam. Diane has distinguished herself as a leader among her peers.

Diane's keen insight about her students and the ability to analyze and describe pertinent issues regarding their education and development are strengths. Her creativity in adapting materials so that her students can participate in multi-sensory activities is highly respected as she strives to enhance strengths and minimize limitations. Strong communication skills with parents and her positive contributions to interdisciplinary teams assure that her students' overall needs are assessed, monitored and met regularly. Diane understands the importance of the Expanded Core Curriculum to a student with visual impairment and is passionate about the importance of children learning skills for independence, self-advocacy, technology and all of the compensatory skills for accessing the academic curriculum.

It is an honor for our faculty to present her with the Vision Studies /School of Global Inclusion and Social Development Award for Academic Excellence in Vision Studies: TVI.

Congratulations Diane!

Pacific VIP Scholars Attend UMass Boston Graduation Ceremonies



Eight Pacific Vision Instruction Project (Pacific VIP) scholars attended the graduation ceremonies held on May 30 on the campus of the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Sitting (L-R): William Kiernan, Ph.D., Dean of School of Global Inclusion and Social Development and Director of UMass Boston University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); Glinda Hill, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Project Officer; Donna McNear, Pacific VIP Consultant; Paula Kosior, UMass Boston Faculty; Sandy Smith, UMass Boston Faculty; Wendy Buckley, UMass Boston Faculty; Bob McCulley, UMass Boston Faculty and Pacific VIP Liaison. Standing (L-R): June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director and Pacific VIP Project Director; Gretchen Fisher Orr, New England region graduate; Diane Artero, Guam Scholar; Jennifer Shoniber, Pohnpei Scholar; Sigalu Epenesa, American Samoa Scholar; Amy Epati, American Samoa Scholar; Jennifer Buniag, CNMI Scholar; Sulugia Fa'atau, American Samoa Scholar; Chelsea Phillip, Chuuk Scholar; Mekioshy William, Chuuk Scholar; Heidi San Nicolas, Ph.D., Director, Guam CEDDERS.

The Pacific Vision Instruction Project (Pacific VIP) scholars recently had the opportunity to participate in a grand celebration. The goal of the Pacific VIP, a collaborative personnel preparation project between Guam CEDDERS and the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston), is to produce graduate-level Teachers of Students with the Visual Impairments (TVI) with credentials in Orientation and Mobility (O&M). Referred to as Pacific VIP scholars, eight of the 19 graduate students in the program had the opportunity to travel from their homes to participate in the graduation ceremonies held on the UMass Boston campus at Columbia Point.

The first of three events to commemorate the occasion was the “by invitation only” Graduate Studies Spring Convocation Awards Ceremony held on May 29 at the campus student center. A particularly exciting highlight of this event was the presentation of the “TVI Book Award.” This honor, given to the top student in the Vision Studies/School of Global Inclusion and Social Development for Excellence in Teaching Students with Visual Impairments, was awarded to Guam’s own Diane Artero. Ms. Artero received this award not only for her academic achievements, but also for her practical and effective “can do spirit” to ensure that her students receive the best and most appropriate instructional supports (*see article on page 1*).

The second event was the commencement ceremony for the

entire university, held the following day on May 30 on a beautiful spring morning in the Campus Center lawn. Approximately 4,000 students at the baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral levels were awarded their degrees. The Pacific VIP scholars were given special recognition during the remarks of Dr. J. Keith Motley, UMass Boston Chancellor, who noted that the graduates of the program from the Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam are now well-equipped to provide instruction by qualified personnel for the first time to this population in their home islands.

After the main ceremony concluded, the Pacific VIP scholars went to the area designated for the School of Global Inclusion and Social Development graduates where they were all called to the stage and presented with their diplomas.

The Pacific VIP scholars continue to work on finishing up additional coursework requirements and a course on working with young children who are blind or have low vision.

Currently in its final year, the Pacific VIP is committed to ensuring that the scholars have the knowledge and skills for teaching children with visual impairments and working with other teachers and administrators on improving programs and services for children and youth with visual impairments.

Evolution of Assistive Technology: 20 Years of Making it Happen!



Over 200 participants from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands attended the 20th Annual Assistive Technology Conference held on March 28 at the Westin Resort & Spa.

For the past 20 years, the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) has increased awareness of the assistive technology (AT) needs of individuals with disabilities and improving AT provision on island. To commemorate the accomplishment, GSAT centered its annual conference on the evolution of AT, celebrating how far AT has come with a look into its past and then the future exciting innovations we expect.

The conference opened with a video montage of a collection of activities held by GSAT over the past 20 years and interviews from previous program coordinators Ben Servino and Mike Terlaje who recounted the program and significant impact of earlier years. Current program coordinator Carla Torres followed the video with a brief history of assistive technology, the way technology has evolved to what it offers individuals with disabilities today, a concept video where the audience was wowed at the idea of using glass as an interface, and the amazing possibilities it would create for the modern world and specifically individuals with disabilities.

