

Guam CEDDERS Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Guam Developmental Disabilities Council members pose with Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio after the Proclamation declaring March 2018 DD Awareness Month and the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Guam CEDDERS held on February 13, 2018 at the Westin Resort Guam.

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

What began as a University Affiliated Program at the University of Guam on February 14, 1993 has evolved into a dynamic organization twenty-five years later that continues to build bridges with partners to create stronger linkages, programs, services, and supports to positively impact the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Various stakeholders including people with disabilities and their families, the Lieutenant Governor of Guam, Senators, University leaders, government and non-profit organization representatives, friends, and staff gathered on February 13 at the Westin Resort Guam to commemorate and celebrate this major anniversary and milestone.

Founded and led by Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Guam CEDDERS has worked tirelessly to fulfill its mission of creating partnerships and pathways to increase the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. As mandated by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Guam CEDDERS is committed to its core functions that include interdisciplinary training, services and supports, and research and dissemination activities that reflect cultural relevance and sensitivity.

Guam CEDDERS has been a valuable resource to individuals, families, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the community at large. Its partnerships with Department of Public Health & Social Services, Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center, Department of Education, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Guam Mass Transit Authority, Guam Election Commission, Guam Bureau of Planning, and many others provided technical assistance, support, model demonstration and collaborative activities with Guam and regional agencies and

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Guam CEDDERS Celebrates 25th Anniversary (cont.)

programs. Guam CEDDERS has served as the Governor's designated Lead Agency for Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System, Lead Agency for Assistive Technology, and Lead Agency for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, to name a few.

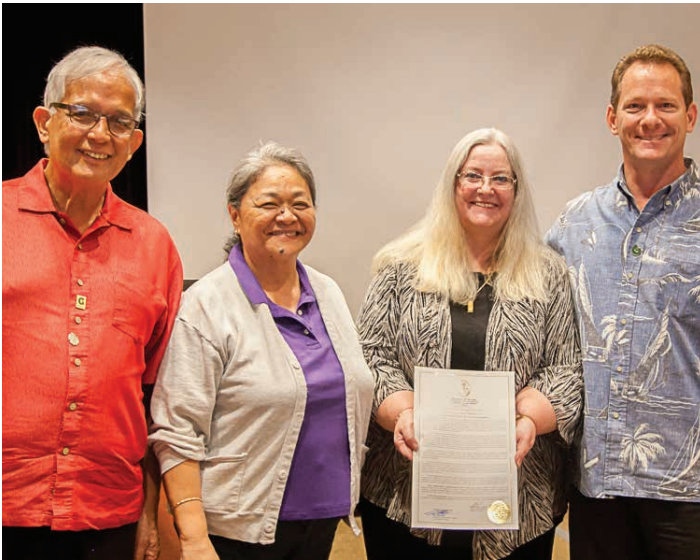
Over the last 25 years, Guam CEDDERS has provided Bachelor and Master level training programs in Speech Pathology, a Master level program in Special Education regionally, a Master level program in Visual Impairment and Orientation and Mobility, and other short-term, university- and community-based training sessions, courses, and workshops.

Guam CEDDERS has provided regional and local support in the implementation of inclusion initiatives, supports for children who are deaf and/or blind, and has taken the lead in training of professionals in the area of Autism and Developmental Disabilities to facilitate programs and assessment of children (Pacific Assessment Consortium Project), supported the

administration of Guam's Teacher Quality Enhancement, Character Education and State Systemic Improvement Planning initiatives, implementation of positive behavior supports within Guam Public Schools, and has partnered with national organizations to implement a variety of research initiatives.

Guam CEDDERS has sponsored focused input sessions such as the Federal Public Hearing on the Reauthorization of IDEA, Summits and Conferences on topics including Emergency Preparedness, Evaluation, Early Childhood, Inclusion, Employment, Self-Advocacy Transportation, and Assistive Technology, and has brought national leaders to Guam to provide Grand Rounds and other training opportunities to Guam's physicians, specialists, and allied health providers. Though the list goes on, there is much work that must continue to be done to improve services and supports to people with disabilities and their families. In the meantime.....

BIBA GUAM CEDDERS!



(Top left) (L-R) Dr. Robert Underwood, June De Leon, Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, and Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio pose for the camera after the proclamation signing. (Bottom left) (L-R) Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, June De Leon, and Dr. Robert Underwood smile for the camera during the Guam CEDDERS 25th Anniversary at the Westin Resort Guam. (Above) Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio signs a proclamation declaring March as DD Awareness Month. Proclamation signing was part of the celebration held at the Westin Resort Guam on February 13.

Happy 25th Anniversary, Guam CEDDERS (cont.)



