Text and Image Description for The Council Chronicle, the newsletter of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, for the month of April 2025.

The document is six pages. Each page displays the header of the newsletter titled "The Council Chronicle". The header is in a blue and white color scheme, with the title in bold blue text and the date "April 2025" in smaller blue text. The newsletter's subtitle, "Newsletter of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council", is also in blue text. The image includes a blue square logo with the letters "d" and "c" in white, and a stylized white cup above the "d". The logo represents the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council. The header visually communicates the name, date, and purpose of the newsletter.

The bottom of each page includes the words, “The Council Chronicle”, the logo of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council with the words “Guam Developmental Disabilities Council” in white next to it, and the corresponding page number.

The overall design is professional and informative. The images and text are clear and readable, with consistent formatting throughout.

**Page 1**

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IN GUAM**

**March Celebration Led by DD Tri-Agency**

Each year in the month of March, the  celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) takes place  with events and activities being organized by  Guam’s Tri-Agency programs on developmental disabilities - the Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC), UOG Guam CEDDERS, and the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC). The local theme, “See Me... Not the Disability reinforced the belief that judgement of an individual should not be based on appearance, perception, or initial interaction but on the understanding that every person has unique abilities, talents, and characteristics to offer.

During the final week of February, representatives from the DD Tri-Agency appeared on local radio stations to promote the DDAM calendar of events. Carol Cabiles of GLSC-DLC, Leah Abelon of CEDDERS, and Marie Tedtaotao-Libria of GDDC visited the studios of K-Stereo and KISH, while Jermaine Alerta of the GDDC had call-in interviews with WAVE 105.1 and The Point GU. The calendar of events was also shared on various websites and social media pages.

[Image description for page 1: Full-page article spread in a newsletter, titled "DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IN GUAM." The article highlights the month-long celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) in Guam, led by a tri-agency collaboration. The text discusses the theme "See Me... Not the Disability," focusing on the importance of judging individuals based on their unique abilities, talents, and characteristics rather than appearance or initial interaction. It describes how the Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC), UOG Guam CEDDERS, and the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC) collaborated. Images of people are included, likely representing the group or individuals involved in the awareness month activities. A photograph shows a group of people seated in a radio station. The article also notes radio and media appearances and social media promotion by the agency representatives to spread awareness regarding the DDAM calendar of local events. Various logos and branding for the participating organizations are visible in the layout.]

**Page 2**

**ACTING GOV. TENORIO SIGNS PROCLAMATION**

**Dozens of Self-Advocates, Partners, & Supporters Attend Ceremony**

Acting Governor Joshua Tenorio proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month during a signing ceremony on March 7 at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor’s Complex. In attendance were dozens of disability self-advocates, senators, community partners, families, and supporters who listened to Acting Gov. Tenorio stress the importance of the “collective commitment to identify and remove barriers and support the inclusion for all Guamanians.”

[Image description for page 2: A group photo fills most of the top portion of the article; a large group of people are seated around a conference table. The middle section features the title "ACTING GOV. TENORIO SIGNS PROCLAMATION" in large, bold, capitalized letters. Below the title, the text "Dozens of Self-Advocates, Partners, & Supporters Attend Ceremony" is slightly smaller. A section of the article also features a formal-looking document, likely a proclamation or certificate (with a seal and signatures). The text below the document details the ceremony, mentioning that Acting Governor Joshua Tenorio proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This section describes that dozens of self-advocates, partners, and supporters attended. It stresses the importance of collective commitment to removing barriers and supporting inclusion.]

