



# The Council

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Issue No. 1

# CHRONICLE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
Governor of Guam

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
Lt. Governor of Guam

JOSEPHINE GUERRERO  
Chairwoman

JERMAINE ALERTA  
Executive Director

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Håfa adai* and welcome to the first issue of *The Council Chronicle*, brought to you by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC). This monthly newsletter will keep the public up to date on the latest with the GDDC and will highlight the important work being done to improve opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families. It will also include useful information aimed at helping readers better understand issues related to developmental disabilities and the GDDC, and will eventually feature sections such as: Meet Our Members, Alphabet Soup, Know the DD Act, Island Happenings, and other helpful content. On behalf of the GDDC family, *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* and thank you for reading!



## GDDC Staff Attend National Conference and Technical Institute



Left to right: 1) Group photo after Territory Roundtable meeting; 2) AIDD TA Institute program booklet; 3) Donna Meltzer, CEO of NACDD, giving opening remarks; 4) NACDD Annual Conference program booklet; and 5) Group photo with representatives from CNMI, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, Washington DC, Hawaii, and Guam.

Despite flash flood warnings and an impending tropical storm, members of the GDDC staff attended both the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Technical Assistance Institute and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Annual Conference from July 8-11 in New Orleans, Louisiana. GDDC's Jermaine Alerta, Executive Director, and Marie Libria, Program Coordinator IV, first participated in a Territory Roundtable meeting with NACDD and representatives from CNMI, American Samoa, and Hawaii to discuss advocacy challenges and other issues unique to the territories including the lack of voting representation in Congress, disaster preparedness for people with disabilities, gaps in the Disaster Relief Medicaid Act, and disaster relief in general. Alerta and Libria then joined approximately 275 participants from the various State and Territory Councils for the four-day event which opened with an update on the Administration for

for Community Living from Commissioner Julie Hocker of the Administration on Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services. Topics discussed during the TA Institute included greater insight and understanding of the State plan and annual program performance report, useful data collection and evaluation methods for monitoring State plan activities, and effective leveraging of technical assistance supports and services to benefit Territory Council work. Presentations at the NACDD Conference included ways to promote effective advocacy and self-advocacy efforts, work towards greater community integration, and strengthen supported decision-making for people with developmental disabilities. Additionally, Senator Mary Landrieu, Max Barrows, and April Dunn were honored for their achievements in sharing and promoting NACDD's core values of self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion. Next year's event is scheduled to take place in Washington DC. (See *additional photos on page 3*).

# MEET OUR MEMBERS Learn about the individuals who make up the Guam DD Council



Name:  
JOSEPHINE GUERRERO

Position(s):  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Chair, Children and Families  
Subcommittee

Years with the GDDC:  
7

Motto:  
"Together we stand, in  
unity we can!"

Josephine Guerrero, affectionately known as Josie, serves as the current Chairwoman of the GDDC. She first joined the Council in 2011 with the goal of better educating herself and, more importantly, becoming a stronger advocate for her son and other children with disabilities. Her son, Vadin, has down syndrome and Josie is an active member with the Down Syndrome Association of Guam. She envisions the Council working to address many issues including improvements in public transportation, increasing job opportunities for IWD, and getting specialists to Guam so that, instead of patients having to travel off-island, diagnoses are made and conditions are treated here. She wants her son to live a happy life and excel in all he sets out to do. Josie wants people to look beyond one's disability because you'll find something special.



Attendees pose for a group photo after the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council's most recent quarterly general membership meeting held on JUNE 12, 2019 at the Holiday Resort Guam.

# ALPHABET SOUP A Guide to Disability Related Acronyms

**ACL** - Administration on Community Living

**ADA** - Americans with Disabilities Act

**AIDD** - Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**CEDDERS** - Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service

**DISID** - Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities

**GDDC** - Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

**GLSC** - Guam Legal Services Corporation

**IDD** - Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

**IID** - Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

**IWD** - Individuals with Disabilities

**NACDD** - National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

# Know the DD Act The GDDC is among the 56 State and Territory Councils across the country. This section highlights the laws which initially created and currently oversee DD Councils.

## Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-402, 42 USC 15020)



### Subtitle B - Federal Assistance to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities SEC. 121. PURPOSE (42 USC 15021)

The purpose of this subtitle is to provide for allotments to support State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (referred to individually in this subtitle as a "Council") in each state to --

(1) engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that are consistent with the purpose described in section 101(b) and the policy described in section 101(c); and

(2) contribute to a coordinated, consumer- and family-centered, consumer- and family-oriented, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

# ISLAND HAPPENINGS

## GUAM CELEBRATES 75TH LIBERATION



The GDDC, along with the people of Guam, celebrated the 75th Guam Liberation festivities - "A Legacy of Peace & Friendship" - which included the Liberation Carnival and the Liberation Day Parade. Jermaine Alerta, GDDC Executive Director, served as emcee during several nights of the carnival.



## GDDC Takes Part in Town Hall with Visiting Federal Officials



On July 5, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio hosted a town hall meeting with local stakeholders, including the GDDC, to discuss various topics related to federal programs in which Guam participates or may soon participate. Jeannie Hovland, Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, and other representatives from HHS and the Department of the Interior attended as part of their Pacific Summit. Also discussed were opportunities for additional funding which are available to the territories.



*Additional photos from the AIDD TA Institute and NACDD Annual Conference*

In the month of July, the GDDC celebrated the 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, the ADA was the first comprehensive declaration of equality for IWD. It guarantees the rights of IWD to access public services and public places of accommodation such as stores, restaurants, and commercial buildings.

**ADA 29** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 ★ 1990 - 2019 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Americans with Disabilities Act  
 Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2019



We want to hear from you! Was this newsletter helpful? Is there other information that you would like to see included? Please let us know by contacting the GDDC office at (671) 735-9127 or send an e-mail to [guamddc@gddc.guam.gov](mailto:guamddc@gddc.guam.gov).

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The Guam Developmental Disabilities Council is a member of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.



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