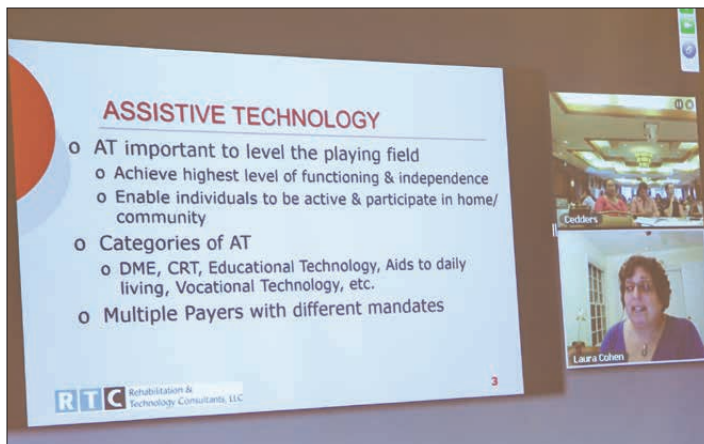
A highlight of the conference was a presentation from Laura Cohen, a licensed physical therapist and RESNA certified assistive technology professional and seating mobility specialist. Laura spoke through video conference from her home in Virginia. An expert in the field of AT, Laura shared how the AT profession has evolved to what it is today- a pleasant reminder that individuals with disabilities deserve quality services. Professionalizing the field, through degree programs, national certifications, and the development of quality indicators and standards of practice and ethics were necessary implementations.

Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center shared various case studies on AT advocacy. This was a great illustration of how effective advocacy can make all the difference in obtaining AT and ensuring equity and accessibility in our community. A main funding source for AT, the Department of Education gave participants a lively insight into their student

population, how their AT users have increased over the years with a heightened variety of AT being used and the numerous benefits students are gaining because of AT.

Another highlight of the conference came with a presentation from Denise Mendiola-Hertslet from the Small Business Development Center and the Pacific Islands Microcredit Institute. Denise encouraged participants to think outside the box, showing how utilizing locally available ingredients to make and market products can be profitable which could provide income to individuals with disabilities in a way where they have control and flexibility over work demands. Denise also shared the various resources and funding sources available to help individuals get started.

The annual assistive technology conferences hosted by the GSAT and co-sponsored by Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center and the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council are usually well-attended. This year the trend remained with over 200 in attendance. GSAT celebrates its 20 years of existence and looks forward to the next 20!



Lauren Cohen, Ph.D - ATP, SMS the opening presenter at the conference (bottom right) delivers her remarks via videoconferencing technology during the 20th Annual GSAT Assistive Technology Conference. Dr. Cohen's talk was on "Professionalizing the Field of AT."

Guam Territorial Agenda Updated



Carol Darlow, grandparent and table reporter, summarizes their table's key issues.



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

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

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

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

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

Priority Rank Order By Areas Of Emphasis

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



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

Leadership is important to the process of refining the message and taking the issues to policy makers. Participants voted with their feet, standing in front of a Life Area group to commit to leadership in this process. The next step will progress across the summer, with refinement of the input and preparation for telling the story of need and recommended action or policy to Guam’s leaders. More detailed information relating to the updates of the Territorial Agenda will be provided in the September issue of *I Tellai*.

Guam CEDDERS Joins AAPI National Discussion on Behavioral Health



Participants in the AAPI Roundtable Discussions on Behavioral Health at the White House pose for a group photo on May 8. Seated first from left is Guam CEDDERS' Mariles Benavente and fifth from the left is Larke Huang, Director of the Office of Behavioral Health Equity and Senior Advisor to the Administrator, SAMHSA.

A collaborative relationship with Dr. Donna Ida, Director of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA), led to an invitation to Mariles Benavente, Guam CEDDERS Cultural and Linguistic Competency (CLC) Coordinator for Project Kariñu, to attend two meetings held in Washington, D.C. in observance of two events: Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and the National Mental Health Awareness Month.

The first meeting, "2014 Congressional Symposium for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month," took place on May 8 at the U. S. Capitol Visitors' Center hosted by members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). CAPAC was established in 1994 to address the issues affecting the AAPI community and to ensure input and voice by the community at the federal level. CAPAC is comprised of members of Congress who are either of Asian or Pacific Island descent or who represent or champion AAPI communities. Congresswoman Judy Chu, representing California, is the first Chinese American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress, and the current chair of CAPAC. Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo is the current vice-chair.

Congresswoman Chu, was the featured speaker with presentations by Representatives Ami Bera from California and Grace Meng from New York. Immigration Reform was identified as a top priority for CAPAC. Congresswoman Chu described CAPAC's assistance in addressing hate crimes and institutional racial and religious profiling as an example of CAPAC's focus on immigration. Although some strides have been made for the AAPI communities, more needs to occur to promote visibility and voice for the Asian American Pacific Islanders in policy making forums. Through infrastructures like the AAPI Labor Alliance, efforts are made to ensure that working families are at the table. Another priority area was "health disparities and affordable health care," a priority area each year. Discussions centered on social determinants of health issues, the need for balance in dollars for addressing mental health issues, de-stigmatizing

mental health services, and workforce development among AAPI communities.