On February 18, Guam CEDDERS received a resolution from the 34th Guam Legislature in recognition of 25 years of service (L-R) June De Leon, Senator Joe San Agustin, Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Senator Dennis Rodriguez, and Dr. Robert Underwood.



(Left photo) Front Row (L-R) Participants of the event included Josie Guererro, Marie Libria, and Gina Arca. Back Row: Mr. Arca, Lou Mendiola, Ms. Benavente, and Candace Perry. (Right Photo L-R): Bonnie Brandt, June De Leon, Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, and Ben Servino smile with a beautiful cake.



Guam CEDDER Staff celebrate with Dr. Robert Underwood, President, University of Guam.

Happy 25th Anniversary, Guam CEDDERS (cont.)



Highlights from the CEDDERS 25th Anniversary Celebration on February 13 at the Westin Resort Guam. Top left photo: (L-R) June De Leon, Associate Director; Dr. Robert Underwood, President, UOG; and Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director, pose with Amanda Shelton, staff from the Office of Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo. Top right photo: (L-R) Dr. Robert Underwood, President, UOG; Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director; and Dr. Anita Enriquez, Senior Vice President, UOG. Middle left photo: (L-R) Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director and Lynn Tydingco, State Rehabilitation Committee Vice Chairperson. Middle right photo: (L-R) Josie Cortez, Self-Advocate; Dr. Robert Underwood, President, UOG; and Lisa Ogo, Self-Advocate. Bottom right photo: (L-R) Marcelene Santos, Public Guardian and Joseph Gumataotao, Acting Director, Human Resources Administrator, UOG.



Happy 25th Anniversary, Guam CEDDERS (cont.)



More highlights from the CEDDERS 25th Anniversary Celebration. Top left photo: (l-r) Lou Mendiola, Parent, and Clifford Wooten, Self-Advocate. Top right photo: (l-r) Jesus Perez, Parent, and Victoria Perez, Self-Advocate. Middle left photo: Moses Puas, Self-Advocate. Middle right photo: Barbara Johnson, Self-Advocate. Bottom left photo: (l-r) Ann Marie Cruz, President, Guam Positive Parents Together, and Cathy Tydingco, School Program Consultant, DOE Special Education.

Guam EHDl Project Fitme Moves Forward with New Initiatives

The Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDl) Project Fitme, administered by Guam CEDDERS, has facilitated several new and exciting initiatives during this past quarter. These initiatives focus on tele-audiology, systems enhancement, parent and family engagement, and professional engagement,

Audiologists from the Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) are providing tele-audiology support to expand Guam EHDl's tele-audiology capacity. BTNRH is working with Renee Koffend, AuD., CCC-A, Guam EHDl Audiology Consultant and project staff, by providing consultative services related to current tele-audiology practices and recommendations for the tele-audiology suite. Services also address verification of pediatric hearing aid fittings, establishing protocols and best practices for unsedated Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) evaluations, bone conduction device fittings, and second opinions on complex pediatric hearing loss cases. This type of support is especially important to communities in Guam, where essentially there is only one audiologist available who works with very young children in our civilian population, compounding the challenge of meeting the needs of our residents, birth to three years, in our geographically isolated, rural and remote location. In addition, Angie Mister, AuD., CCC-A, from Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has been invited to participate in the consultations and has attended at least one session to date.

On-going systems enhancements also continue to take place. The Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation/Early Intervention (DAE/EI) Quality Improvement Team met on February 5 to address the issue of lack of follow up and missed appointments and to develop strategies to facilitate the number of parents who call, arrange, and make the appointments for their child to receive



On Feb. 20, (L) Susan Dugan, Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT) Project Coordinator for Family Engagement Activities met with Marie Wusstig, Guam EHDl Project Coordinator, for a general orientation to the initial hearing screening process at various Guam birthing sites. Susan is facilitating the family engagement program for parents and families of children identified as having a hearing loss.

a DAE. Another activity that took place this past quarter, on February 23, was an orientation to the Guam EHDl Project and importance of hearing screening for the medical professionals and support staff of the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) Northern Regional Community Health Center. Feedback during this presentation was very positive, with the staff looking forward to implementing a hearing screening protocol at their clinic for northern residents. One more activity in systems enhancements involved new EHDl staff members obtaining hospital clearance and meeting with hearing screening personnel at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority on March 12.

The parent and family engagement initiative took a great leap forward with Project Fitme's partnering with Guam Positive Parents Together, Inc. (GPPT), a non-profit organization, comprised of parents of children with disabilities. GPPT's newly

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The Guam EHDl Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation/Early Intervention (DAE/EI) Quality Improvement (QI) Team met on February 5 to discuss the current status of DAE completion rates. The meeting also developed strategies and a plan to facilitate improvements to increase the timely completion of DAEs. Attending the meeting were (L-R) Keith Villaluna, Guam EHDl Surveillance Specialist; Marie Wusstig, Guam EHDl Project Coordinator; Pat Mantanona, Guam Early Intervention System Program Coordinator; Susan Dugan, Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT) Project Coordinator; Renee L.G. Koffend, AuD., Guam EHDl Audiological Consultant, and Terrie Fejarang, Guam EHDl Project Director.

