

SJSU Partners with Guam CEDDERS on New SLP Personnel Prep Grant



Guam CEDDERS is excited to announce that another personnel preparation grant has been awarded for the region. It was learned on May 28 that San José State University (SJSU) received notification that the grant application it submitted for Project EPICS was approved for funding support by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). SJSU will partner with Guam CEDDERS to implement this grant.

Project EPICS, is the acronym for “Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech-Language Pathology.” As stated in the application abstract, Project EPICS “will support a total of 20 speech-language pathology (SLP) graduate students representing a variety of islands in the Pacific, including the US Territory of Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, US Territory of American Samoa, and Republic of the Marshall Islands. This is a five-year graduate program leading to a master’s degree that will use effective

and scientifically-based curricula and pedagogy to prepare personnel who will (1) improve outcomes for students with disabilities, and (2) foster appropriate access to and achievement in the general education curricula.” Courses will be delivered through a combination of on-line and on-site classes. Guam CEDDERS, in partnership with SJSU, will serve as the regional coordinator for the project. The selection of the graduate cohort will be competitive (**see box below**).

SJSU faculty members June McCullough, Ph.D., and Wendy Quach, Ph.D., are Project Directors for Project EPICS. Gloria Weddington, Ph.D., will serve as Project Coordinator. Dr. Weddington and Dr. McCullough previously were involved with Project Fo’na, a similar Guam CEDDERS personnel preparation grant that produced 23 graduates from the SJSU Speech Pathology program. Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, will service as the Guam CEDDERS Coordinator.

The first course is scheduled to be offered in early Fall this year. Interested individuals should contact Ms. Fejarang immediately at 735-2477 or terrie.fejarang@guamcedders.org.

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Candidates for Project EPICS must meet the following criteria to be considered for the program:

1. Committed to providing speech/language services to students in your home island.
2. Completed a bachelor's degree in any field and demonstrate evidence of interest in the field of Communicative Disorders;
3. Be bilingual; speaking English and an indigenous Pacific Language with some level of proficiency as determined by the selection committee;
4. Have good written and oral communication skills as determined by the selection committee through an interview and written essay;
5. Have an accumulated grade point average of 3.0 in undergraduate coursework;
6. Completed the basic science requirements set by the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA); and
7. Be willing to participate in non-traditional training formats.

UH LEND Autism Consultants Share Strategies



Leolinda Parlin (standing), Co-Director of the University of Hawaii Maternal Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (MCH LEND) Program, conducted a presentation during a parent meeting focusing on the topic of "Addressing the Needs of Older Children (5-12th grade) with Autism" on May 7. Ms. Parlin was joined by Mariailiana Stark, DrPH, APRN-Rx, PNP-BC, and Joshua Fouts, PhD., BCBA-D. Approximately 25 parents and interested community members attended the meeting held at the IT&E Lecture Hall, Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Building, University of Guam.

As an area that is considered "geographically remote," service providers and parents on Guam welcome opportunities as they arise to increase knowledge and skills. This is especially true when topics addressed focus on autism spectrum disorders.

Parents, teachers, psychologists, and technical assistance providers had such an opportunity in early May when faculty from the University of Hawaii (UH), Maternal Child Health (MCH), Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Program visited Guam on May 4-7. A program based at the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine, the team was led by Leolinda Parlin, Family Faculty and Co-Director Hawai'i MCH LEND Program and Director, Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center; Mariailiana J Stark, DrPH, APRN-Rx, PNP-BC, Nursing Faculty, Hawai'i MCH LEND Program and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Kaiser Permanente Honolulu Developmental Clinic, Honolulu HI; and Joshua Fouts, PhD., BCBA-D, Education Faculty, Hawai'i MCH LEND Program, Program Director, Imagine Behavioral and Developmental Services, Seattle, Washington.

The visiting team hit the ground running right after landing on May 4 with a "LEND Alumni Meeting and Dinner," attended by 11 of the 16 Guam-based LEND Training completers, including

all five Cohort 1 trainees who paved the way during the Fall Semester of 2011.

The next day was spent with two clinical psychologists, Guam Department of Education speech language pathologists, and Autism technical assistance providers addressing topics relating to screening and evaluation. The session on May 6, "Strategies for Working with Young Children with Autism" was geared for personnel from the Guam Early Intervention System, and the May 7 session was actually part of a training session facilitated by Project Kariñu. Parent sessions were held on the evenings of May 6th and 7th and addressed issues by age levels.

Feedback provided by participants was all very positive. The technical information based on research and best practices was reinforced by the real life experiences shared by the presenters. Dr. Fouts' presentations highlighted the behavioral analysis and systematic framework covered by the Board Certified Behavior Analysts approach, and Dr. Stark brought over 20 years experience in the diagnostic process. Ms. Parlin's strategies and stories were especially poignant, as a parent of a young adult on the spectrum.

At the end of the short but impactful visit, the consensus of the participants was simple: when will these consultants come back?

See photos on page 3

UH LEND Autism Consultants Share Strategies...continued



Left photo (L-R): LEND trainees Leone Rohr, from Cohort 4 and Dina Fegurgur, from Cohort 1, ham it up with Leolinda Parlin, UH MCH LEND Program Co-Director. Right photo: Consultants from the UH LEND Program were on island on May 4-7 to conduct a series of training sessions related to providing supports to children on the autism spectrum and their families. Consultants (seated L-R): included Leolinda Parlin, Director, Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center, Mariaailiana Stark, Nursing Faculty, Hawai'i MCH LEND Program, and Joshua Fouts, Education Faculty, Hawai'i MCH LEND Program, are shown with personnel from the Department of Education, Division of Special Education, the Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center, and a clinical psychologist in private practice. Back Row (L-R): Terrie Fejarang, Felice Camacho, Camille Morcilla Paulino, Amalia Badua, Erica Sgro, Arlene Duenas, Hope Cristobal, Marie Tenorio, Lyndsey Miller, and Marie Wessling.



