



Guam's Early Childhood System of Care

EVALUATION REPORT

November 2015

Project Kariñu Vision

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



Project Kariñu Helps Young Children

This report provides an annual update on the evaluation of Project Kariñu. Five years of evaluation data demonstrates that the children and families served by Project Kariñu have experienced positive outcomes. Fewer children experience serious emotional and behavioral challenges, and many caregivers reported improvements in their parenting skills and less stress associated with raising their child.

Project Kariñu is an early childhood mental health program located within the Department of Public Health and Social Services. It offers a variety of services and supports for young children, birth – 5 years of age who experience challenges in their social, emotional, and behavioral development. From June 2011 – September 2015, over 524 children and their families have had contact with Project Kariñu through the referral process or outreach events. Project Kariñu uses a “system of care approach” to provide culturally and linguistically competent services that are child centered, family driven, and community based. It works closely with caregivers and other service providers so that services meet children’s unique needs and are coordinated and integrated. Services include:

- outreach and referral;
- screening and assessment;
- individualized service planning, treatment, and interventions; and
- family support and caregiver education.

Characteristics of Children Receiving Services

- Children as young as 2 months through 6 years
- 62% are male and 38% are female
- 75.4% are Chamorro or Chamorro mix;
8.8% are Filipino or Filipino mix; 7.1% are Chuukese; and
8.6% are from other cultural/ethnic groups
- 32.6% are in foster care
- 45.5% of children reside in households with an annual income of less than \$25,000

% of Children with Risk Factors	
Family History of Depression	36.0%
Family History of Substance Abuse	34.0%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	28.0%
Family History of Mental Illness other than Depression	18.4%
Experienced Physical Assault	12.0%
Experienced Sexual Assault	5.7%

Children’s 5 Most Common Challenges	
Specific Developmental Disability	28.9%
Disruptive Behaviors	27.4%
Maltreatment	25.9%
Adjustment	25.5%
Parental/Caregiver Mental Health	17.9%

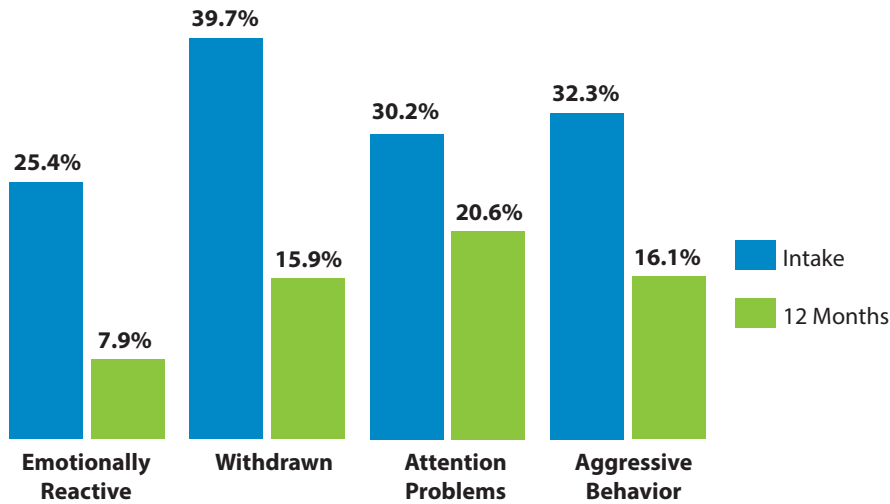


About This Report

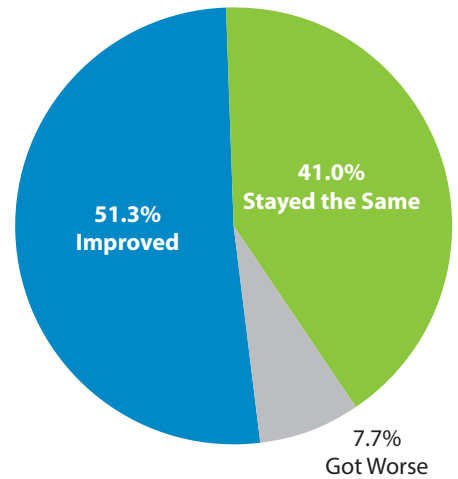
This report is the fourth in a series and summarizes findings from the evaluation of Project Kariñu from October 2009 – September 2015. Descriptive data is presented on 294 children/families from data collected using the Enrollment and Demographic Information Form. Outcome data is presented on children/families enrolled in the National longitudinal study.

Areas of Improvement

Fewer Children Experience Serious Challenges

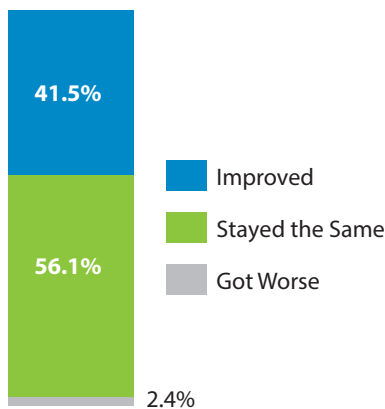


Data collected using the Child Behavior Checklist 1 1/2 - 5 (CBCL 1 1/2 - 5).
Caregiver report Intake to 12 Months. N = 63.



Data collected using the Child Behavior Checklist 1 1/2 - 5 (CBCL 1 1/2 - 5).
Caregiver report Intake to 18 Months. N = 39.

41.5% Caregivers Reported Feeling Less Stress



Data collected using the Caregiver Strain Questionnaire (CGSQ).
Caregiver report Intake to 24 Months. N = 41.

Families Share How Project Kariñu Has Helped

"I'm not reactive anymore; more calm, patient."

"Play therapy helps parents understand children's feelings, to better help the child."