The second meeting, "Asian American and Pacific Islander Behavioral Health Forum" took place on May 9 at the White House and was hosted jointly by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI). The purpose of the forum was to engage in a discussion with approximately 60 federal partners to inform them about the behavioral health issues facing AAPI. The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Tung Nguyen, Chair for the President's Advisory Commission on AAPI, with Kana Enomoto, Principal Deputy Administrator from SAMHSA, providing the keynote address. A panel presentation to set the context followed. Additional speakers focused on four key areas: Data, Integrated Care, Workforce Development and Community Engagement.

Next Steps:

- Explore feasibility for local observance of APA Heritage Month to promote understanding about the strengths and challenges affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who live outside the U.S. continent (Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico).
- Partner with local entities to compile behavioral health data about local island AAPI issues for integration in national data reports.
- Continue collaboration with AAPI network groups to promote integration of information about the population of AAPI who live in Guam and other areas outside of the continental U.S. as well as to ensure the "visibility and voice" for the Pacific Islanders who were glaringly absent from these federal behavioral health meetings.
- Strategize how to address the fact that national programs are using "Guamanian" as an ethnic designation in demographic information and this designation might be stemming from national census information.

UMass Boston Faculty Conduct Pacific VIP On-Site Practicum Visit



Jennifer Shoniber, Pacific VIP Pohnpei Scholar, conducts a lesson during her practicum observation while Marybeth Dean, UMASS Boston Practicum Supervisor, watches. Lilly Abraham and Florina Esiel observe in the background along with the student's grandmother.

University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMASS-Boston) practicum instructors conducted onsite practicum visits in April and May as part of the Pacific Vision Impairment Project (Pacific VIP) Practicum course. Instructors Jan Barron went to American Samoa and Marybeth Dean visited Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Guam to observe the scholars and provide guidance and mentoring.

The series of on-site visits started in Pohnpei on April 22-26. Marybeth, who was accompanied by Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Pacific VIP staff, observed scholars Jennifer Shoniber, Florina Esiel, and Lilly Abraham in the mornings. Afternoons were spent reviewing the lessons taught and providing feedback. Marybeth and Terrie also met with Carlina Henry, Pohnpei State Special Education Coordinator and Arthur Albert, Special Education Director for the Federated States of Micronesia National Government to provide project updates.

After Pohnpei, the two project personnel flew to Chuuk. During their visit from April 26-May 1, Pacific VIP scholar Jason Reiong was observed conducting lessons on the lagoon island of Tonoas, about a 30-minute speed boat ride from the main island of Weno. Next, Mekioshy William, was observed delivering a lesson on Pata, another lagoon island about 60 minutes away by speedboat from Weno. The third scholar from Chuuk, Chelsea Phillip, utilized the technical assistance of the visitors with a student who is deaf and has low vision during a home visit in a distant and remote village in Weno. Status meetings were also held with Ansina Kony, Chuuk State Special Education Coordinator.



Florina Esiel (left), Pacific VIP Pohnpei Scholar, conducts an introduction to Braille lesson with a kindergarten student with the assistance of Marybeth Dean, UMASS Boston Practicum Supervisor, on April 24.

The final stop on Marybeth's schedule, May 2-7, was Guam, where Marybeth observed the five scholars who are based there. Joanie Manibusan and Norma Jean Santos did their teaching on the first two days of the visit, followed by Erica Acfalle, Diane Artero, and Darlene Taimanglo. A status exit meeting was held with Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, Guam Department of Education and June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director and Pacific VIP Project Director on the final day of the visit.

In the meantime, Jan Barron conducted her practicum visits south of the equator in American Samoa on April 28 through May 2.



Marybeth Dean, UMASS Boston Practicum Supervisor, donated a personal flotation device to the Chuuk State Special Education VI Program represented by the Pacific VIP Chuuk scholars, (L-R): Jason Resiong, Chelsea Phillip, Ms. Dean, and Mekioshy William.

Pacific VIP On-Site Practicum Visit Photos



Pacific VIP Chuuk Scholars prepare for the 30-minute boat ride to Tonoas where Jason Reiong was scheduled to demonstrate a lesson to be observed by Marybeth Beth Dean, UMass Boston Practicum Supervisor, on April 28. (L-R): Jason Reiong, Marybeth Dean, Chelsea Mori Phillip, Mekoishy William.



Mekioshy William, Pacific VIP Chuuk Scholar, conducts a lesson with his student on the island of Pata, in the Chuuk lagoon on April 29.



Jason Reiong, Pacific VIP Chuuk Scholar (at right standing), keeps his student on task during an on-site practicum observation conducted by Marybeth Dean, UMass Boston Practicum Supervisor. Mekioshy William, Pacific VIP Chuuk Scholar observes in the background.



Lilly Abraham, Pacific VIP Pohnpei Scholar, works with one of her students during a practicum observation session on April 25.



(L-R): Arthur Albert, FSM National Government Special Education Director; Marybeth Dean, UMass Boston Practicum Supervisor; and Karlina Henry, Pohnpei State Special Education Coordinator, discuss Pacific VIP activities during an exit meeting in Pohnpei on April 25.



Pacific VIP Chuuk Scholars attend a debrief meeting at the end of the Chuuk Practicum On-Site Visit on May 1. (L-R): Jason Reiong, Scholar; Marybeth Dean, UMass Boston Practicum Supervisor; Ansina Kony, Special Education Coordinator, Chuuk DOE; Chelsea Mori Phillip, Scholar; Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS; and Mekioshy William, Scholar.