Guam LEND trainees received their Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND) Certificate of Completion on May 5. Shown here are (L-R): Carla Torres, Guam CEDDERS LEND faculty, Trainees Leone Rohr, Suzanne McManus, Ph.D., and Renee Koffend, Au.D., and Leolinda Parlin, University of Hawaii LEND Program Co-Director.

Guam MCH LEND Cohort Attend Training Symposium in Honolulu



Guam LEND trainees get in touch with nature and learn cultural values at the University of Hawaii Ka Papa Punalu'u Lo'i (taro patch).



Donning "I Love Guam" T-shirts and projecting the hafa adai spirit, the Guam LEND trainees present "Children Having Children: Social Determinants of Health" presentation to their Hawaii counterparts. (L-R): Suzanne McManus, Ph.D., Leone Rohr, Family Representative, Renee Koffend, Au.D.

As part of the curriculum, the Guam Maternal Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (MCH LEND) Program cohort were in Honolulu on March 20-22, for the third and final joint training symposium. The symposium was filled with activities and presentations that centered on an important MCH leadership competence: the ability to apply concepts of cultural diversity and influences on attitudes and health care practices for families with children with disabilities and the blending of health protocols with local ways of caregiving.

For the remainder of the semester, trainees worked on completing a research project they developed called "Investigating Housing Options for Teen Moms on Guam." This research will gain insights of teenage mothers' perspectives of structured, stable housing options. The initial data may reveal the potential need for such housing on Guam.



MCH LEND is never short on fun. Here, (L-R): Guam trainees Renee Koffend and Suzanne McManus, along with Honolulu trainee Jackie Jensen share a song they wrote to recruit future trainees.

Highlights from The Week of the Young Child



April 13 - 18: Guam CEDDERS - Project Tinituhon, in collaboration with Department of Public Health and Social Services - Project Kariñu, Project Bisita I Familia; Department of Education - Guam Early Intervention System, Head Start; Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center - I Famagu'on-ta, icareguam; Guam Identifies Families Terrific Strengths; and the Mayor's Council of Guam, celebrated the Week of the Young Child by facilitating various training's for parents and providers at community centers around the island. Over 287 parents and providers attended the week of events.

Pyramid Model Leadership Team Meeting



The Pyramid Model Leadership Team met on April 22 at GSAT to review and provide updates and feedback to the Social Emotional goals and objectives, and activities planned. The Leadership Team's goal is to continue to develop policies, procedures, funding and other system framework components needed to plan, implement, evaluate, and sustain the high fidelity use of the Pyramid Model and practices. The meeting was facilitated by Project Tinituhon.

Assistive Technology Conference: Still Strong After 21 Years!



Maria Pineda, keynote speaker of the conference, shares how she maximized community resources to maintain employment after she lost her vision. Video remote interpreting (right screen) and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) (left screen) by Alternative Communication Services, provided individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing sign language access throughout the event.

The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) has been hosting an annual conference for the community for many years - an impressive 21 years to be exact! Each year, GSAT's Program Coordinator and its Advisory Council faces the challenge of putting on an event that will be interesting and meaningful to a wide range of participants.

This year's event kicked off with a legislative resolution presented by Senator Tina Muna-Barnes that recognized GSAT for its efforts in increasing the access and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) on Guam and improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Following the resolution came a heartfelt and inspiring keynote speech by Maria Pineda. Ms. Pineda shared her story of living with vision loss and how with the aid of assistive technology, community resources, and support from her loving family, she has maintained her employment with the federal government and is still living life to the fullest.

GSAT program coordinator Carla Torres took things back to the basics with an opening presentation of "AT 101: An Overview of AT and AT Resources on Guam" and a session on "Becoming a Wise AT Consumer." This gave everyone foundational knowledge on the various types of AT and services and how one can maximize limited resources.

Other presentations included one from Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center staff attorney Matthew Wolff titled "Meeting Communication Needs under ADA, §504 & IDEA." Mr. Wolff explained that with recent legal cases and new guidance from the US Department of Education and the Department of Justice, there is a clear directive for schools to understand section 504 of the American with Disabilities Act's "effective communication" access requirement and how that can be different from free appropriate public education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (special education law) and the implications it creates for the provision of assistive technology.

Ben Servino, Director of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, presented community access updates. Mr. Servino highlighted various initiatives being worked on to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities on Guam such as the Individualized Budgeting Program which allows individuals with disabilities the opportunity to choose the services and supports independent from typical programs offered by the Government of Guam. The individuals in the program have control over their allowed budget.

Continued on next page

A Conference 21 Years Strong!...continued



Carla Torres, Assistive Technology and Special Projects Program Coordinator, presents an overview of Assistive Technology and how to become a wise AT consumer to conference attendees.



Conference participants create tactile learning materials during a hands-on workshop led by the Department of Education's Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI).



Autism itinerant teachers from the Department of Education engage conference attendees in a hands-on workshop wherein they learned how to make communication books.



GSAT's 21st Annual Assistive Technology Conference was well attended. Attendees filled the Pacific Star's Chamorro Ballroom.

