



Guam's Early Childhood System of Care

EVALUATION REPORT

November 2014

Project Kariñu Vision

*Our children and families
will have healthy minds, bodies,
and spirits for lifelong success*



INTRODUCTION

Project Kariñu is Guam's Early Childhood System of Care for young children from birth to age five, who are experiencing challenges in their social, emotional, and/or behavioral development, as well as for young children who are considered "at risk." Project Kariñu works closely with families and other service providers to support young children's social emotional development and mental health by:

- building awareness and parenting skills,
- conducting screening and assessments, and
- providing family supports, individualized treatment, and interventions.

In partnership with other agencies, programs, and initiatives, Project Kariñu works to enhance Guam's early childhood workforce and to create systems change and policy reform. Woven throughout all of Project Kariñu's activities is the belief that early childhood mental health services should be community-based, child-centered and family-driven, and culturally and linguistically responsive.



Who does Project Kariñu Serve?

415 children and their families had contact with Project Kariñu through the referral process and/or outreach events between June 2011 and October 2014.



Referrals

253 children have been formally referred, screened, and assessed.

- 62% male; 38% female
- Average age: 3.5 years
- 76% are of Chamorro descent

Children's 5 Most Common Challenges	Percentage
Developmental Disability	28%
Maltreatment	27%
Adjustment	25%
Disruptive Behaviors	25%
Caregiver's Mental Health	18%

Most Children Were Referred by their Caregivers

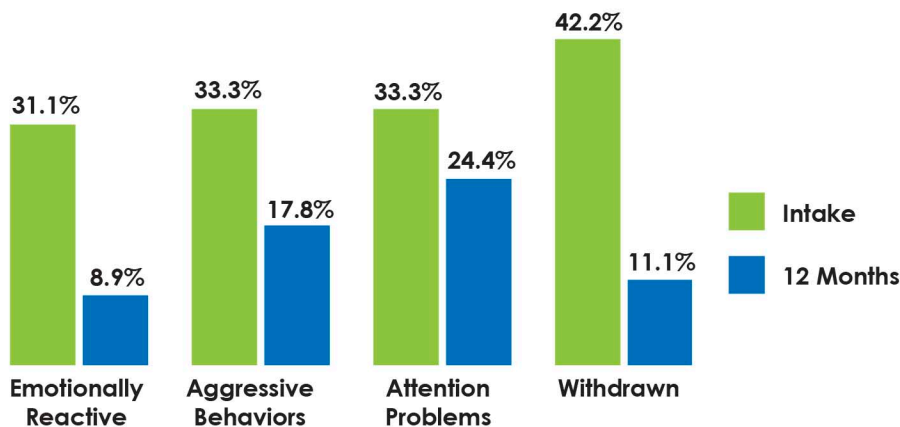


About This Report

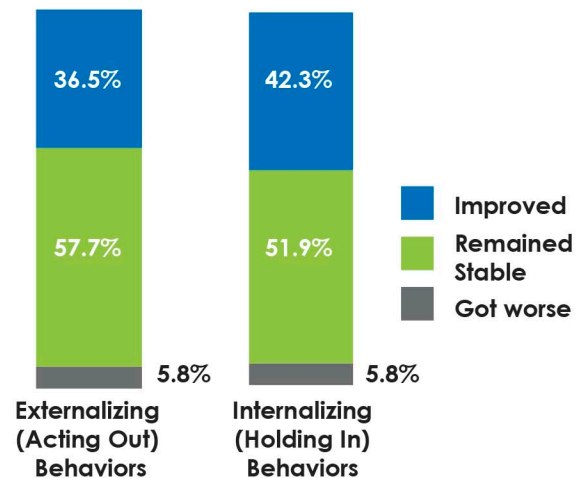
This report is the second in a series and summarizes findings from the evaluation of Project Kariñu from October 2009 through August 2014. Descriptive data is presented on 248 children and families and outcome data is presented on children and families who enrolled in the longitudinal research study who completed a 12 month follow-up data collection interview (n = 73). Descriptive data was collected using the Enrollment and Demographic Information form (EDIF).

POSITIVE OUTCOMES AFTER 2 YEARS

Fewer Children Experience Serious Problems

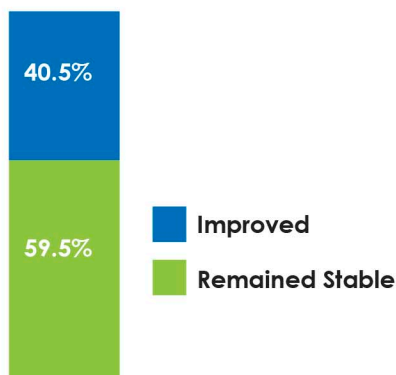


Data collected using the Child Behavior Checklist 1 1/2-5 (CBCL 1 1/2-5). Caregiver report.