Guam CEDDERS Hosts Seating and Wheeled Mobility Clinic



Attending the Seating and Wheelchair Mobility Clinic were: Back row (L-R): Joseleo Delos Reyes, Healthcare Specialties / Guam Visiting Nurses; Jun Miranda, Isla Home Infusion; Jeffrey Aquino, GMHA Skilled Nursing Unit; Jerrie Vales, Guam Department of Education (GDOE); Anna Catahay, Parent; Mary Bautista, GDOE; Jonathan Guerrero, GDOE; Laura Cohen, Trainer; Richard Legaspi, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA); Wendy Legaspi, Guam Naval Hospital. Second row (L-R): Rosalind Taitingfong, GDOE; Ann Cruz, Guam Nursing Services / Home Health Care; Carla Torres, Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT); Leah Abelon, GSAT. Front Row (L-R): Ken Kaai, Catholic Social Service; Christopher Laganzo, Medquest Medical Supply; Evelyn Duenas, Self-Advocate; George Ilao, Isla Home Infusion. Not Shown, but in attendance: Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS; Dolores Palomo, GSAT; Chris Fernandez, Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA); Jenny Tedtaotao, DODEA; Ryan Villanueva, Guam Medical Equipment; Shannon O'Conner, S.O.A.R. Physical Therapy; Roselle Cainguitan, Guam Medical Equipment; Evangeline Isidro, Guam Nursing Services/Home Health Care.

For individuals with mobility impairments, wheelchairs are often necessary to help them live and enjoy healthy, active, and productive lives in their homes and communities. Getting wheelchairs on Guam isn't an easy feat. In fact, many can describe it as a rather grueling and frustrating experience. Having the right access and resources to obtain a wheelchair is an issue faced by many on Guam. But even if one does have the access and resources to obtain a wheelchair, is there an assurance that he or she is getting one that is appropriately fitted to them?

Wheelchair service delivery is an involved process and likely to be carried out by a team. At minimum, the team should include a single physician, clinician, and supplier (durable medical supplier or rehab technology supplier). For basic level evaluation, a simple team is all that is required. A basic needs client would be one who fits the following profile: manual mobility only, typically has good sitting balance, does not have extensive neuromotor involvement, typically recovering from a temporary medical condition or surgical intervention, and who requires the wheelchair intermittently or for short durations, less than 2 hours at a time. For an individual who has more complex needs, more team members should be involved and a much more extensive team evaluation process carried out.

The basic steps in the wheelchair service delivery process are in the following order: referral, assessment, prescription (selection), funding and ordering, product preparation, fitting, user training, maintenance, repairs, and follow up. When it comes to appropriate seating and wheeled mobility (i.e. power wheelchairs, scooters) on Guam, there are difficulties with each step of the delivery process for island residents.

One issue is the lack of clinical expertise in this area. Formal training in seating and wheeled mobility is not typically included in educational programs for medical professionals such as doctors, nurses, physical and occupational therapists that may treat individuals with mobility impairments. If their formal training did include any on the subject, it was probably more general and not comprehensive enough to allow them to properly address one's positioning, seating and mobility issues by matching them with appropriate technology. Matching a person to technology is based on medical, physical and functional needs, and environments of use. Medical professionals most often have to choose to develop their professional skills and technical expertise through continuing education and the pursuance of additional certification such as that for a "seating and mobility specialist" (SMS).

Another issue is the limited number of credentialed durable medical suppliers and rehab technology suppliers on island. This equates to a lack of credentialed and experienced technicians and a limited access to manufacturers, specifically to the variety of technology and products out there to meet needs. In turn, we can't always look to equipment vendors to assist in the technology matching process, to provide appropriate user training, and to support maintenance, repairs, and follow-ups.

Funding barriers and documentation requirements can further complicate the process. Does everyone in need of a wheelchair have insurance? And, if they do have insurance, will their insurance cover it? Insurance will typically cover equipment deemed "medically necessary." However, getting a doctor's prescription for it doesn't guarantee it'll be covered or that the

Continued on next page

Guam CEDDERS Hosts Seating and Wheeled Mobility Clinic...continued



Clinicians and service providers try their hand at a wheelchair seating mat assessment with the guidance of trainer, Laura Cohen, PT, ATP, SMS.

right equipment will be selected. An individual must qualify for coverage based on predetermined eligibility criteria. And again, the professionals involved in the process need to be versed in seating and wheeled mobility in order to make an appropriate match of the individual's need and the technology.

For those that don't have insurance, are there other funding sources? For vocational and independent living, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation could be a funding source, but one would have to go through an application and qualification process. This is the same for the low interest loan program, the Guam Options for Alternative Loans- Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT), offered at Guam CEDDERS. Although these are valuable resources and viable options, they are not guaranteed.

Who is responsible for documentation? Is it the doctor, therapist, or supplier? Some funders' like Medicare specify who is allowed to complete the documentation. In most cases each team member has a documentation responsibility. Often, access to the necessary seating/ mobility technology is dependent on the quality of the documentation versus legitimate need. And if team members are not aware of the documentation required, then the equipment doesn't get funded. Consumers must be knowledgeable of the process and documentation in order to advocate for him or herself and ensure that things are carried out accordingly.

