



The Council

OCTOBER 2019
Issue No. 3

CHRONICLE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council



GDDC Conducts General Membership Meeting

On September 11, the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council conducted its final quarterly General Membership Meeting for Fiscal Year 2019. The Council elected its new officers: Joyce Tejeresas as Chairwoman, Monica Limtiaco as 1st Vice-Chair, Lourdes Mendiola as 2nd Vice-Chair, and Candice Perry as Secretary. Shermalin Pineda made a presentation on behalf of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and led lengthy discussion which addressed several GBHWC-related issues brought up by Council members including trainings for individuals and families, multi-disciplinary treatment teams, placement review teams, personal care assistants, and group home services. The Council also amended its by-laws to establish a Self-Advocacy Standing Committee in order to meet certain mandates of the DD Act. Additionally, Jermaine Alerta, GDDC Executive Director, updated the Council on the Guam ABLÉ Savings Program Act including meeting with off-island financial institution representatives and the Department of Revenue and Taxation. The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2019.



Executive Director Summit Held in Arkansas

Dozens of DD Council Executive Directors from across the nation, including Guam's Jermaine Alerta, converged in Little Rock, Arkansas from September 22-25 for the Executive Director Leadership Summit hosted by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and the Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. Participants discussed the respective councils' shared goals, state plans, council roles in local DD networks, federal agency reorganization and expectations, financial reporting requirements, and pending Congressional appropriations for DD Councils. Guest speakers for the event included Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, journalist Rex Nelson, Paralympian John Register, and Russell Shaffer (Walmart Director of Diversity and Inclusion). Additionally, participants visited the Governor's Mansion, the ACCESS Academy and Young Adult Campus, the William Jefferson Presidential Library, and the Little Rock Central High School Campus and National Museum.



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)



Title I - PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Subtitle A - General Provisions; SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS (42 USC 15002)

(8) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.--

(A) IN GENERAL.-- The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that--

- (i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- (ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;
- (iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - (I) Self-care.
 - (II) Receptive and expressive language.
 - (III) Learning.
 - (IV) Mobility.
 - (V) Self-direction.
 - (VI) Capacity for independent living.
 - (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and

(v) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

(B) INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.-- An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

South Korean Students Visit DD Council Office

On September 20, students from NEXT Academy in South Korea visited the GDDC to speak and learn more about services offered for students with developmental disabilities. These young adults shared the story of their classmate with DD and their concern that government services in their country for her and others with DD often do not continue to be available after high school. They discussed ideas to increase public awareness and other ways to help people better



understand DD, and floated the idea of establishing a student exchange program between Guam and South Korea for students with disabilities so they can experience other cultures.

ALPHABET SOUP A Guide to Disability Related Acronyms

ABLE Act - Acheiving a Better Life Experience Act

AT - Assistive Technology

CIL - Center for Independent Living

DVR - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

GAPSD - Guam Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

GRTA - Guam Regional Transit Authority

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

OPG - Office of the Public Guardian

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor of Guam

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lt. Governor of Guam

JOSEPHINE GUERRERO
Chairwoman

JERMAINE ALERTA
Executive Director

October is
National Disability
Employment
Awareness Month



ISLAND HAPPENINGS

Deaf Awareness Month Proclamation Signing

On September 9, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero proclaimed September as “Deaf Awareness Month” with a signing ceremony at the Adelup Large Conference Room. The month’s events were organized by Guam’s Positive Parents Together, Guam EHDI, and Guam CEDDERS and also included a wave, community outreach event, mass, and fundraiser dinner .



GLSC Seeks Public Input for 2020 Goals and Objectives

On September 12, dozens attended the Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center public input session for its Fiscal Year 2020 goals and objectives at the Westin Resort Guam. The GLSC-DLC is one of Guam’s tri-agency partners as federally mandated by the DD Act.

World Health Organization Officials Visit Guam

On September 16, Dr. Takeshi Kasai, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, and several other representatives of the WHO met with heads of the GovGuam health entities including GMHA, DPHSS, GBHWC, DISID, and GDDC in an effort to better understand the island’s healthcare issues. The meeting took place at the GMHA Board Room.



State Rehabilitation Council General Membership Meeting

On September 19, the Guam State Rehabilitation Council held its final General Membership Meeting of the fiscal year at Adelup and included discussion on the Open Government Law, meeting decorum, and election of officers. Members of the SRC review, analyze, and advise on Guam’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Program.





Officials Talk ABLA Account Program Implementation

On September 11, both visiting and local representatives from Bank of Hawaii - Christopher Otto, Diane Murakami, and Desiree Braga - met with Jermaine Alerta, of the GDDC, and Dafne Mansapit-Shimizu and Lawrence Terlaje, of the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT), to discuss the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account program. Mr. Otto is currently working with the Hawaii DD Council to implement the program in the state. The ABLE account program, established by Congress in 2015, allows eligible individuals with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing federally funded benefits they may receive such as Medicaid and Social Security. The Guam ABLE Savings Program Act became local law in December 2018 and the GDDC has initiated discussion with DRT for implementation locally so eligible Guam residents can avail of the program.



As part of Deaf Awareness Month activities, Guam's Positive Parents Together (GPPT) organized a community outreach event on September 15 at the Agana Shopping Center. Different booths lined the center court as GPPT and several of its community partners, including the Guam DD Council, made educational materials available to the public about community services and programs for IWD, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing.



The GDDC family wishes happy retirement to Dr. Heidi San Nicolas of Guam CEDDERS and Atty. Harold "Hank" Parker of Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* and thank you both for your years of dedicated service!

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.

The Council Chronicle is a monthly publication of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council.

This issue was made possible through the support of the members and staff of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, the Office of Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, our Guam Tri-Agency partners, our government of Guam department/agency partners, and our various community partners.

Guam Developmental Disabilities Council
University Castle Mall, Suite #2
130 University Drive
Mangilao, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 735-9127/8/9
Fax: (671) 734-9121
Email: guamddc@gddc.guam.gov
Web: www.gddc.guam.gov



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

Please follow us! [guamddcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/guamddcouncil)