"I find it most helpful that Project Kariñu taught my son how to relate well with other kids. Taught him how to play instead of hurting others."

"My child is now listening to me.... She comes out and talks about her feelings..."



Caregivers' Service Experience

Types of Services Received

- At intake, children received an average of 3 different system of care services
- 93.2% of caregivers participated in the development of their child's service plan

Name of Service	Intake	6 Months
Assessment/Evaluation	98.0%	69.0%
Transportation	58.0%	66.0%
Case Management	43.0%	68.0%
Informal Support	38.0%	44.0%
Family Support	26.0%	53.0%
Individual Therapy	6.0%	15.0%
Family Therapy	4.0%	4.0%
Crisis Stabilization	1.0%	1.0%

Data collected using the Multi-Sector Service Contacts-Revised (MSSC-R).
Caregiver report: N = 100.

Caregivers Report Positively

Caregivers Perspectives on Services	% Reporting Positively	
	6 Months	12 Months
Access to Services	85.4%	75.6%
Social Connectedness	76.9%	76.9%
Participation in Treatment	76.3%	81.6%
Outcome	68.4%	71.1%
Functioning	68.4%	73.7%
Satisfaction with Services	67.5%	70.0%

Data collected using the Youth Services Survey for Families (YSS-F) Caregiver Report. N = 39.

Cultural and Linguistic Competence

All families are asked if they would like free language assistance services when they first enter the program. Interpreters are used during New Family Orientation and service delivery. After 12 months, 94.9% of caregivers reported positively when asked about Project Kariñu's cultural sensitivity in providing services.

When asked, "How important is it that....," caregivers responded at 6, 12, & 18 months:	6 Months	12 Months	18 Months
You and your child have a service provider who understands the customs, practices, and traditions of your child's racial/ethnic group?	76.4%	58.2%	72.7%
The beliefs, traditions, and practices of your racial/ethnic group are included in service planning and provision?	61.8%	52.7%	60.0%
The person you and your child have seen most often is of the same racial/ethnic group as your child?	32.7%	25.5%	41.8%

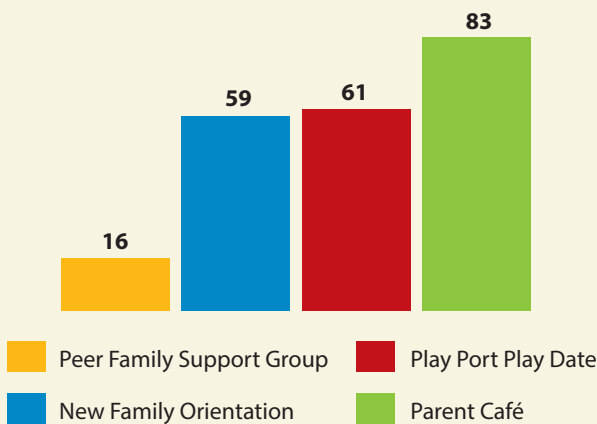
Data collected using the Cultural Competence and Service Provision Questionnaire, Revised (CCSP-R) Caregiver Report: N = 55.



Family Support Activities

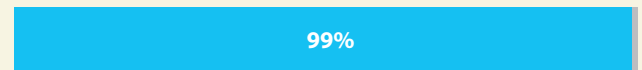
Strong families are the foundation for positive outcomes for young children and Project Kariñu works to strengthen families and build resiliency through its Family Support Activities. Seventeen family support activities were conducted from October 2014 to September 2015.

Number of Participants

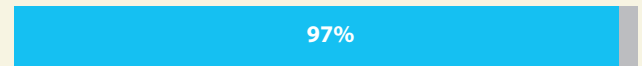


Parent Cafés strengthen families and develop parenting skills. During the Cafés, caregivers engage in conversations and learn from each other.

I learned something that will help me as a parent



I plan to change something about my parenting



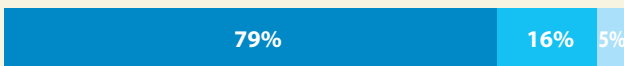
Agree Disagree

New Family Orientation is conducted monthly. Families meet with staff, complete initial screening questionnaires, and learn about the program and system of care approach.

I understand how Kariñu can help my child & family



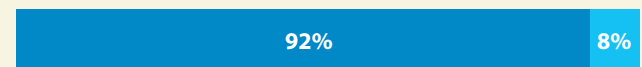
The information was easy to understand



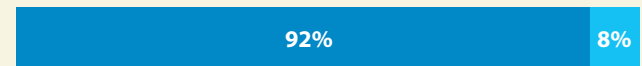
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Agree

Peer Family Support Groups allow families to get together informally to learn something new and connect with other caregivers.

I felt comfortable sharing



I learned something new



Strongly Agree Agree



Play Dates give caregivers “a break” from the stress of raising a child and create positive interactions through play.

“ This event was able to provide my son with the opportunity to socialize with more children his age.

“ I’m really excited to be here. I love spending time with my kids and enjoy watching them run around and have fun. And making friends is important too!

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

Contact: Project Kariñu
(671) 478-5400

Department of Public Health and Social Services
Terlaje Professional Building, 2nd Floor, Suite 208
194 Herman Cortez Avenue, Hagatna, Guam 96910
www.projectkarinu.org

For More Information About the Evaluation Report Contact: Project Kariñu Evaluation Team

University of Guam
Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
(Guam CEDDERS)
House #12 Dean Circle, Mangilao, Guam 96923
(671)735-2397/98/2618



This report was prepared by Bonnie Brandt, M.A. and Keith Villaluna, B.B.A., University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (Guam CEDDERS). One hundred percent (100%) funding for this publication was provided by the Child Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) Cooperative Agreement 5U79SM059022-06 between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Mental Health Services and the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services. The University of Guam is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.