When a wheelchair or seating system is finally selected for a user, not only does the user get trained but the family and caregiver should also be trained on safety, proper operation, and maintenance of equipment. The clinician should also provide training to the user, family, and caregiver on transfers, reaching,

managing clothing, accessing environments, and performance and frequency of effective weight relief. The team approach is still in effect at this point of the process.

It is critical that providers are knowledgeable about evaluation, technology justification, documentation requirements and funding criteria. The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) sponsored a Seating and Wheeled Mobility Service Training Workshop on April 15 & 16 in an effort to build Guam's capacity of providers to meet individual needs in this area. Consultant, Laura Cohen, a licensed physical therapist with RESNA certifications as an Assistive Technology Professional and a Seating Mobility Specialist and a leading expert in the field, was flown in from Virginia to lead the training on Guam. It was well attended with representation of physical and occupational therapists from the hospital, public schools, military schools, private clinics, and nursing services. Also in attendance were durable medical equipment suppliers, home health care providers, and various service providers.

While GSAT realized that we were only scratching the surface with the issues on island facing wheelchair users and those in need of them, it was a great start to begin to get together to recognize hardships, gaps, and the changes we need to make regarding adequate seating and wheeled mobility services on Guam. Access to technology vendors and complex rehab expertise and changing the Medicaid/ Medicare structure is where efforts should be focused. GSAT looks forward to continuing the good work in this area so that the experience of obtaining a wheelchair on Guam will be a much easier and more successful experience for residents with mobility impairments.

CNMI Caregivers Train on Revised Early Learning Guidelines - I/T



Vera Blaz, Training Associate, facilitates the discussion on the revised CNMI Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers on April 25 at the Pacific Islands Club, Saipan.



Child care providers give suggestions during the focus group meeting for the CNMI Early Learning Guidelines.



Child care providers listen during training on the revised CNMI Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers.

On April 25, Vera Blaz, Training Associate, facilitated a meeting with the CNMI Early Learning Guidelines workgroup in Saipan. Members reviewed the final draft of the revised ELGs.

The following day, Ms. Blaz facilitated training on the Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines with 45 CNMI child care providers. Participants were given an overview of the current research on early learning and an in depth review of the domains of child development.



Child care providers write notes on things they learned and things they want to try during training that took place on April 26 at the San Antonio Parish Social Hall, Saipan.

Guam Providers Complete CSEFEL Training



Early childhood providers pose with Robert Corso, Ph.D., consultant for the Center on the Social & Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL). The broad goal of the CSEFEL Initiative is to provide intensive training and technical assistance (T/TA) activities to foster professional development for the Guam early care and education workforce. In March 2014, about 50 participants attended two train-the-trainer events focusing on Family Coaching that support the implementation of the Pyramid Model and training on Parent Material – Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI) and the Positive Solutions for Families.

Guam Early Learning Council Address Systems Enhancement



The Guam Early Learning Council met during its quarterly meeting on March 11 at Guam Marriott Resort & Spa and June 10 at the Guam Marriott Resort and Spa. Members meet quarterly to address early childhood systems improvement for ensuring all young children and families have “healthy minds, bodies, and spirits.”

2014 Week of the Young Child Featured Outreach Events



Workshop trainers role play, showing how parents can play and engage in various fun activities.



Alma Terbio (standing), workshop trainer and early childhood professional from Department of Education, Division of Special Education, facilitates the "Come Play with Me!" workshop for parents.



JoBeth Aquino from Project Kariñu leads a workshop focusing on ways to address behavioral challenges with young children.



Lavina Camacho from Project Kariñu, (standing in the center) closes the workshop and invites families to participate in the other workshops throughout the week.

The Week of the Young Child is a national celebration and this year from April 7 - 11, Guam celebrated our young children and their families and recognized the early childhood programs and services that provide supports to them. The Guam Early Learning Council (GELC) with support from the First Lady's Rigalu Foundation, Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS), Department of Education (DOE), Guam Mayor's Council, and Guam CEDDERS facilitated parent trainings in various village community centers around the island on the Social-Emotional/Mental well-being of children and their families. Together with the Sinajana, Agat, and Dededo Mayor's Offices, various early childhood programs hosted short parent trainings in the morning and certain evenings in their village community centers. Parents learned different strategies on how to face challenging times with their child and obtained information on making agency connections, different play techniques, and ways to promote reading at an early age.

The highlight of the week was the Parent Café sessions held at the Sinajana Community Center and the Agat Community Center. Parent Cafés are a time when parents can come together in a safe environment and share their experiences, are encouraged, make connections with other parents, and learn about the Protective Factors that research says strengthens families and promotes optimal child development. Sixteen parents attended the Sinajana Parent Café and 22 parents attended the same event in Agat.

The next Parent Café, sponsored by Project Bisita I Familia, will be on July 23.

The Week of the Young Child celebration was a success this year, serving a total of 271 parents throughout the week. For more information on upcoming Parent Trainings or if you would like to host a parent training session or a Parent Café in your community, please contact Guam CEDDERS at 735-2466.