The afternoon offered conference goers a choice of four different hands-on AT make-it workshops. During the workshops, participants learned how to make low-tech assistive technology tools from inexpensive household items, the applications of these tools, the types of disabilities they serve and the various environments and tasks in which they can be used. Related service providers from the Guam Department of Education's Special Education Division teamed up with GSAT to facilitate three of the workshops.

Evaluations collected at the end of the conference showed that participants were pleased to have attended. They felt their knowledge of assistive technology has increased as a result. Many appreciated seeing that AT supports could be fabricated at a low cost and quite easily too. Stay tuned to see what's in store for year 22 of the annual GSAT AT conference!



Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention advisory council member Joyce Flores (seated) and program staff Vicky Ritter (standing far right) give out free children's books to conference participants at their table display.

REL Pacific Guam Research Alliance Parent Panel Session on Family Engagement



School personnel from J.Q. San Miguel, J.M. Guerrero, UPI, and Ligan elementary schools, and GDOE district personnel listen as selected parents from the three schools share their experiences related to family engagement in their children's education.



Mr. Jon Fernandez (standing), GDOE Superintendent, gives welcoming remarks at the REL Pacific Guam Research Alliance Parent Panel Session on Family Engagement held on May 7, 2015 at Ligan Elementary School.



Dr. Zeny Natividad (standing), program administrator for GDOE Research, Planning & Evaluation (RP&E) office, share some opening remarks.

In partnership with Research for Education and Learning (REL) Pacific at McREL, Guam CEDDERS and administrators from J.Q. San Miguel, J.M. Guerrero, and Upi Elementary facilitated the Guam Research Alliance for Family and Community Engagement Education panel session on May 7 at Ligan Elementary school. The five parents were selected from J.Q. San Miguel, J.M. Guerrero, and Upi Elementary schools. The objectives of the panel session were to: (1) Increase awareness of strategies utilized by selected schools to engage families; (2) Increase awareness of families' perception of their level of engagement in the schools; and (3) Increase awareness of barriers, as perceived by families, preventing engagement in their children's education.

The Guam Department of Education Superintendent and the Administrator for Research, Planning, and Evaluation (RP&E) gave opening remarks that confirmed the department's

support in improving family and community engagement in the schools. To set the stage for the importance for increasing family and community engagement, a brief overview on the Guam population was provided to the panel members and the audience. The principals from J.M. Guerrero, J.Q. San Miguel, and Upi Elementary served as moderators to ask parents to respond to five family engagement questions related to the following: (1) how families were involved in their children's education; (2) positive experiences or challenging areas in working with the schools; (3) ways in which the schools could make the parents feel more welcomed; (4) challenges families have with their children's education; and (5) ways in which the schools communicate with families. At the end, the audience were provided time to ask the panel questions that were not addressed.

McREL Consultant Meets with Stakeholders



REL Pacific at McREL and Guam CEDDERS consultants conduct technical assistance session 1 on Action Planning at the Guam Research Alliance for Family and Community Engagement meeting.

In collaboration with Maria Elena Garcia, Research for Education and Learning (REL) Pacific at McREL Consultant, Nieves Flores, Guam CEDDERS Consultant, provided technical assistance to members of the Guam Research Alliance for Family and Community Engagement held on April 23, 2015 at the UOG 19 Deans Circle. Participants included representatives from the following Guam Department of Education schools: John F. Kennedy high school; Agueda Middle school; Wettengel, J.M. Guerrero, Ligan, Marcial Sablan, and J.Q. San Miguel elementary schools. Additional participants were from DOE central office and Guam Community College. The objective of the technical assistance session was to expand the participants' knowledge of action planning and apply methods for ensuring that family and community engagement becomes an integral part of school improvement planning. The session provided the opportunity for participants to reflect on current status of family and community engagement at their respective settings and to identify examples of evidence for family engagement indicators.

Developmental Screening Conducted in Child Care Centers



(L-R): Maggie Huffer, owner and director of Adventures in Learning Day Care Center in Yoña, and Terry Naputi, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate, go over the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening instrument during a technical assistance meeting. Promoting developmental screening is an initiative of Project Tinituhon (The Beginning), the Guam State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.

A young child's brain is developing faster during the early years than any other time in their lives. It is important to monitor development with regular screenings. To do this, starting in November 2014, Project Tinituhon, Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System, facilitated developmental and behavioral screening training to child care center providers. In December 2014, project staff began offering one-on-one

technical assistance to child care centers to fully implement the islandwide Developmental and Behavioral Screening System (iDBSS) pilot program. Seventeen child care centers committed to implementing annual center-wide developmental and behavioral screenings for children, birth to five years of age to improve the children health and well being.

In January 2015, seven centers conducted center-wide screenings. The centers are Adventures in Learning Child Development Center, Anigua Learning Ladder Child Care Center, Bambini Montessori School Center, Dededo Child Care & Learning Center, Giggles and Scribbles Child Care Center, Lots of Learning Child Care Center, and PNG Child Care & Learning Center. The remaining centers of the pilot program will conduct their annual screenings in June and July.

The goal of the iDBSS is to increase the number of developmental and behavioral screenings in the community, promote parent education, and identify children at risk for developmental delays. iDBSS uses the Ages & Stages Questionnaire®, Third Edition (ASQ-3™) and the Ages & Stages Social Emotional® (ASQ-SE™).

Project Tinituhon continues to provide technical assistance and coaching to the centers as they conduct their annual center-wide screenings.

