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

The document is eight pages. Each page has consistent formatting throughout. The background is light blue with a faint, tropical leaf pattern. 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 "June 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 blue next to it, and the corresponding page number.

**PAGE 1**

**GSAT HOSTS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

The Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) held its annual AT Conference on April 11, 2025 at Westin Resort Guam. This year’s theme was “Empowering Mental health through Assistive Technology”. Members and staff of the Guam DD Council joined hundreds of participants in support of our Tri-Agency partner – University of Guam Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (CEDDERS).

IN THIS EDITION:

* **GSAT Assistive Technology Conference & Expo**
* **Executive Director’s Remarks for GSAT AT Conference**
* **16th Annual Autism Awareness Fair**
* **Legislative Informational Hearing**
* **Upcoming Events**
* **Partner Contact Information**

[Image description for Page 1: A newsletter page, titled "THE COUNCIL CHRONICLE," features an article about the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) hosting an assistive technology conference. The conference took place on April 12, 2025, at the Westin Resort Guam, with the theme "Empowering Mental Health through Assistive Technology." An image of attendees at the conference tables are included. A column on the right side of the page with the header “IB THIS EDITION” highlights this event, along with other information including upcoming events, a legislative informational hearing, and the executive director's remarks for the conference.]

**PAGE 2**

[Image description for Page 2: A collage of six images showcasing the GSAT assistive technology conference. Attendees appear to be of different ages and ethnicities. The environment is bright and well-lit.]

**PAGE 3**

**EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY OR CONDITION, DESERVES A CHANCE TO THRIVE**

Jermaine Alerta

Guam DD Council Executive Director

Remarks at GSAT AT Conference, 4/11/25

Mental health and disabilities are often invisible struggles - challenges that so many face every day, sometimes silently. Whether it's living with anxiety, depression, or physical limitations that affect emotional well-being, the road to stability and inclusion can be long and isolating. But we’re living in a time where technology isn't just about convenience - it's about connection, empowerment, and healing.

Assistive technology (AT) is revolutionizing the way people with mental health challenges and disabilities live their lives. It is helping to move barriers that, for too long, seemed immoveable. AT can be found in apps that provide real-time therapy and emotional support - offering calming exercises, crisis text lines, and even virtual companionship for those who need to talk but aren’t quite ready to speak. Software such as speech-to-text help those with difficulties communicating to more easily and freely express themselves. Noise-canceling headphones assist those with sensory sensitivities, giving them the power to more comfortably navigate the world. For people with mobility issues, home systems now exist and allow them to control their environment using their voice or with a simple tap. Items that monitor stress and anxiety levels can be worn on wrists or carried in pockets or purses. These help us to understand and manage our emotional levels in real time.

But let’s be clear, AT isn’t just about devices. It’s about dignity. It’s about allowing people to feel and be seen, heard, and in control of their lives again. When we combine understanding, compassion, and innovation - we create a world where no one has to feel limited by their condition. Of course, there’s still work to be done. Access, affordability, and awareness remain big challenges. But with continued investment, advocacy, and empathy, we can close those gaps. And as we do, we move closer to a future where mental health and disabilities are not met with stigma - but with solutions. So let’s continue to support technology that uplifts lives. Let’s build systems that don’t just assist, but empower. Because everyone, regardless of ability or condition, deserves a chance to thrive.

[Image description for Page 3: The page features an article titled "EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY OR CONDITION, DESERVES A CHANCE TO THRIVE". The article, authored by Jermaine Alerta, Guam DD Council Executive Director, highlights assistive technology (AT) as a revolutionary tool for individuals with mental health challenges and disabilities. A photo of a man is displayed above the text. The article emphasizes that AT is more than just devices; it's about dignity, allowing people to feel seen, heard, and in control. It discusses how AT can help with communication, emotional regulation, and navigating the world. The article also stresses the need for continued investment, advocacy, and empathy to address access, affordability, and awareness challenges, eventually fostering a future where mental health and disabilities are met with solutions rather than stigma.]

**PAGE 4**

**GSAT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO**

Members and staff of the Guam DD Council participated in the Guam System for Assistive Technology Expo at Micronesia Mall on April 19, 2025. Thank you to the organizers and for all who supported the event!

[Image description for Page 4: A newsletter article, titled "GSAT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO," features a collage of six photos. The top row shows a group of people at tables, likely at an expo, interacting and demonstrating assistive technologies. The middle row shows people on a stage, giving presentations or showcasing demonstrations, and again, attendees looking at materials at tables. Some people are sitting or standing at the tables in the exhibits. The accompanying text describes the Guam DD Council's participation in a Guam System for Assistive Technology Expo at Micronesia Mall on April 19, 2025. It expresses gratitude to the organizers and all who supported the event.]

**PAGE 5**

**ACT AUTISM AWARENESS FAIR**

The Guam DD Council participated in the 16th Annual Autism Awareness Fair on April 27, 2025 at the Micronesia Mall. We were fortunate to join the Autism Community Together organization and dozens of families for a celebration of strength, talent, abilities, support, and love. Biba to the families, organizers, and supporters for an amazing event!