Guam CEDDERS Hosts Parents As Teachers Training



Participants of the Parents as Teachers Foundational Training pose with trainers Christine Zimmerman and Angela Rau on the last day.



(L-R): Angela Rau, Parents as Teachers trainer, conducts a demonstration visit with Vittoria Umagat and Cohen, her 7-month old son, during the Parents as Teachers Foundational Training held May 13-15 at the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration Building.

Guam CEDDERS Health Wellness & Prevention Initiative Area hosted the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Foundational Training on May 13-15, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and Social Services Project Bisita I Familia. Two trainers, Christine Zimmerman and Angela Rau, from the PAT National Center came to Guam to facilitate the training. The PAT foundational curriculum is used by Project Bisita staff during home visits with families in the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.

The training centered on three main areas of emphasis: Parent-Child Interaction – enhancing child development and

supporting the development of positive parenting behaviors; Development-Centered Parenting – understanding parents' perspectives and facilitating parenting decisions around developmental topics; and Family Well-Being – recognizing the impact of the family system on child development and partnering with parents to strengthen protective factors.

Participants included service providers from the Department of Education, Guam Early Intervention Services and Head Start; Department of Public Health and Social Services, Project Kariñu, District Nursing and Medical Social Services; and Guam CEDDERS staff.

Guam LEND Trainees Attend Hawaii Session



LEND trainees get ready to engage in a team building activity while learning about Hawaiian culture and tradition through a hands-on experience in a lo'i kalo (taro patch) during the March weekend on-site training held in Punalu'u, Hawaii.

A Maternal Child Health grant with the University of Hawaii, Manoa, funds a leadership program on Guam, facilitated by Guam CEDDERS, intended to improve services for children born with special health care needs and their families. The program is known as LEND and stands for Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities. The LEND program aims to provide inter-disciplinary and leadership training to professionals and advanced graduate students who work with family members of children with special health care needs.

The program is in its third cycle with a current cohort of three trainees. They are Michelle Nicole Cruz, an advocate for the Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center, whose discipline is in special education; Lavina Camacho who has a discipline in social work and is currently employed by the Department of Public Health's Project Kariñu as a Wrap Coordinator; and Zenaida Okada, a family representative on the Western States Genetics Collaborative, who sits on Guam's Metabolic Screening Board.



2013-2014 Guam LEND Cohort (L-R): Zenaida Okada, family representative on the Western States Genetics Collaborative, who sits on Guam's Metabolic Screening Board, Michelle Cruz, an advocate with Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center, and Lavina Camacho, a wrap coordinator with DPHSS Project Kariñu.



LEND trainees Lavina Camacho and Zenaida Okada engage preschool children in a literacy activity.

Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports Training Continues

On March 24 and 27, Guam CEDDERS through a subcontract with the Guam Department of Education (DOE) Student Support Division, facilitated the Team Initiated Problem-Solving Training for 175 school personnel at the Sheraton Laguana Guam Resort. The training was conducted by Celeste Dickey, a Student Support Practitioner with the Auburn California school system. Ms. Dickey was previously the Senior Research Assistant for the University of Oregon and the Training Coordinator for the School-Wide Information System (SWIS), PBIS assessment, and PBIS evaluation. She is a certified SWIS, CICO-SWIS and ISIS-SWIS Facilitator trainer. Participants at the training included school administrators, teachers, counselors, support staff, and DOE staff from the Student Support Services division. Ms. Dickey previously provided training to DOE's school personnel on PBIS, SWIS, and TIPS.

The outcome of the training was to provide school climate cadre teams with a process to conduct effective team meetings that result in the use and analysis of data in order to generate precise problem statements and identification of evidence-based solutions. The training agenda included a review of

Guam PBIS data, review of old information, presentation of new information, and opportunity to practice the skills acquired as a result of participation in the training. Ms. Dickey started the training with the "why (i.e. research)" of using the Team Initiated Problem Solving (TIPS) process. This was followed by keys to effective meetings and meeting foundations. The four keys to effective meetings included organization, data, skills, and solutions in response to data. Meeting foundations included the following topics: purpose of the team; team agreements; roles/responsibilities of team members; team communication; calendar or meetings; and electronic meeting minutes. Each participant was provided with a TIPS handbook and team time to address each of these areas specific to his/her school. At the end of the session, the teams were able to build a handbook personalized for their school.

In summary, TIPS is a process that may be used with any team for any situation. It promotes a decision-making process that is based on data and the identification of a solution that is in response to the data. The process, if used appropriately, promotes effective and efficient team meetings.

Special Education Part B Procedural Safeguards Recorded in Chamorro



To maximize access to information, the Guam Department of Education, Division of Special Education, in partnership with Guam CEDDERS facilitated the translation and audio recording of the "Special Education Procedural Safeguards" in the Chamorro language. Shown above on June 17 in Guam CEDDERS recording studio are (L-R): Diana San Nicolas, Chamorro translator, voicing the translation, Connie Guerrero, Chamorro translator, and Sean Lizama, Guam CEDDERS Disability Media Specialist.

Autism Consultant Addresses Adult Prompt Dependency



Dr. Pratt (standing) presents to school administrators on "Identifying and Utilizing One-to-One Aides for Students with ASD." Dr. Pratt reviewed guidelines for determining use of one-to-one aides and approaches that can minimize the use of adult supports while providing needed supports for students with ASD.