Territorial Reps Provide Overview During UCEDD Directors Retreat



Representatives from the various University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in the U.S. Territories were part of a panel presentation during the AUCD Directors Retreat & Technical Assistance Institute held in Bethesda, Maryland on March 26. Present were (L-R): Dawn Rudolph, AUCD staff, moderator; Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director; Yegin Habtes, Virgin Islands UCEDD Director; Floyd Masga, Pacific Basin UCEDD-CNMI Technical Assistant; Kimberly Mills, Virgin Islands Associate Director; Carol Salas Pagan, Puerto Rico UCEDD Associate Director; and Tafaimamao Tui-Tupuola, Pacific Basin UCEDD - American Samoa Director.

As with most organizations, new leadership fosters new possibilities. The Association for University Centers on Developmental Disabilities (AUCD) exemplifies this axiom, under the leadership of Andrew J. Imparato, JD, Executive Director of AUCD for a little over a year now.

Among his numerous initiatives is his recognition of the U.S. territories and their unique status and challenges. During his short tenure, he has held a Territories Meeting after the annual AUCD Conference last November, where the directors and or associate directors from the centers in Guam, the Pacific Basin UCEDD including American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, presented short summaries on their history, political status, strengths, and current initiatives and challenges.

This then led to a "Territories Panel" during the more recent UCEDD Directors Retreat held on March 26 in Bethesda, Maryland. Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director, highlighted the geographical realities of the Pacific entities, as well as the strong regional partnerships that have been developed over the years with American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Specific examples of these partnerships included regional personnel preparation projects that have produced sign language interpreters, speech language pathologists, and teachers of students with vision impairments,

specialties that did not exist on most of the entities, prior to the implementation of these projects.

Feedback received after the presentation included several comments relating to a clearer and more informed appreciation of the geographical challenges and various political elements of the Pacific Territories. Also shared were comments about potential partnering on projects in the future.

As an additional indication of AUCD's interest in activities by the Territories, a chance meeting between Dawn Rudolph, AUCD UCEDD Director of Technical Assistance, and Ms. Fejarang during the 2015 Pac Rim Conference on Disabilities turned into an opportunity for Ms. Rudolph to briefly attend the "Building State Capacity to Address Critical Issues in Deaf Education: Transition from Secondary Education to Postsecondary Options Summit" facilitated by the Pepnet2 (pn2) project in collaboration with Guam CEDDERS. Pepnet2 is a federally funded project whose mission is to increase the education, career, and lifetime choices available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, based at the California State University at Northridge (see related story on page 12). Ms. Rudolph was able to meet the 40 summit participants, comprised of representatives from the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Rim entities mentioned previously and Hawaii.

Thank you, AUCD for this opportunity to share information on the Territories with the network. We appreciate your support and look forward to Andy Imparato's on-site visit in the near future!

Pac Rim Conference Session Focuses on “Making Connections”



(L-R): Robert McCulley, Director, Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education/ Institute on Community Inclusion, School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, University of Massachusetts Boston, and June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director and Project Director for the Pacific Vision Instruction Project, deliver their part of the Guam CEDDERS workshop presentation at the 2015 Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities. The presentation, titled “Making Connections that Improve Lives Across the Life Span,” took place on May 18 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Seated at right is Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Consultant, who shared information on the development of Guam’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System.

Pacific VIP Consultant Meets with Teachers & Administrators



Donna McNear, University of Massachusetts – Boston Adjunct Faculty, conducted a practicum site visit with Guam-based student scholars in the Pacific Vision Instruction Project (Pacific VIP) on April 29. Pictured here at Price Elementary School are (L-R): scholars Darlene Taimanglo and Diane Artero, Professor Donna McNear, and scholar Erica Acfalle. Not shown are scholars Joni Manibusan and Norma Jean Santos. The site visit took place during the week of April 27 through May 1, 2015.

Practicum supervision for three Guam-based scholars in the Pacific Vision Instruction Program (Pacific VIP) continued during the week of April 29 through May 1. Donna McNear, Pacific VIP Regional Consultant, provided in-depth guidance to Erica Acfalle, Joni Manibusan, and Norma Jean Santos during this visit, with assistance from Diane Artero and Darlene Taimanglo, Pacific VIP scholars who have completed their course requirements.

During an exit meeting with Terese Crisostomo, Guam Department of Education, Division of Special Education School Program Consultant (SPC)/Special Projects Coordinator, and Paula Ulloa, SPC and Coordinator for Vision Program services, Ms. McNear expressed that she was very pleased with the progress made by the Division in this area. As a consultant who

has been providing technical assistance to Guam and the region over the last 15 years, Ms. McNear noted that tremendous progress has been made, particularly with regards to the level of competency of the teachers and the amount of support provided to the students with vision instruction needs. While these accomplishments are significant, she stressed that the next couple of years, through guided “induction of VI teachers,” are critical to the further development of teacher competence and subsequent retention of these teachers in their roles as instructors of students with visual impairments.

Ms. McNear will continue her supervision of Pacific VIP scholars from the region through August. The Pacific VIP grant period will officially end in September of this year.

Pepnet2 Summit Addresses Capacity Building in Deaf Education



June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Associate Director (standing), facilitated a discussion that took place with educational administrators during the first breakout activity during the "Pepnet2 Building State Capacity Summit" on May 20 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Participating in this discussion were Special Education administrators including (clockwise starting at right) Laura Brown, CNMI; Asmon Langidrik, Marshall Islands; Marbe Martin, Kosrae; Ansina Kony, Chuuk; and Helen Sengebau, Palau.



Pepnet2 staff (standing L-R): Van Nguyen, Mary Morrison, and (seated) Cindy Camp, share information relating to technology available to persons who are deaf/hard of hearing. Showing is a screen shot of "OmniJoin," video-conferencing software that supports visual communication to take place.