Guam EHDl Project Fitme Moves Forward... (cont.)

hired Fitme Project Coordinator, Susan Dugan, hit the ground running on February 5. In the short one and half months that she has been in this role, Ms. Dugan underwent project orientation, began the project set up process, participated in the DAE/EI Quality Improvement Team meeting, attended a Leadership Training for Parents who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing in Saipan, met with the leadership of the Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS), and on March 14, held the first meeting with parents who have children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) and have committed to serving as mentors to parents of newly identified children with hearing loss. Other meetings for parent mentors are scheduled to keep the momentum going on this key service.

Lastly, the Guam EHDl Advisory Committee held its bi-annual meeting on March 6. After the conclusion of the regular business meeting, the group stayed together to attend the first meeting of the Project Fitme Learning Community (LC). The first topic addressed was on families who have children who are D/HH, with the intent of reminding health care, early intervention,

education, and supporting personnel about the very personal, unique, and emotional experiences families go through upon learning that their child has a hearing loss. Ms. Dugan, who is a retired social worker and mother of Alea Dugan, a 26-year-old who was diagnosed with a significant hearing loss in third grade, was the presenter during this LC meeting. She shared how she learned of her daughter's hearing loss, and how she and her family reacted to the news. She also shared about the many challenges they faced and barriers they overcame along the way while making choices that have supported her daughter as she has grown and matured into an well-educated, well-adjusted and accomplished young adult.

As indicated by the meaning of "Fitme," a CHamoru word that means "strong," the Guam EHDl Project Fitme continues to make significant strides to improve and to make strong, the system of services and supports for young children who are identified as having hearing loss. Stay tuned as more exciting events are scheduled for the next quarter to meet this goal.



Susan Dugan, (back row, far left) Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT) Project Coordinator for Family Engagement Activities, and Marie Wusstig, (to her left) Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDl) Project Fitme Coordinator, attended a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Parent Leadership Training Workshop in Saipan on February 22-24. The workshop was facilitated by the CNMI Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Project, led by Angie Mister, AuD, CCC-A (back row, far right)..



(L-R) Susan Dugan, Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT) Project Coordinator for Family Engagement Activities, poses with representatives from Hands and Voices, a national organization that promotes supports for parents and families of children who are deaf/hard of hearing including Candace Lindow-Davies, Director of Outreach; Karen Putz and Stephanie Olson, Co-Directors of D/HH Infusion.

Guam EHDI Moves Forward... (cont.)



Jenika Ballesta and EDLynn Beyond were introduced to Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Hearing Screening Personnel on March 12. (Top photo): With the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff. (Bottom photo): With Obstetrics Ward Staff.



The first meeting of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Parent Support Group was held on March 14. The purpose of the group is to establish a parent to parent support system to help parents of newly identified infants and toddlers learn about options and navigating systems. The meeting was facilitated through a partnership with Guam Positive Parents Together (GPPT), headed by Ann Marie Cruz, President, and the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) Project Fitme, administered by Guam CEDDERS. Parent support efforts are facilitated by Susan Dugan, BSW, Project Coordinator. Attending the meeting were (L-R) Tricia Suzuki, Joe Tuquero, Caleb Suzuki, Susan Dugan, Ann Marie Cruz, Evelyn Topasna, Alea Dugan, and Tanya Simer. Not Shown: Terrie Fejarang.

CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team Facilitates Cultural Conversations Café

On February 28, 2018, the CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team facilitated a Cultural Conversations Café featuring the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Positive Solutions for Families Pre-K Parent Module. The Positive Solutions for Families Pre-K Parent Module contains six sessions centered that help professionals working with parents promote positive and effective parenting behaviors, which will in turn promote children's social and emotional development and address the challenging behavior and mental health needs of children. The materials in the module provide information for families on how to promote children's social and emotional skills, understand their problem behavior, and use positive approaches to help children learn appropriate behavior. More than 40 individuals were trained in 2014 to facilitate these sessions with parents.

The café participants were service delivery staff from Karinu and the Micronesia Resource Center – One Stop Shop (MR COSS). These individuals have used the CSEFEL parent module with their families and in the community. During the café, participants from the Chuukese and Chamorro cultures examined activities and held small group discussions on the cultural appropriateness and relevance of the concepts and strategies. Recommendations for modifications and/or changes to the first and second sessions were made by both cultural groups.

The CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team will use the recommendations to make culturally appropriate revisions to the module and facilitator's guide. The goal is to eventually make changes to all six sessions in the module.



