



The Monthly Newsletter of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

GDDC Discusses Membership, Legal Services



On December 11, 2019, the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council conducted its initial quarterly General Membership Meeting for Fiscal Year 2020. The Council amended its by-laws with regards to membership by changing language which opens up representation to any non-government organization. In the past, a specific NGO had been identified and the vacant position had not been filled for a year. Carol Cabiles made a presentation on behalf of Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center which serves as Guam's federally designated protection & advocacy system. The mission of the GLSC-DLC is the protection and promotion of the human, civil and legal rights of individuals with mental illness and/or developmental and other disabilities through legally based advocacy. Cabiles led fruitful discussion on several issues related to the provision of legal services including Social Security denials, disability certification, and services available for senior citizens who have adult children with disabilities. Members received trip reports from the Executive Director, discussed upcoming Council trainings, and were informed about the relocation of the GDDC office. Additionally, attendees took part in the annual Christmas gift exchange.

Guam, CNMI Observe International Disabilities Day



Guam Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero, on December 5, and CNMI Lieutenant Governor Arnold Palacios, on December 4, signed proclamations in recognition of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Coordinated by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council and the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, disability network partners in both islands celebrated the observance for the first time ever with various community organizations attending the respective signing ceremonies as well as an outreach event hosted in the CNMI.

Each year, the United Nations observes December 3 as International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The aim of the annual event is to promote the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of persons with disabilities in every aspect of social, political, economic, and cultural life.

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor of Guam

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lt. Governor of Guam

JOYCE TEJERESAS
Chairwoman

JERMAINE ALERTA
Executive Director

ALPHABET SOUP

A Guide to Disability Related Acronyms

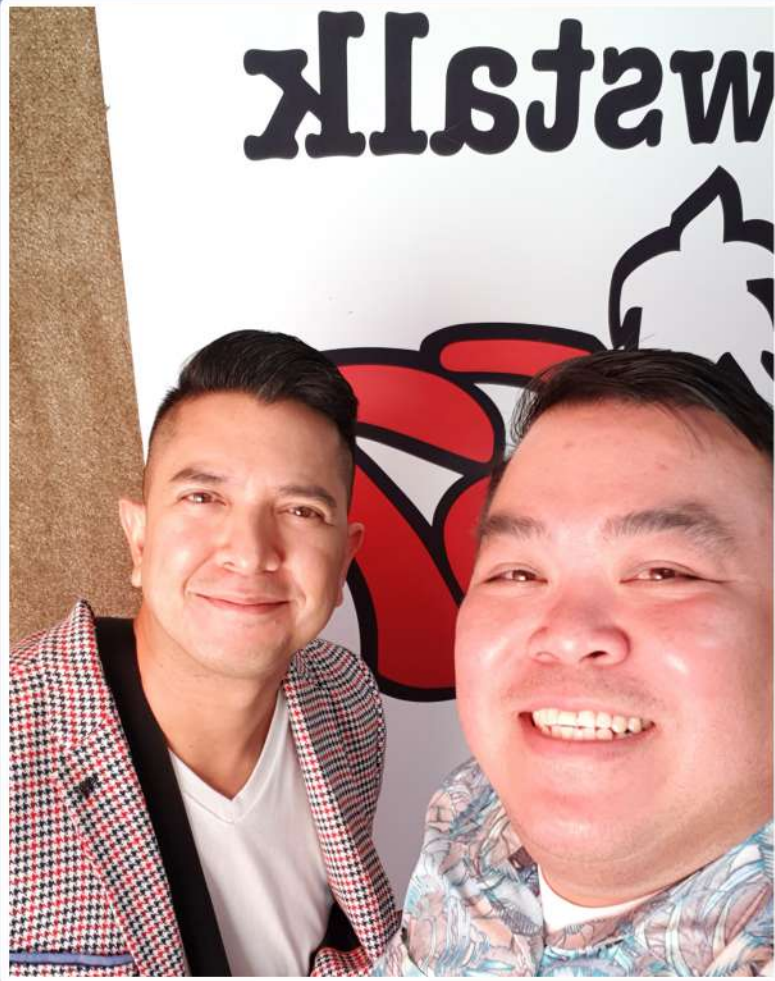
AAPD - American Association of People with Disabilities
CCDF - Child Care Development Fund (Guam)
HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
ILC - Independent Living Center
WIOA - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Korea Visit Includes NEXT Academy Conference and Meeting with Administrators from School for Students with Disabilities



Guam Development Disabilities Council Exective Director, Jermaine Alerta, traveled to Yangsan, South Korea from December 12-16, at the invitation of NEXT Academy. The school's students and faculty had previously visited Guam in September 2019. Alerta was a guest speaker at the International Art & Publisher Entrepreneurship Conference Student Business Summit. It was during the Academy's trip to Guam that the students shared the idea of forming NEXT Publishers and their ultimate goal of creating a set of books featuring short stories with the cover art designed by a classmate of theirs who has a developmental disability. The Summit, which was almost entirely organized by the school's student body, served as a showcase of those initial plans coming to fruition, the work the students carrying out those plans, and helped the successful end product of publishing 10 books. The event also included a discussion with business and community representatives about future entrepreneurial opportunities to be undertaken and the possible expansion of courses for the school. Additionally, Alerta and representatives from Academy met with Principal Bong-su Kim of Gyeongbuk Yeong Gwang School and toured the school's facilities. The school's student body is made up entirely of 170 students with developmental disabilities, ranging as young as elementary up into post-secondary studies. The school has tailored a curriculum which teaches both traditional studies as well as life/behavioral skills and social interaction.





(Photo above) On December 3, Executive Director Jermaine Alerta joined Logan Reyes of Newstalk K57 to discuss GDDC activities. (Photo below) Marie Tedtaotao-Libria attended the CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting at Dusit Thani Guam on December 6.



(Photo above) Guam DD Council staff, Marie Tedtaotao-Libria, attended the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) Christmas party at the Westin Resort Guam on December 14. BSP is the designated state agency for the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council.

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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