Pepnet2 recently partnered with Guam CEDDERS in facilitating a Pac Rim Summit on "Building State Capacity to Address Critical Issues in Deaf Education: Transition from Secondary Education to Postsecondary Options" held in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 20-22. Based at the California State University Northridge, Pepnet2 is a technical assistance project whose mission is to increase the education, career and lifetime choices available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This Pac Rim Summit brought out teams from Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to learn about the possibilities that are available to teens and young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, and then to begin the process of developing plans to address the unique systems needs in each of the entities. Hawaii also was represented at this Summit. Entity teams were comprised of a parent of a student who is deaf/hard of hearing, an educational administrator, and if available, a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Some entities brought teachers and/or additional education representatives.

While this was a working meeting for the group, Pepnet staff, which included Marcia Klovitz, Mary Morrison, Cindy Camp, and Van Nguyen, shared valuable information about the state of deaf education and services. Of particular note were the panels discussions held. The first panel was comprised of young adults who are deaf/hard of hearing, who talked about their educational experiences with the group. The second panel was made up of parents of children who are deaf/hard of hearing. And the third panel was comprised of another group of young



Ansina Kony (right), Chuuk State Special Education Coordinator, introduces herself to the participants of the "Pepnet 2 Building State Capacity Summit" held on May 20-22 in Honolulu, Hawaii. (L-R): Kelli Stein and Sarah Blattberg, Sign Language Interpreters, assist with the introductions.

adults who are deaf/hard of hearing who are in the workforce.

Work groups by entities documented the state of affairs relating to the current level of services and then ended the meeting with committing to implement two things they will do within 30 days after the summit. Participants were unanimously in agreement that while they have action items by entities, they also expressed a desire to work collaboratively to improve services in the region.

Project Kariñu Pilots ChildLink Database



On May 20th, Mr. Quansheng Song, database consultant, conducted a site visit on Guam and worked with Project Kariñu staff to further refine their database and begin work on generating a set of standardized reports. Clockwise (L-R): Dr. Lilli Perez, Acting Project Kariñu Director; Quansheng Song, Database Consultant; Bonnie Brandt, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate; Joseph Mendiola, Guam CEDDERS Data Coordinator; Tammy Bamba, Project LAUNCH Staff; Pauline Camacho, Project Kariñu Lead Family Partner; Toni Latson, Project Kariñu Wrap Coordinator; and Jobeth Aquino, Project Kariñu Wrap Coordinator.

For the past five and a half years, Guam CEDDERS has been providing evaluation services for Project Kariñu, Guam's Early Childhood System of Care. In addition to managing Guam's participation in national evaluation studies for Project Kariñu, the Guam CEDDERS Evaluation Team has worked to create a "culture of evaluation", where data is used for decision making, continuous quality improvement, and public accountability. A great deal of progress has been made. Staff and agency partners are routinely involved in reviewing and using data. During the past few years, data has also been made available to Guam's policy makers on an annual basis; providing a snapshot of who Project Kariñu is helping and what types of outcomes children and families are experiencing.

To date, Project Kariñu's ability to store, access, use, and share data has been dependent upon their involvement as a funded grantee who participates in the national evaluation of all system of care sites. Data collected on Guam is entered into a web-based data management system which is maintained by the national evaluation team. Once federal funding ends, no new data can be entered into the system. Building and sustaining local capacity to use data for decision making is an important goal of the Guam CEDDERS evaluation subcontract. To address this goal, Guam CEDDERS, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), has been working with Mr. Song to develop a customized ChildLink

database for Project Kariñu. The ChildLink system has proved to be an effective platform to manage data on Guam and has been successfully implemented by the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (GEHDI) Project for many years. It is also being customized to meet the needs of Project Bisita I Familia, a home visitation program within DPHSS. By using a common platform, the various ChildLink systems could eventually be integrated, improving efficiency and eliminating duplication of data collection across early childhood programs within DPHSS.

The Project Kariñu ChildLink system supports collecting, storing, and using the same descriptive data that is currently collected for the national evaluation studies and will be expanded to also manage selected outcome measures. Beginning in November 2014, Project Kariñu staff began piloting the database. Information collected on all new children referred to Project Kariñu is being entered into the ChildLink system. Additionally, the Guam CEDDERS Evaluation Team is supporting Project Kariñu staff in entering descriptive data on all children and families served by Project Kariñu since June 2011. During the week of May 20th, Mr. Song conducted a site visit on Guam and worked with Project Kariñu staff to further refine the database and begin work on generating a set of standardized reports. Next steps include, establishing protocols to support staff in using the database to complete routine reporting and project management tasks.

Early Childhood Strategic Planning Sessions Continue Systems Building



Participants took time for a photo opportunity during the Early Childhood System Strategic Planning, Early Childhood Policy Summit III. (L-R): Terry Naputi, Dr. Suzanne Kaneshiro, Margarita Gay, Cathy Tydingco, Cathy Schroeder, Pauline Camacho, Ruth Leon Guerrero, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Calvo, Elaine Eclavea, Joseph Montague, Vera Blaz, Vicky Ritter, Jeffrey Pinaula, Maggie Bell, June Perez, Bonnie Brandt, Trish Billen, and Mariles Benavente.

Building systems is a complex and challenging endeavor. As with most similar initiatives, once momentum is established, maintaining that momentum is key. This is true for efforts in the early childhood arena, with the Guam Early Learning Council being a major driver to continue this momentum.