Participants of the CSEFEL Cultural Conversations Café pose for a photo. (Standing L-R): Jennifer Killion and Eva Helgenberger, Micronesia Resource Center-One Stop Shop (MR COSS); Pauline Camacho, Jamie Freitas, Tammy Bamba, and Helene Paulino, Kariñu; Bonnie Brandt and Vera Blaz, CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team; and Lizzy Calvo, Karinu. (Sitting L-R): Lolita Leon Guerrero and Bella Fagota, Kariñu; Action Aiashy, MR COSS; Bertha Diamond, Kariñu; Anita Ulloa, Kariñu Social Work Intern, and Bernadette Shisler, CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team. Not pictured: Keith Villaluna, CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team.



Participants discuss activities and handouts used in the CSEFEL Pre-K Parent Module: Positive Solutions for Families during the Cultural Conversations Café facilitated by the CEDDERS LAUNCH Evaluation Team on February 28, 2018 at the Westin Resort Guam.

GUAM CEDDERS KEY

1992

- » Work began at Federal level to create funding for Guam University Affiliated Program (UAP)
- » University of Hawaii (UH) and University of Guam (UOG) advised of feasibility study funding

1993

- » Guam UAP established as a satellite of UH Pacific Basin UAP.
- » First Island-wide Territorial Forum on Disability

1994

- » First UAP Federal Site Visit
- » Guam UAP gains independent status
- » Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) federal grant awarded
- » Interpreter Training grant awarded
- » DD Council projects awarded to UAP: First study on transportation, Job coaching, Manu na Gaige Resource Directory, Consumer newsletter, Legal Guide published

1995

- » GSAT Center Building established
- » First GSAT Advisory Board formed
- » First UAP Annual Assistive Technology Conference

1996

- » Regional Sign Language Interpreter Grant funded

2002

- » Project I Famagu'on-ta, Guam's System of Care for Children 5-21 with serious mental health needs funded
- » Guam CEDDERS hosts federal public hearing on the Reauthorization of IDEA
- » GSAT hosts first videoconferencing activity
- » Guam CEDDERS 10th Anniversary
- » Guam CEDDERS Survives Typhoons Chata'an & Pongsona

2003

- » Guam CEDDERS hosts Island Summit on Disabilities
- » Guam EHDI, Telework and GOAL-AT grants awarded
- » Transportation Summit

2004

- » Project Fo'na, Graduate program to train Speech Language Pathologists grant awarded
- » GSAT 10th anniversary celebrated
- » CNMI Child Care Project
- » Palau Child Care Project

2005

- » Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Legislation Passed
- » 3rd Annual Walk, Wheel, Run 5K or 1 Mile Event
- » Project Håtsa -Teacher Quality Enhancement kicks off
- » Project Tinituhon, Early Childhood Comprehensive Planning, begins
- » Guam Early Learning Guidelines Three to Five years published

2006

- » First GOAL-AT Loan Application awarded
- » Pacific Assessment Consortium (PAC 6) planning grant begins
- » 4th Annual Walk, Wheel, Run 5K or 1 Mile Event

2011

- » Self-Advocates Lead Self-Advocate Workshop!
- » Pacific CIMAP outcomes Shared with Australia
- » Rules/Regulations for Child Care Centers & Group Child Care Homes becomes law
- » Pacific VIP Master's Degree Program Launched
- » Tele-Audiology project w/ Colorado Children's Hospital
- » Project Bisita I Familia Guam's Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funded

2012

- » Self-Advocacy Summit
- » Early Childhood Summit
- » McREL Pacific Research Alliance formed
- » First LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities) cohort graduates

2013

- » Guam CEDDERS hosts Self-Advocacy lecture series by visiting Fulbright Scholar Yevgeniy "Yev" Tetyukhin, Ph.D.
- » American Printing House for the Blind Officials Visit Guam for the first time
- » Second LEND Cohort Graduate

2014

- » Updates for Policymakers from Advocates on Guam's Disability Agenda Forum held
- » Disability & Society Course Series Developed
- » Project LAUNCH funding awarded
- » Securement Training for Bus Drivers
- » Pacific VIP Scholars Graduate
- » Third LEND Cohort Graduate
- » Guam ELGs Three to Five Years updated

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

1997

- » UAP Celebrates 5th Anniversary
- » Second UAP federal site review
- » “Train the Trainer” Workshop: “Access and Use of AT Devices & Services”

1998

- » First issue of I Tellai (The Bridge) published
- » Health, Wellness, & Prevention Initiative Area established
- » Conference on Employment of Individuals with Disabilities held