Data collected using the Child Behavior Checklist 1 1/2-5 (CBCL 1 1/2-5). Caregiver report.

40.5% Caregivers Reported Feeling Less Stress



Data collected using the Caregiver Strain Questionnaire (CGSQ). Caregiver report.

Caregivers' Perspectives on Services at 12 Months

Perspectives on Services	Caregiver: % Reporting Positively
Cultural Sensitivity	96.4%
Social Connectedness	85.7%
Participation in Treatment	82.1%
Access to Services	78.6%
Satisfaction with Services	78.6%
Outcome	75.0%
Functioning	75.0%

Data collected using the Youth Services Survey for Families (YSS-F). Caregiver report.



BUILDING A STRONGER WORKFORCE

Prior to the funding of Project Kariñu, the field of early childhood mental health was relatively new to Guam. Few families and providers were aware of the critical relationship between young children's social emotional development and wellness later in life and very limited mental health services were available to children under the age of five. Addressing the need for parent education and workforce development has been a significant focus of Project Kariñu and very much a collaborative effort across Guam's early childhood programs and initiatives. Through the braiding of funds, a commitment of in-kind resources, and the sharing of a common vision, over 35 local trainings for families and providers have been offered from October 2011 to September 2014. Providers are now trained to use validated screening and assessment tools (ASQ-3, ASQ:SE, and DC: 0-3R), apply best practice approaches to service delivery (Systems of Care and wraparound), and provide evidence-based interventions (Incredible Years, Pyramid Model, Strengthening Families).



Training Timeline: October 2011 – September 2014

2011

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Version 3
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional (ASQ:SE)
- Incredible Years Basic Preschool Modules
- Incredible Years Infant & Toddler Modules
- Pyramid Model: Infant & Toddler Modules

2012

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional Online
- Behavioral Health Interpreter Training
- Cultural & Linguistic Competency Awareness
- Cultural & Linguistic Competency & Language Assistance Services
- Incredible Years Booster
- Strengthening Families: the Protective Factors
- Wraparound: 6 sessions for Staff, Families & Stakeholders

2013

- Behavioral Health Interpreter Training
- Building an Early Childhood System of Care Planning Retreat
- Cultural Conversations
- DC: 0-3R
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Pyramid Model: 2 Train the Trainer Sessions
- Strengthening Families: 3 Sessions
- Universal Referral Process
- Wellness Coaching
- Wraparound

2014

- Access to Language Equality Public Forum
- Cultural & Linguistic Competency & CLAS Standards
- Pyramid Model: Family Coaching
- Pyramid Model: Positive Solutions for Families
- Pyramid Model: Train the Trainer Preschool Modules
- Strengthening Families
- Sustaining Our Early Childhood System of Care Planning Retreat

ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH SYSTEMS CHANGE

- Project Kariñu has worked to increase access and the coordination and integration of services through its involvement with the Service Delivery Workgroup which was formed in 2010. Over the past four years, this group has worked to develop and pilot the Universal Referral and Intake Form (URIF) and process. In 2014, the URIF was officially adopted by the Guam Early Learning Council.
- An important outcome for Guam's Early Childhood System of Care is increased and formalized collaboration across agencies and programs. To date, Project Kariñu entered into five (5) memorandum of understandings (MOU) with other early childhood agencies/programs designed to increase access, coordination, and the integration of services.
- Cultural and linguistic competency is a core System of Care value that is reflected across Project Kariñu's activities. In June 2013, Project Kariñu sponsored "Cultural Conversations in Behavioral Health." Thirty-five representatives from Guam's most common ethnicities discussed and documented cultural views of 10 behavioral health and early childhood concepts, resulting in increased cross-cultural understanding. Project Kariñu also produced a calendar promoting cultural pride and multicultural perspectives on caring for young children. The calendar was widely disseminated locally and at a national System of Care conference.
- As of August 2014, Project Kariñu has the capacity to collect descriptive data and track children's progress using the ChildLink database. This provides the Department of Public Health and Social Services with the capacity to sustain Project Kariñu's evaluation and continuous quality improvement process after federal funding ends.

Systems Change

One of the goals of Project Kariñu is to create "systems change" by working closely with other agencies, programs, and initiatives to transform the way services are provided to children and families. Systems change includes things like joint decision-making across agencies and with families; cultural and linguistic competence; service coordination and integration; sharing of resources; evaluation and data sharing; and changes in public policy. Project Kariñu partners with Project Tinituhon (the Early Childhood Comprehensive System), icareguam (Guam's System of Care expansion initiative), and Culture and Language Access Service Partners (CLASP) to improve access to services, child and family outcomes, and families' service experiences through systems change.



If You're Concerned About A Young Child Because Of:

- Poor weight gain or slow growth
- Problems sleeping
- Problems being comforted or soothed
- Excessive fears or fussiness
- Delayed development

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