One such effort is "The Canoe is the People: Charting Our Course Strategic Planning Session" on April 24, which was co-sponsored by Project LAUNCH and Project Tinituhon and facilitated by Bonnie Brandt and Elaine Eclavea from Guam CEDDERS. This full day event brought together 26 participants representing the Guam Early Learning Council, Project Tinituhon's Strategic Management Teams, and Project LAUNCH's Young Child Wellness Council to reflect on Guam's Early Childhood system and identify next steps for continued building of our service delivery system.

Building on the work of the December and January Early Childhood Summits, participants engaged in a series of interactive activities to review and validate:

1. the core values and principles of Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS);
2. the Project LAUNCH Environmental Scan;
3. the vision and mission of the ECCS and Project LAUNCH; and
4. the goals and objectives for the Early Childhood State Plan and Project LAUNCH Strategic Plan.

Using data from the Environmental Scan, participants identified priorities and laid the foundation for the development of a strategic plan to guide systems level change and the expansion of early childhood prevention and promotion services over the next year.

A follow up session is scheduled for June 11.



Bonnie Brandt (standing) facilitates a discussion with the Early Care & Education Strategic Management Team (SMT) Group.



(L-R): Elaine Eclavea and Bonnie Brandt, co-facilitators of the Early Childhood System Strategic Planning, Early Childhood Policy Summit III stand in front of the Charting Our Course, Navigation Wall.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Highlights



Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio, Acting Governor, signed a proclamation declaring the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month on Guam. Attending the event were representatives from the Guam Tri-Agency, comprised of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center and University of Guam CEDDERS. Also attending were members of Guam's state recognized self-advocacy group SiñA: Self-Advocates in Action as well as agency representatives from the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Division of Support Services.



The Guam Developmental Disabilities Council held a Celebrity Bagging Event on March 14 at the Pay-Less Super Market located at the Micronesia Mall. (L-R): Andrew Tydingco, SiñA, Vice President, Senator Dennis Rodriguez, and Senator Jim Espaldon greet customers as they leave with their groceries bagged by local celebrities in the disability community and government.

March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Tri-Agency along with SiñA collaborated to host a series of events to celebrate and promote public awareness of developmental disabilities. The events included the annual GSAT Conference & Fair, a Celebrity Bagging at Pay-Less Supermarket, and the Guam Developmental Disability Council Family Fun Day, which took place this year at the Sinajaña Community Center. Self-Advocates, families, and advocates joined together to celebrate accomplishments, talk about future activities, and most of all, to establish or renew friendships.



(L-R): Megan Boswell, Self-Advocate and Christine Calvo, First Lady of Guam, assist each other in bagging groceries for a customer.

Self-Advocacy Workshop Promotes Skills for College

A Self-Advocacy Workshop was held over the course of three Saturdays in May for a group of five self-advocates at the GSAT Center. Participants were so committed to completing the workshop that they came to the last class as the island was still dealing with the last of the wind gusts and rain brought on by Typhoon Dolphin.

The workshop was facilitated by Maria Bontongon, Self-Advocate, Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council member, and full-time freshman college student, along with Trish Billen, Guam CEDDERS Social Work Practicum Student, and Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS faculty.

Here is what one participant had to say about the workshop (see box below):



(L-R): Trish Billen, Disability Studies and Social Work intern, role plays with fellow facilitator Maria Bontogon and participant Zenaída DelMundo to demonstrate the more formal interactions with post secondary faculty when disclosing a disability and needing to request accommodations.

1. What was the most valuable information or activity of this workshop?

Learning how to identify your needs. Followed by what actions you want taken/corrected (if any), and how to clearly and politely request that they be addressed or made available.

2. What activities should we keep?

All. (I feel that you're the experts and are doing your best to provide as much information as you feel is important.)

3. What information or activities were not useful for you.

I did not find the roller coaster ride useful. Although it's a good topic to skim through, I feel we spent a little too much time on it. My main focus was actually on the loss of a passenger at the end of the first ride. There were only two survivors.

4. Did the workshop help you make decisions about exploring post-secondary education as a good choice for you?

Yes. I learned that my disability does not prevent me from seeking and receiving further education. It was also very comforting to know that there are resources available to afford us that opportunity.

I must add that I felt a strong sense of encouragement which stemmed from the determination of both the trainers and trainees. Through them, I learned that I'm still in control of my life, and how I choose to live it.

5. Do you feel that the information provided to you has helped you to speak up for the things that you need?

Yes. Although being a procrastinator is one of my life-long defects of character, I now know (BETTER) how to collect my thoughts and information and put them to use when so desire or when I feel it is necessary. I doubt I would continue to hesitate in asking questions that would be of value to myself and to many others like me.

6. Would you recommend this workshop to someone you know?

Most definitely. I know of some people who are better able to help others than themselves. When they have certain needs that are not met, they tend to treat services/blessings as something they don't deserve. We all have needs. We all can benefit from this workshop.

7. On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being the highest, rate how satisfied you were with the workshop: Self-Advocacy for those who Think College.

FIVE!!!

**Answers provided by John .L.G. Salas, Self-Advocacy Workshop Participant*

Practicum Student Reflects on Guam CEDDERS Experience



Trish Billen, Guam CEDDERS Social Work Practicum student, was honored during the University of Guam Social Work Pinning Ceremony held on May 21, 2015 at the University of Guam CLASS Lecture Hall. In attendance were (L-R): Bonnie Brandt, Guam CEDDERS, Trish Billen, Florina Anson, Trish's mother, Yuleen Nanpei Perman, Trish's cousin, Bernadette Shisler, Guam CEDDERS, and Mariles Benavente, Guam CEDDERS.