Dr. Pratt (standing) presents to parents and family members on "Does your Child with ASD need a One-to-One Aide?" Dr. Pratt engaged parents in a discussion on the importance of starting with the end-in-mind- and long-term goals for their child with ASD—to determine the educational supports needed.

With funding support from the Guam Department of Education (DOE), Division of Special Education, on May 20-23, Dr. Cathy Pratt, BCBA-D conducted a visit to Guam to provide technical assistance to DOE personnel in support of improving educational results for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), with a particular focus on the use of one-to-one school aides or adult supports for children with ASD or other disabilities. Dr. Pratt is the Director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. Her Center's efforts have focused on building capacity of state and local agencies and family members to support individuals across the autism spectrum. Dr. Pratt has worked as a classroom teacher for students across the autism spectrum and with other disabilities and is a board certified behavior analyst.

As prioritized by DOE, Dr. Pratt visited Guam's schools to

observe the types of supports, including one-to-one aides or adult supports, used for students with ASD and other disabilities. She also conducted presentations on reducing the dependence on adult supports for students with ASD for Division personnel, school administrators, and parents and family members of children with ASD. As shared during her presentations, the extensive use of one-on-one aides leads to students becoming very prompt dependent. When provided with too much adult support, students are accommodated out of adult options and are taught that someone will always be there to rescue them. As adults, this staffing pattern will most likely not be available. Other supports need to be utilized and taught that can be moved into adult settings, such as the use of visuals, scheduling, peer awareness and support, curriculum materials, and communication devices.

Guam CEDDERS Partners with USC LEND on Autism Training



(Left photo): Parents take notes while Irina Zamora, Psy.D., (on screen) walks through some strategies on "Managing Challenging Behaviors" via teleconference from the Children's Hospital Los Angeles on June 7. This training was the first of four meetings facilitated by the Children's Hospital Los Angeles Autism Treatment Network Center for Excellence and the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities LEND Training Program. Additional training sessions were held on June 14, which highlighted "Strategies to Improve Sleep in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders," June 21, which featured "Nutritional Challenges in Children with ASD/Overview of Constipation Toolkit," and June 28, which focused on an "Overview of the Visual Support Toolkit."

Providers Complete Disability Law Course



Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS faculty, leads a discussion with students in the Disability Policy, Advocacy, and the Law on the application of Titles I - IV of the ADA to situational assessments during class held on May 20.



Participants of Disability Policy, Advocacy, and the Law earned 1.5 CEUs for their completion of studies on May 22. CEUs meet Social Worker Certification requirements under new guidelines and address the need of these individuals from Department of Public Health and Social Services, Catholic Social Services, Guam CEDDERS, and a self-advocate. (L-R): Rosalind Reyes, Zillafaith Tahabong, Crispina Escalera, Shirley Olkerill, Keith Villaluna, Evelyn Duenas (seated), Norma Balutao, Linda Rodriguez, Rockhudson Tomy, Patricia Blas, and instructor Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS. Missing from Photo: Maeleen Delgado.

Eleven students sought more awareness and knowledge of disability policy, advocacy, and law as they completed the third in a series of three interdisciplinary mini-courses of disability studies during the month of May 2014. The newly piloted course, Disability Policy, Advocacy and the Law, provided 1.5 CEUs, applicable to continuing education requirements for social worker certification. Through readings, discussion, and video exploration, the course delved into the stories of origin of major laws that provide civil rights for persons with disabilities as well as the educational right of a free and appropriate public education for K-12 students. Other policy and law addressed issues of housing, voter access, air transportation, community supports, and recent change in policy in regards to the Affordable Care Act and direct support worker wages. Students developed an understanding of rights afforded by law and their applicability

to practical issues, applying this background of knowledge to convincing arguments for compliance to law or statements supporting change in policy. Professionals found the course, though a tight balance of work and study, was manageable and beneficial to their employment roles. The course content also reflected interests of persons with disabilities as applicable to daily living goals.

Disability Policy, Advocacy, and the Law will be offered again in the coming academic year, along with the partner courses Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Issues of Disability and Disability and Self-Advocacy. A combination of two courses provides eligibility to participate in a paid student internship at Guam CEDDERS for further engagement in disability related topics and activities. For more information contact Ginger Porter at ginger.porter@guamcedders.org. (See last page)

Happy Retirement June Quitugua!

With 33 years of Government of Guam service, June “Jay” Quitugua retired in January 2014. Really? But, she’s so young!! Yes, she’s still young and she really retired. Happy retirement to our good friend and colleague for serving Guam and the region; of which, 17 years were with the Guam CEDDERS family. Thank you, Jay, for your service to our island communities in support of their efforts to improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Jay will be missed, but she will be remembered for her key leadership role on the Guam CEDDERS’ team beginning with a Training Associate then the Inclusive Communities Initiative Area Coordinator. She facilitated numerous technical assistance and training activities that focused on inclusive early childhood and educational programs. Before retiring, one of Jay’s major responsibilities was to serve as the Pacific Assessment Consortium (PAC6) Project Coordinator organizing and facilitating regional and entity-specific activities in support of each entity’s development and implementation of an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities.