1999

- » Project Alula: BA in Communication Disorders begins
- » Educational Assistant Program for School Aides established
- » Regional Sign Language Interpreter Training Cycle 1 graduation
- » Guam UAP & WRRC Conduct IDEA and Instructional Strategies Training in the Marshall Islands

2000

- » Project Filak I funded to build awareness of System of Care approach and wraparound for children with serious mental health needs
- » PBILC 2000 Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Conference held

2001

- » Guam UAP becomes Guam CEDDERS
- » 1st Annual Walk, Wheel, Run 5K or 1 mile event

2007

- » First issue of Ta Na’ Siña (We Can Do it!) now called I Lina’la-ta (Our Lives), a newsletter, that highlights people with disabilities
- » Pacific CIMAP begins
- » Family Advocacy Creates Results: \$750,000 in New Funding for Guam’s System of Care
- » Guam Early Learning Guidelines Birth - 36 months published

2008

- » Project Fo’na scholars graduate!
- » Governor’s Early Childhood Summit
- » Early Learning Council established
- » Guam CEDDERS I Famagu’on-ta Evaluation Team received SAMHSA’s Excellence in Evaluation Award
- » PACIFIC Project begins

2009

- » Project Kariñu, Guam’s Early Childhood System of Care for young children with social, emotional, and behavioral needs funded
- » PAC6 Team Presents at PacRim and Pacific Education Conferences
- » Updated Self-Advocacy Workshop Offered
- » CEDDERS facilitates I Famagu’on-ta Evaluation Summit

2010

- » Pacific Vision Instruction Project (Graduate Program) Grant Awarded in collaboration with Univ. of Massachusetts
- » Tri-Agency Bowling Bash
- » Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities
- » Guam Presents at SABA (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowerment) Conference

2015

- » Guam hosts OSEP Pacific Meeting
- » National Center and State Collaborative provides TA on Alternate Assessments
- » “Faces of Autism” video series released
- » Planning for “No Wrong Door”
- » GELGs Birth to Thirty-Six Months revised

2016

- » EPICS Project, Graduate Training for Speech Language Pathologist with San Jose State University begins
- » ADOS Diagnostic Cohort 1 earns certification
- » GSAT Model Home Opens

2017

- » Tri-Agency Disability Summit
- » Behavioral Health & Disabilities Glossary Published
- » 23rd Annual GSAT Conference
- » ADOS Diagnostic Cohort 2 earns certification

2018

- » Tele-Audiology Project with Boys Town
- » CEDDERS 25th Anniversary
- » D/HH Parent Support Group

Giacomo Vivanti, Ph.D., Shares Research Findings on Autism

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can and do learn. – a principle emphasized throughout the February 5-9 Guam visit conducted by Giacomo Vivanti, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Vivanti is author of “Implementing the Group-Based Early Start Denver Model for Preschoolers with Autism.” His career has been driven by a key commitment, namely understanding the nature of learning difficulties in autism and developing effective programs to address such difficulties within community-based settings.

Dr. Vivanti’s February 2018 visit was an opportunity to support the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), Division of Special Education’s efforts to improve functional outcomes and educational results for young children with ASD. With a focus on early intervention and preschool services, Dr. Vivanti conducted home and classroom observations, an evening parent session, and a two-day personnel training session. The home and classroom observations provided Dr. Vivanti with the context of services and supports provided on Guam for young children with ASD. This allowed him to appreciate the many resources that children with ASD and their families can count on in Guam, including the capacity for early diagnosis (children were all diagnosed under the age of 3, whereas the median age of diagnosis in the U.S. continues to be after the fourth birthday), the expertise of professionals and their mastery of parent coaching and educational evidence-based practices, and the solid family structure supporting child rearing in Guam’s island community.

In the evening of February 7, Dr. Vivanti presented Best Practices in Intervention for Young Children with ASD with 10 family members of children with ASD. His presentation covered recent research on best practices in ASD intervention for young children birth through age five with ASD, including strategies that promote skill acquisition across cognitive, social, and communication domains. The two-hour session also encouraged dialogue amongst family members to share their experiences and ask questions of Dr. Vivanti and other attending family members. Dr. Vivanti started with his presentation and ended with each family member sharing and learning from each other.

On February 8 & 9, Dr. Vivanti facilitated the two-day professional development, Autism Spectrum Disorder: Early Development, Early Diagnosis, and Early Intervention, with 125 GDOE early intervention and early childhood providers, as well as early childhood providers from Guam

Department of Public Health and Social Services, and early intervention and/or preschool program representatives from neighboring island education departments in the CNMI, FSM, and Palau. The content for the two days covered the nature and cause of ASD, understanding early development, and current approaches to research-supported intervention practices for toddlers and preschoolers with ASD, including implementation of the Early Start Denver Model. Dr. Vivanti illustrated research showing that children with ASD have intact ability to learn from their own experiences (for example, they would learn not to touch the oven after being burned). However, they have difficulties in social learning – learning from (and about) actions and communication of other people. These difficulties disproportionately affect the acquisition of skills that develop in the context of social interactions, such as play, social communication, and adapting own behavior to social rules and expectations.