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**DD awareness month activities**

**Events Bring Disability Issues to the General Public**

**Proclamation Signing – March 7**

**Meet & Greet – March 8, Payless Supermarket, Maite**

[Image description for page 3: The headline "DD AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES, Events Bring Disability Issues to the General Public" is prominent, followed by a description of what the events aim to achieve. The page comprises two columns of photos. Three photos on the left column show groups of people at the meet and greet event while photos in the right column capture images from the proclamation signing event]

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**DISABILITIES MINI-CONFERENCE**

Approximately 50 people attended a two-day conference on disabilities held by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council on March 14 and 15 at the Sinajana Community Center. Several service provider organizations had the opportunity to introduce the programs they offer and speak with participants about future plans of program improvement and expansion. Presenters included representatives from Guam Regional Transit Authority, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Guam Lega Services Corporation-Disability Law Center, Guam Department of Education, and Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities. Various topics were discussed including public transportation, Medicaid & MIP, wellness & recovery, legal aid, Individualized Education Program, reasonable workplace accommodations, vocational rehabilitation, and support services. Additionally, Senator Shelly Calvo presented legislative certificates to the Tri-Agency network programs in recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

[Image description for page 4: Full-page article or newsletter spread about a two-day disabilities mini-conference held in Guam. The article continues with multiple photographs, showing conference attendees and presentations. A section of text describes the conference, stating that approximately 50 people attended a two-day event on disabilities, hosted by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council at the Sinajana Community Center from March 14-15. The text further details the topics addressed in the conference, including service providers, program improvements, representatives from various government agencies (like Guam Regional Transit Authority, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and more), different services for people with disabilities (legal services, education, transportation, wellness), and recognition for the activities by Senator Shelly Calvo.]

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**tips to be a self-advocate**

**Disabilities Workshop**

Self-determination, leadership, speaking up, disability rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act were several of the topics covered as part of a disabilities workshop sponsored by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council held on March 19 at the Sinajana Community Center. The event, titled “Tips to be a Self-Advocate,” was facilitated by Andrew Tydingco. He shared his lived experiences as a disability self-advocate with attendees and underscored the importance of learning more about disability-related issues  while encouraging them to actively engage in activities aimed at improving available programs and services.

Self-Advocacy is about:

* Getting to know YOU better
* Speaking up when you’ve got something to say
* Understanding things that are of interest to you by gathering information
* Always being open to listen and learn
* Finding out who will support you in your journey
* Knowing your rights and responsibilities
* Reaching out to others when you need help

[Image description for page 5: The top portion features a photograph of a room with people seated at tables; it appears to be a workshop. The article describes a workshop session on self-advocacy, with the presenter name, date, and location. A second image shows a group of photo of participants in the same workshop. A section below the article elaborates about self-advocacy including specific points like getting to know oneself, speaking up, understanding interests, active listening, and networking for support. It also emphasizes knowing rights, responsibilities, and reaching out to others for help.]

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**about the council**

The Guam Developmental Disabilities Council serves as Guam’s State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD). In accordance with Public Law 106-402, each state and territory is authorized to establish a Council on DD, which receives funds to carry out initiatives for systems-change, capacity building, and advocacy. Through these activities, the Council promotes the inclusion, integration, independence, and productivity of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in all areas of community life.

**feedback**

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 staff via email at guamddc@gddc.guam.gov. You may also visit our website or Facebook and Instagram pages. The Council Chronicle is a publication of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council and is made possible by the support of the members and staff of the GDDC, the Offices of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, our Guam Tri-Agency Partners on Developmental Disabilities (Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center & Guam CEDDERS), our Government of Guam department/agency partners, and our various community partners.

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[Image description for page 6: The page contains several sections. The top of the page features a large, blue graphic with stars and a thank you message. The image displays a grid of logos for various organizations, likely partners or sponsors, involved in Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. An image from the NACDD featuring a group of three people, possibly a family or support group. The words "We're Here ALL YEAR" are prominent on the image, likely promoting inclusion and community involvement. A section titled "ABOUT THE COUNCIL," details the council's role, responsibilities, and initiatives in promoting systems change and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.  A feedback section encourages readers to provide input on the newsletter or the council's work. Contact information and social media links are listed.  A vertical column on the right includes text about the council, its mission, and feedback opportunities. The text discusses the council's role in promoting the inclusion, integration, and productivity of individuals with developmental disabilities and feedback request to individuals on the newsletter's content. Contact information and social media links are listed. Footer at the bottom displays the publication name, date, and page number. Another section emphasizes the council's initiatives, their funding sources (federal grants), and collaboration with various Guam organizations and agencies. A disclaimers regarding the contents of the newsletter is included.]