Disability was never a part of my world view until I started my field practicum at Guam CEDDERS in Fall of 2014 to Spring 2015. I had no exposure to disabilities and knew nothing about the history of advocacy and policy relating to people with disabilities. This eye-opening experience gave me numerous opportunities that I would have never imagined.

My first exposure to people with disabilities was when I accompanied my Field Instructor to the Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council's quarterly meeting held at Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Center. What I did not know was that the officers and the self-advocates of this organization were individuals with developmental disabilities. It was a great experience for me to witness people with developmental disabilities having the desire to speak up for themselves and help others that need help. This meeting enabled me to focus on exploring advocacy as it relates to people with disabilities, the role of these self-advocates with disabilities, and their role in giving recommendations to a plan to meet the challenges that they face in the community.

Another field experience that I would like to highlight is my orientation to evaluation and data collection. I was introduced to why evaluation and data collection was important to Project Kariñu. Accountability and program effectiveness would be the most obvious reasons. I learned that evaluation could benefit the program in terms of the improvements needed, the development of more knowledge, and helps to improve communication among partners. We should stop thinking of clients and parents as consumers but as partners as well. Ms. Bonnie Brandt, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate, explained that evaluation "provides the nation with information about systems of care, how they develop, and how they are sustained across time. Most importantly, it also provides detailed

information about the children, their families, and their experiences with systems of care."

Guam CEDDERS exposed me to cultural and linguistic competency. I was given an opportunity to work with Ms. Mariles Benavente, Guam CEDDERS Consultant and the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator for Project Kariñu, to develop a product for language access services. This experience allowed me to engage in public awareness product design and production.

I was exposed me to a wide range of services that as a student, I never thought I would ever have the opportunity in which to play a role. I provided key support to the "No Wrong Door" strategic planning development, alongside Ms. Ginger Porter, Guam CEDDERS Faculty, and other key stakeholders by staffing the Input Sessions for the Long Term Services and Support Plan. I also assisted in the staffing of numerous outreach events.

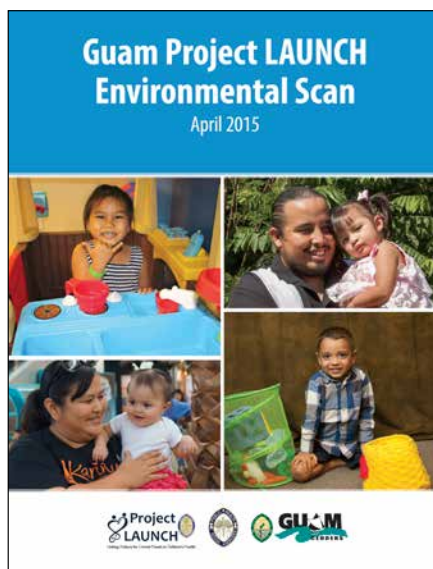
I was given opportunities to complete extra coursework in the "Disability and Society Course" series and the related internship developed by Guam CEDDERS. The courses offered were "Historical & Contemporary Issues of Disability," "Disability and Self-Advocacy" and "Disability Policy, Advocacy, and the Law." While taking these courses, I met individuals with disabilities whom were empowered and were determined to learn about themselves and their rights. Taking these courses helped build my awareness of disabilities and also allowed me to see things clearly and understand more about my own world.

In addition to understanding what Advocacy is to people with disabilities and how to apply it in my field of practice, I got to know many individuals through this connection. It has also increased my respect for letting people with disabilities tell their own stories. After taking the courses, I knew that I wanted to

Continued on page 19

Project LAUNCH Environmental Scan Now Available

Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) Environmental Scan is now available on the Guam CEDDERS website. Project LAUNCH, Guam's newest early childhood initiative, is a five year grant awarded to the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The goal of this federal program is "for all children to enter school with the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills they need to succeed." Project LAUNCH communities work to integrate behavioral health and primary care services and supports, improve infrastructure to bring about systems change, and increase the quality and availability of evidence-based prevention and promotion strategies for young children birth – 8 years of age. Guam CEDDERS provides evaluation services for Project



LAUNCH and took the lead on conducting the Environmental Scan.

The Environmental Scan was conducted from December 2014 – February 2015. Parents, family members, and individuals representing Guam's child serving agencies and programs contributed to the Scan through participation in the Early Childhood Summit Part I and II, a Parent Café, and an online survey. The scanning process provided an opportunity to engage stakeholders around Project LAUNCH, assess strengths and challenges of existing systems change efforts, review data related to the state of young child wellness on Guam, and document available

resources and service gaps/duplication. The scan will serve as the foundation for strategic planning for Project LAUNCH and the revision of the Early Childhood State Plan.

Vicky Ritter Leaves Guam EHDI Program Strong



Vicky Ritter (left), assists Dennis Triolo (center), Audiologist, during an infant hearing screening.

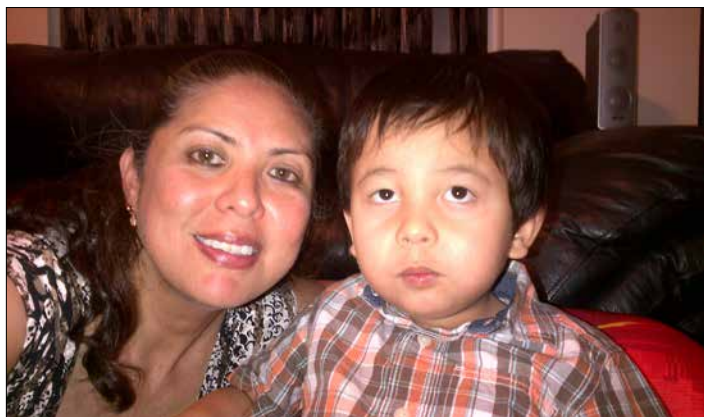
Vicky Ritter, long-time hearing screening technician/facilitator, recently resigned from her position to take care of ailing family members.