Understanding the nature of learning difficulties in ASD is a critical step for the implementation of best practice interventions that support the social learning children with ASD need early on. Early identification and early intervention using evidence-based interventions will support how young children learn and apply social and academic skills in community-based settings. Research is increasingly showing that evidence-based early intervention programs can change life-course outcomes for individuals with ASD, helping realize their full potential and mitigating the personal, family and societal burden associated with the symptoms of ASD.



Dr. Vivanti (standing) reviews the Task Analysis process during the two-day professional development on February 8 & 9 at the Guam Hilton.

Research Findings on Autism (cont.)



On February 9, Dr. Vivanti (standing) presents on the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM), an evidence-based intervention for young children with ASD.

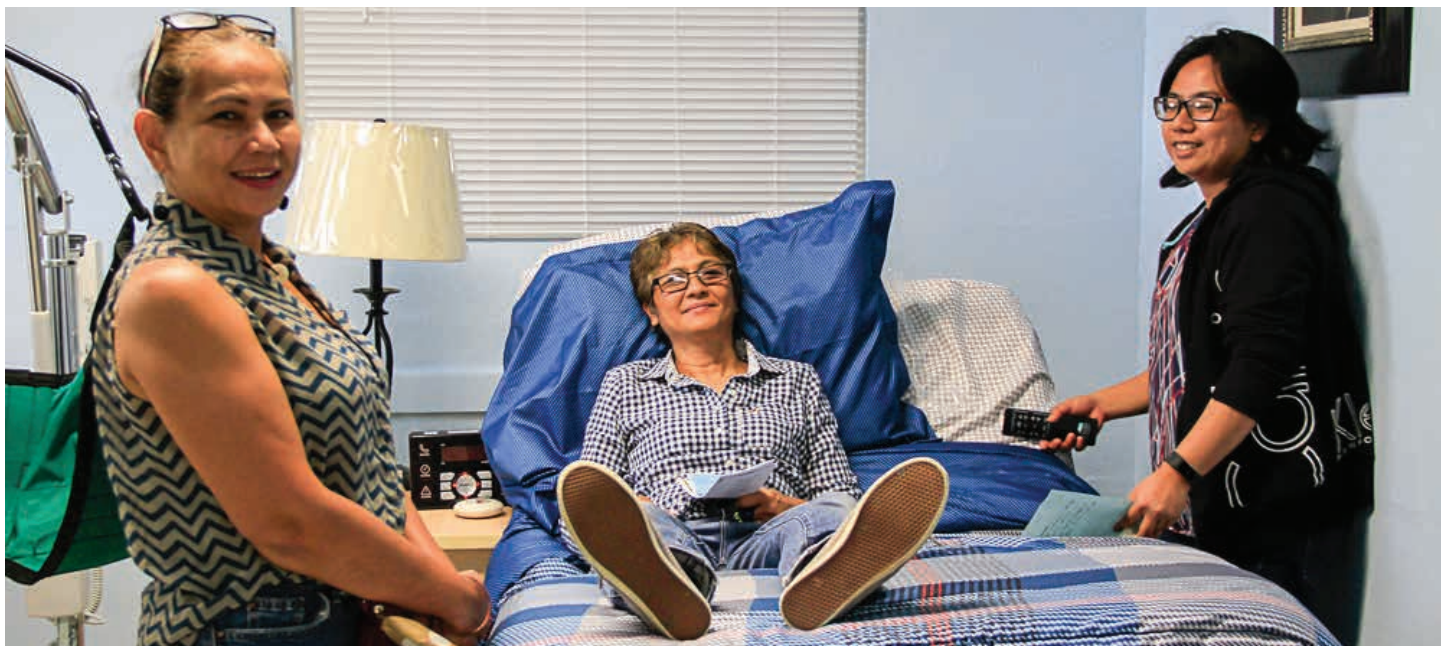


On February 9, Cindy Respcio (with microphone), Assistant Director, Head Start Program, GDOE, shares her reflections on the reading assignment.



On February 7, Dr. Vivanti (sitting in front of screen) presents best practices in ASD intervention with families of children with ASD at the University of Guam.

GSAT Center Demonstrates Adjustable Bed for Model Home Visitors



On December 26, GSAT Center Coordinator, Leah Abelon demonstrated an adjustable bed in the GSAT Model Home to Annette Babauta and Geri Quintanilla (left). The adjustable bed is power-operated, has controls to raise and lower the head and foot of the bed, and includes a massage feature.

