



The Council

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The Monthly Newsletter of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

Webinars Help GDDC Staff with Federal Reports



Staff of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council participated in several webinars on the Program Performance Report (PPR) and the State Plan Update, which are done as part of the Council 5-year state plan required under the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The PPR identifies and reports on progress achieved and covers the previous year's fiscal activities. State Plan Updates are minor changes to the goals and other components of the 5-year plan including objectives and activities. The webinars were organized by the NACDD, the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils (ITACC) on DD, and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) under the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities under the Department of Health and Human Services. Marie Libria and Jermaine Alerta took part in the following webinars: ITACC PPR Overview, ITACC State Plan Update, and ACL Reporting Demonstration. Webinars were moderated by ITACC's Sheryl Matney.



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Governor of Guam

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lt. Governor of Guam

JOYCE TEJERESAS
Chairwoman

JERMAINE ALERTA
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Håfa adai yan Si Yu'os Ma'åse (Hello and Thank you) for reading the latest edition of our Council newsletter! As we come to the close of 2019, I am committed to continue working on raising awareness of the Guam DD Council amongst our residents and throughout our island. I have recently started meeting with our Council members one-on-one to gain a better understanding of their individual life experiences and their expectations for what our Council should work toward. Drawing on that, in the new year I pledge to focus on strengthening our partnerships, building our relationships, and increasing the involvement of our Council in the community. On behalf of the GDDC, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Families Display Artistic Skills at PEP Mini Camp

Several families took part in Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Disability Center's I CAN TOO Mini Camp - "I Can Paint" - on November 9 at the Color Guam Art Studio in Hagatna. The mini camps are open to siblings and non-disabled peers looking for an inclusive, creative learning and fun-filled environment. PEP is a community partner of the Council, and GDDC's Jermaine Alerta participated in the event.

(Photos courtesy of Parents Empowering Parents)





ISLAND HAPPENINGS



GAPSD Working Sessions

The Guam Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities, of which a representative of the Guam DD Council is a member, provided input for the Guam Department of Education Division of Special Education's state performance plan and annual performance report during working sessions held on November 5 & 19 at the DOE Building in Tiyan. Both the SPP and APR will be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs.

CNMI Voc Rehab Visits GDDC Office

Maryann Borja-Arriola and Maggie Reyes, from the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, visited the Guam DD Council office on November 20. Discussion focused on disability issues in the CNMI and Guam, and the need to strengthen partnerships between the two territories. Ms. Borja-Arriola also invited GDDC Director Jermaine Alerta to the CNMI's celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



Executive Committee Approves Agenda for GMM

On November 20, the Guam DD Council Executive Committee met to approve the agenda for the General Membership Meeting scheduled for December. Items on the agenda included amendments to the Council by-laws, approval of proposed budget for the fiscal year, and discussion of upcoming Council activities. Members attending were Monica Lintiaco, Lourdes Bascon Mendiola, Candice Perry, and Victoria Perez.

Alerta Presents at Tiyan High Career Day

Guam DD Council Executive Director, Jermaine Alerta, made a presentation at the Tiyan High School Career Day held at the school campus on November 20. Alerta explained to nearly two dozen students about the purpose, function, and membership of the Council. Additionally, he spoke about his position as executive director and the role he and the staff play with the operations of the Council including attending meetings and coordinating community activities.





SiñA Organization Hosts Thanksgiving Luncheon

On November 30, Self-Advocates In Action (SiñA) hosted its annual Thanksgiving luncheon at the Guam Greyhound Park in Tamuning. Guam DD Council members and staff are part of the SiñA organization. Along with their families, members in attendance were Kathy Benavente, Lourdes Bascon Mendiola, Victoria Perez, Candice Perry, and Norma Boswell.



Guam DD Council staff - Jermaine Alerta, Marie Tedtaotao-Libria, and Ray Sayas Rotarla - celebrated Thanksgiving with a lunch at Meskla in Hagatna on November 27.

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.

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