Vicky joined the Guam CEDDERS team in 2003 and was involved in the establishment of the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project from the start. Vicky played an integral role in laying the foundation for the Guam EHDI systems. A nurse (ASN) by training, she helped forge strong relationships with health care professionals at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and Sagua Mañagu and assisted in the implementation of Guam law that mandates universal newborn hearing screening as a standard of care.

Through the years, Vicky conducted newborn hearing screenings, trained nurses and related health care staff on the hearing screening process, and helped coordinate the tracking and referral process with Guam Early Intervention System. Also a Certified School Health Counselor, more recently she also served as a child care health consultant for Guam's child care system.

Thank you, Vicky, for your work in improving services for young children on Guam. The systems you helped put in place and build to their current levels will continue to serve Guam's youngest citizens for many years to come.

"Faces of Autism" Series Now Available



A screenshot from Faces of Autism - The Blas Family.



A screenshot from Faces of Autism - The Darlow Family.

Guam CEDDERS has completed the first two installments of a new series entitled "Faces of Autism." The series features interviews of families with children identified as having autism. The purpose of these videos is to increase public awareness on this condition and to support training activities. The series recently aired on local television stations as part of the activities to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 40th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

If you missed them on television, the series is available on demand at our website at <http://www.guamcedders.org/publications-products/video-products/>.

Practicum Student Reflects

...continued from page 17

make a difference for people with disabilities and also expose my social work classmates to the experiences of people with disabilities. I hope to continue to help people with disabilities in some way or the other throughout the course of my life now that I have become more alert to visible and non-visible disabilities.

To close-out my journey at Guam CEDDERS, I played a critical role in the facilitation of the "Self-Advocacy Youth Workshop." I also served as a mentor to one of the participant. I believe that participation in the Self-Advocate Youth Training enhanced my skills as a Social Work professional.

My field practicum was a unique journey that has made disability become part of my everyday thinking and was enough for me to consider working with people with disabilities as my career. This experience also allowed me to envision myself as a member of the professional world and to realize that my capacity as a student should not prevent me from contributing to these functions. I may have limited expertise in this system of care arenas; however I have learned to push myself regardless of feeling intimidated because how else was I going to learn if I do not step out of my comfort zone. Thank you Guam CEDDERS for teaching me how to be a successful team player and for reminding me that, "Math is my friend."



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

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I Tellai is a quarterly publication of Guam CEDDERS.
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This issue of *I Tellai* was made possible by contributions from the following Guam CEDDERS staff members: Bonnie Brandt, June De Leon, Terrie Fejarang, Nieves Flores, Ed.D., Terry Naputi, Jeff Pinaula, Ginger Porter and Trish Billen, Social Work Practicum Student and Disabilities Studies Intern.

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.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUN
15**

Jun 5 Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 3:30pm-5pm, Westin Resort Guam

Jun 8 Guam Early Hearing & Detection Intervention (Guam EHDI) Advisory Meeting, 11:30am-1:30pm, Lotte Hotel

Jun 9 Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Cohort 2 Leadership Team Meeting, 2pm-3:30pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle

Jun 11 Early Childhood Strategic Planning: Charting Our Course Part 2, 8:30am-4:30pm, Westin Resort Guam

Jun 12 Prenatal Classes for Soon-To-Be Mothers Registered for Prenatal Care, 9am-10am, Central Region Community Health Center

Jun 12 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) Advisory Council Meeting, 3pm-5:30pm, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Tamuning

Jun 17 Project Bisita CQI Program Level Meeting, 8:30am-9:30am, Guam CEDDERS House 22 and 23, Dean Circle, UOG

Jun 24 Hearing screening, 8am-5pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School Room 4

Jun 24 National MCH On-Site TA Visit, 8am-9am, Venue to be determined

Jun 26 Prenatal Classes for Soon-To-Be Mothers Registered for Prenatal Care, 9am-10am, Central Region Community Health Center

Jun 26 Project Kariñu Parent Café, 9am-1pm, Venue to be announced

**JUL-DEC
15**

Jul 10 Prenatal Classes for Soon-To-Be Mothers Registered for Prenatal Care, 9am-10am, Central Region Community Health Center

Jul 10 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) Advisory Council Meeting, 3pm-5:30pm, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Tamuning

Jul 29 Hearing screening, 8am-5pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School Room 4

Aug 14 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) Advisory Council Meeting, 3pm-5:30pm, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Tamuning

Aug 21 Project Kariñu Parent Café, 9am-1pm, Venue to be announced

Sep 4 Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 3:30pm-5pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean's Circle

Sep 11 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) Advisory Council Meeting, 3pm-5:30pm, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Tamuning

Oct 9 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) Advisory Council Meeting, 3pm-5:30pm, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Tamuning

Nov 13 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) Advisory Council Meeting, 3pm-5:30pm, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Tamuning

Dec 4 Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 3:30pm-5pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean's Circle

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



President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990.

July 26, 2015 is the
25th Anniversary
of the Americans with
Disabilities Act (ADA)

**BIBA
ADA!**