Individual Receives Assistive Technology from the Helen Keller National Foundation



On January 12, Leah Abelon (L), GSAT Center Coordinator, provided technical assistance to Clifford Ray Hackett, who was the first recipient of technology through the iCanConnect – The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) administered by the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC). The NDBEDP is a national program designed to help the many thousands of people in the U.S. with significant combined hearing and vision loss to connect with their family, friends, and community through distance communication technology. For those who qualify for the program and meet income eligibility guidelines, equipment and training for distance communication is provided for free. Guam CEDDERS recently established a collaborative relationship with HKNC to assist with demonstration, training, and technical assistance of Assistive Technology for individuals who are eligible for program support.

Southern Adult Day Care Center Clients Learn About AT

Increasing public awareness about the significant benefits of assistive technology made to one's quality of life requires an on-going effort. In addition to the various island outreach events in collaboration with various service agencies and having various post-secondary classes come to visit the Model Home and Assistive Technology Center in Mangilao, Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) staff schedule presentations in the community targeting specific populations. This was the case when GSAT staff conducted an outreach event on February 9 at Southern Adult Day Care Center in the village of Inarajan.

Assistive technology devices demonstrated during the hour presentation supported mobility, vision and hearing communication, recreation, and daily living. Smart device applications for people with dementia to assist with their memory were also demonstrated which included Talking Tom 2, My Reef 3D, Let's Create Pottery, Flower Garden, and MindMate. In addition, information about the services GSAT provided was presented, which included the Akudi Loan Program, Guam Recycling & Equipment Exchange Service (GREET), device demonstration, short-term (30

days) device loan, trainings, and public awareness.

Attendees were senior citizens, individuals with disability, family members, and representatives of employment, health, allied health, and rehabilitation. They were actively involved in the presentation. When called upon, they showed no hesitation to assist with demonstration of assistive technology devices. They were engaged as GSAT staff conducted a one to one interactive demonstration with the devices. In depth conversations were communicated as questions and clarification were discussed.

In appreciation of GSAT outreach efforts, the Inarajan Adult Day Care Center shared their generous southern hospitality by preparing a feast of various traditional delicacies. In addition, some of the participants shared their traditional ways of food preparation. Some also shared about the history of how family names evolved. The outcome of this event was beneficial to the attendees as they shared their positive feedback, which stressed that the information shared was helpful as they gained knowledge about assistive technology and the services of GSAT.



Crafting a System Approach for Improvement



On January 29 and 31, Rob Corso, Ph.D. (standing), Senior Research Associate at Vanderbilt University, meets with the Guam Leadership Team tasked with developing and supporting a strategic plan for how the Department of Education will improve educational results for students with emotional disabilities. The Leadership Team is comprised of education personnel: School administrators, teachers, and Division program personnel, including the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Project Director. Dr. Corso's January on-site visit was a follow-up to his August 2017 visit conducted to review the program priorities for improving educational results for students with emotional disabilities



On January 30, Dr. Corso (standing) facilitates the Department of Education's Stakeholder Input Session to gather information on how the Department can improve educational results for students with emotional disabilities. The input session included various Department stakeholders vested in a system approach to improvement. Aligned with the Department's vision to "educate ALL students to be respectful, responsible, and ready for life," a system approach to improving the educational service provisions for students with emotional disabilities will be critical for ensuring that these students are ready for life!

GDOE Continues Its Road Map for Improving Reading Achievement



On January 16, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) State Systemic Improvement Project (SSIP) Professional Development included revisiting the SY 2017-2018 Guidelines for Implementation of Universal Screening & Progress Monitoring for Reading. The SSIP school administrators and instructional coaches reviewed the teacher input incorporated into the updated guidelines. (Left Photo) Melissa Limo (standing), Principal, reviews the guidelines with her teachers from JM Guerrero Elementary School. (Right Photo) Kathryn San Nicolas (standing left), Acting Principal, and Josephine Cruz, Instructional Coach, review the guidelines with Price Elementary School teachers.

Follow Up Webinar Continues Support



Mary Schillinger (shown on TV), Education Consultant, facilitates the February 2 webinar with Guam Division of Special Education Consulting Resource Teachers-Technical Assistance and Transition Specialists. The webinar reviewed executive functioning skills, levels of communication, and the National Center and State Collaborative Essential Standards for developing Core aligned Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. The February 2nd webinar was the second follow-up session conducted to further the support provided by Division personnel to school personnel working with students with disabilities.

Resources Provided to Naval Base School Liaison Officer



Guam CEDDERS provided GSAT and Akudi brochures and copies of the 2017 Neni Directory of Services for Young Children to Barbara Askey (right), Naval Base Guam School Liaison Officer, on January 16, for the upcoming Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) Workshop for military parents who have children with special needs. School Liaison Officers help connect military families, commands, and Kindergarten – 12th Grade schools.