Social Work Intern Reflects on Guam CEDDERS Experience



Mara San Nicolas, (standing facing photographer), trainer and early childhood intern at Guam CEDDERS, shares tips with parents.

In January 2014, I began the New Year with a new adventure as a graduate student intern. Although I had been a social worker for over ten years and was quite familiar with the social services arena, I started my internship at Guam CEDDERS with a mixed bag of excitement, anxiousness, and hope. I had the privilege and pleasure of having Mariles Benavente as my field instructor. She is a seasoned social worker with a wealth of knowledge and passion for her work. Mariles and the hardworking folks at House 12—Bonnie, Keith, Bernadette, and Marie—patiently guided me as I learned about System of Care, early childhood mental health, evaluation, and the important role of Guam CEDDERS

in the community. The caliber and professionalism of the entire Guam CEDDERS team is truly impressive.

During my internship, I had the opportunity to attend training, participate in community forums on Language Access Services, and collaborate with professionals from other disciplines throughout the island. Among the many valuable lessons I learned at Guam CEDDERS, perhaps the most important is the power of collaboration. Some challenges can seem so daunting and may easily overwhelm one person or agency; however, when people share ideas, resources, and labor, the results are transformative.

Youth Self-Advocates Explore Possibilities



Participants in the Youth Self-Advocacy Workshop held at Simon Sanchez High School embarked on a field trip on April 11 to Guam Community College where they learned more about the college and the programs and services offered to students with disabilities. This was the first time for the eight students to step onto the campus to explore possibilities.

This was the first time that the workshop, led by the sibling duo of Erlinda Tydingco and Andrew Tydingco, President and Vice President of SiñA, Self Advocates in Action, was held on a high school campus. Support for the workshop is also provided by Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS Leadership and Systems Change Initiative Area Coordinator, and SiñA advisor, and the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council. Plans are underway for the workshop to be delivered at other high schools next school year.

New Video "Bernadette" Now Available



Guam CEDDERS recently completed "Bernadette," a 10 minute video that tells the story of Bernadette Colet, a 35 year-old athlete, artist, worker, altar server, joker, friend, and all around charmer who happens to have Down Syndrome. Told through the voice of her mother and father, "Bernadette" aims to increase public awareness about people with Down Syndrome and advocates that people with disabilities need opportunities and given a chance, just like everyone else.

To obtain a copy of "Bernadette," please contact Sean Lizama, Disability Media Specialist at sean.lizama@guamcedders.org.

Get the *I Tellai (The Bridge)* & *I Linå'lå-ta (Our Life)* newsletters delivered straight to your inbox!



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University of Guam
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This issue of *I Tellai* was made possible by contributions from the following Guam CEDDERS staff members: Mariles Benavente, Vera Blaz, June De Leon, Terrie Fejarang, Nieves Flores, Ed.D., Terry Naputi, Jeff Pinaula, Ginger Porter, and Mara San Nicolas, Carla Torres and Laura Bozeman, Ph.D., Guest Contributor.

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

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUN
14**

Jun 3 CNMI Early Learning Guidelines Preschool Focus Group Meeting.

Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Parent Training Series: Autism Tool Kits, Saturdays, 8am-9am, GSAT, House 19 Dean's Circle, UOG.

Jun 9 Republic of Palau Training, "Working with Students Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing or Non-Verbal and technical assistance on-site visit.

Jun 9 & 10 Guam Dept. of Education Transportation Training (16 Hours), 8:00am-12pm and 1:00-5:00pm, GSAT, House 19 Dean's Circle, UOG.

June 16 - 18 Building the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work, 8:00am - 1:00pm, UOG SBPA 131 (IT&E Lecture Hall).

Jun 16-18 Strengthening Families On-line Course.

Jun 16-18 LEND Workshops on Autism.

June 21 Power of Play: Bringing Play to Life, 10:00am - 2:00pm, Agana Shopping Center 2nd Floor Expo Hall.

**JUL-AUG
14**

Jul 1-4 Republic of Palau Early Childhood Comprehensive System On-Site Technical Assistance Visit.

Jul 3 CNMI Early Learning Guidelines Preschool Focus Group Meeting.

Jul 7-8 Republic of Palau Special Education On-Site Visit and Training.

Jul 8 GSAT Advisory Council Executive Meeting, 3:00-4:00pm, GSAT, House 19 Dean's Circle.

Jul 15 GSAT Advisory Council General Membership Meeting, 3:30-5:00pm, GSAT, House 19 Dean's Circle.

Jul 28-31 Project Bisita/Healthy Families America Home Visitor Training, 8:00am-5:00pm.

Aug 12 & 13 Guam Dept. of Education Transportation Training (16 Hours), 8:00am-12 Noon and 1:00-5:00pm, GSAT, House 19 Dean's Circle, UOG.

Aug 22 CNMI Early Learning Guidelines Preschool Policy Maker Update & Focus Group Meeting.

Aug 23 CNMI Early Learning Guidelines Preschool Caregiver Training.

For more information on any of these events, please call 735-2477 or visit www.guamcedders.org

Disability & Society Course Series



FALL COURSES TO BE OFFERED:

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

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

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