Guam CEDDERS Rep Appointed to Guam State Rehab Council



On January 11, the State Rehabilitation Council held its Executive Meeting at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Conference Room. Attending were (sitting; L-R) Jeanette Yamashita, Planning and Resource Committee Chairperson; Laura Taisipic, Planning and Resource Committee Vice Chairperson; Barbara Johnson, Services Committee member; (standing; L-R) Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) Director; Erlinda Tydingco, SRC Vice Chairperson; Pete Barcinas, SRC Secretary; Leah Abelon, Outreach Committee Chairperson; and Edmund Cruz, Services Committee Chairperson.

National Deaf Center Provides Technical Assistance



Staff from the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes (NDC) were on Guam during the week of February 28 through March 2 to provide technical assistance to several Guam organizations. Left Photo (L-R): Tia Ivanko, Technical Assistance Coordinator, discusses access issues with Joseph Gumataotao, University of Guam Acting Human Resources Administrator, and Sallie Sablan, UOG ADA Support Services Counselor. Right Photo: Stephanie Zito, Technical Assistance Specialist, and Ms. Ivanko (standing in background L-R) share information on March 1 relating to their projects and supports for adults who are deaf/hard of hearing in school and in the work place. The NDC Team were also presenters at the 24th Assistive Technology Conference held on March 2.

Visit our websites for resources and events



www.guamcedders.org



www.gsatcedders.org



www.guamehdi.org

Tri-Agency Collaboration Produces DD Awareness TV Ad



Sherry Guerrero (standing), Guam CEDDERS Disability Media Specialist, shows Jacob Perez (middle) and Victoria Perez (right) a draft of the DD Awareness video. The video will be showcased on different television stations to help celebrate the month of March being Developmental Disabilities Month.

Staff Transition



Sherolyn "Sherry" Guerrero, Disability Media Specialist, recently left Guam CEDDERS to pursue other opportunities. During her employment with the organization, Sherry played a key role in developing and producing multi-media products for various projects including websites, print, and video. In addition, she served as Tech Support and conducted workshops on producing accessible documents and websites.

Esta later, Sherry, and best of luck in your future endeavors!



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

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I Tellai is a quarterly publication of Guam CEDDERS.
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This issue of *I Tellai* was made possible by contributions from the following Guam CEDDERS staff members/consultant: Leah Abelon, Jenika Ballesta, Vera Blaz, June De Leon, Terrie Fejarang, Sherry Guerrero, Tanya Simer, June Quitugua, Keith Villaluna, and Marie Wusstig.

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

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

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar
18**

Mar 1 "Accommodations for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students at the Post-Secondary Level" Presentation by the National Deaf Center on Post-Secondary Outcomes, 9:00am-11:00am, GSAT House 19, Dean Circle, Mangilao

Mar 1 Deaf Community Meeting with the National Deaf Center on Post-Secondary Outcomes, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Oasis Empowerment Center

Mar 2 GSAT Conference, 8:00am-4:00pm, Westin Resort Guam

Mar 2 CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 3:30pm-5:00pm, Westin Resort Guam

Mar 6 Guam EHDI Advisory Council Meeting, Hilton Resort

Mar 10 Head Start Fitness Fair, 9:00am-1:00pm, Dededo Sports Complex

Mar 14 GPPT First Parent Organization Meeting, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Carmen's Restaurant, Hagatna

Mar 14 Guam Developmental Disabilities Council General Membership Meeting, 11:00am-2:00pm, Holiday Resort Guam

Mar 15-Mar 17 National Association of Social Workers Guam Annual Regional Conference, 8:00am-4:00pm, Westin Resort Guam

Mar 17-Mar 20 Guam EHDI Pacific Islands Meeting 2018, Denver, Colorado

Mar 23 DPHSS High Risk Follow-Up Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Mangilao

Mar 24 GSAT Fair, 10:00am-2pm, Agana Shopping Center

Mar 28 GEIS/Chief Brodie Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning

Mar 28 Project FitMe Deaf Hard of Hearing Parent Support Group Meeting, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Turé Cafe, Hagatna

Mar 29 Intro to Exceptional Children AT Presentation, 11:00am-12:30pm, GSAT House 19, Dean Circle

Mar 29 Guam EHDI Evaluation Meeting, 10:00am-2:00pm, Pacific Star Hotel, Tumon

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



Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI) staff participated in a community outreach event held at the Pagachao Housing area in Agat on March 17. Jenika Ballesta, Hearing Screening Facilitator, and Mary Kidd, Guam EHDI Consultant, provided information to a diverse group of parents to increase awareness of the importance of hearing screening and how hearing impacts language development in young children.