[Image description for Page 5: Page features photos of the Guam DD Council's participation in the 16th Annual Autism Awareness Fair held at the Micronesia Mall on April 27, 2025. The images show a variety of people, including various volunteers, families, and children, at tables and gatherings within the mall setting. There are banners and displays visible. A description accompanying the photos highlights the organization's joining the Autism Community Together, celebrating strength, talent, and abilities, and expressing appreciation to families, organizers, and supporters.]

**PAGE 6**

**GUAM DD NETWORK PROGRAMS APPEAR BEFORE LEGISLATURE**

Representatives of our island's DD Network programs - June De Leon of Guam CEDDERS, Attorney Daniel Somerfleck of Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center, and Jermaine Alerta of the Guam DD Council - appeared before the legislative committee that oversees disability services. We were asked to present information about the work we do and its community impact. Thank you to the Legislature for giving our offices a very public platform from which to speak and reaffirm our dedication to the people and families we serve.

**MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN’S OFFICE**

On May 17, 2025, Michael Sciacca, Legislative Director for Congressman James Moylan, met virtually with representatives from Guam’s Tai-Agency to discuss issues related to the proposed reorganization of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the budget for DD Act programs.

[Image description for Page 6: First article shows the title, "GUAM DD NETWORK PROGRAMS APPEAR BEFORE LEGISLATURE" with a photo of a meeting, likely a legislative hearing, in a room with people seated at tables. The article describes representatives from Guam's DD Network programs appearing before the legislature. The second article includes details of a meeting with the Office of Congressman James Moylan to discuss issues related to the proposed reorganization of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and budget for DD Act programs. There ia an accompanying screen shot of the meeting, depicting a virtual video conference.]

**PAGE 7**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 7, 2025**

What: Building Language and Literacy in Children, Part 1 – Developmental Milestones & More

Whom: Michele P. Camacho, M.S., CCC-SLP, Guam CEDDERS, University of Guam, Guam EHDI

Time: 8:00am-2:00pm

Where: UOG School of Business and Public Administration, Lecture Hall Room 131

Contact: (671) 735-2433 or 2498

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**June 11, 2025**

What: GENERAL MEMBESHIP MEETING

Whom: Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

Time: 11:00am-2:00pm

Where: Virtual via Google Meet Platform

Contact: (671) 735-9127/28 or email guamddc@gddc.guam.gov

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**June 12, 2025**

What: Training Session: Assistive Technology, Akudi Loan, Disability Sensitivity and Awareness Training, Information and Communication Technology

Whom: Guam CEDDERS, University of Guam

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: University of Guam Dean Circle, House No. 19, Mangilao

Contact: (671) 735-2490/1 or email gsat@guamcedders.org

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**June 14, 2025**

What: Building Language and Literacy in Children, Part 2 – Strategies and Activities to Build Interaction and Language Skills in Children

Whom: Michele P. Camacho, M.S., CCC-SLP, Guam CEDDERS, University of Guam, Guam EHDI

Time: 8:00am-2:00pm

Where: UOG School of Business and Public Administration, Lecture Hall Room 131

Contact: (671) 735-2433 or 2498

**PARTNER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Autism Community Together**

238 Archbishop Felixberto Flores Street,

DNA Building, Suite 304, Hagatna, GU 96910

Tel: (671) 687-1284; Web: www.facebook.com/autismguam

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**Bureau of Statistics and Plans**

P.O. Box 2950 Hagatna, GU 96932

Tel: (671) 472-4201/2/3; Web: www.bsp.guam.gov

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[**Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities**](http://disid.guam.gov/)

138 East Marine Corps Drive, J&G Commercial Plaza,

Suite C102, Hagatna, GU 96910

Tel: (671) 475-4624; Web: www.disid.guam.gov

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[**Department of Public Health and Social Services**](http://dphss.guam.gov/)

Director’s Office, 155 Hesler Place, Hagatna, GU 96910

Phone: (671) 922-2503/04

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**Down Syndrome Association of Guam**

P.O. BOX 20391, Barrigada, GU 96921

Tel: (671) 688-7719; Web: www.downsyndromeguam.org

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**Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center**

790 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Road, Tamuning, GU 96913

Tel: (671) 647-5440; Web: www.gbhwc.guam.gov

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**Guam Department of Education, Special Education**

[501 Mariner Avenue](https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=501%20Mariner%20Avenue%2C%20Barrigada%2C%20GUAM%2096913&ie=UTF-8), [Barrigada, GU 96913](https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=501%20Mariner%20Avenue%2C%20Barrigada%2C%20GUAM%2096913&ie=UTF-8)

Tel: (671) 300-1536; Web: www.gdoe.net/District/Department/2-Special-Education

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**Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority**

117 Bien Venida Avenue Sinajana, GU 96910

Tel: (671) 477-9851; Web: www.ghura.org

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**Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center**

434 W O'Brien Dr Ste 102 Hagatna, GU 96910

Tel: (671) 477-9811/2; Web: www.downsyndromeguam.org

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**Guam Regional Transit Authority**

542 N. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, GU 96913

Tel: (671) 475-4686/4616; Web: www.grta.guam.gov

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**Guma’ Mami, Inc.**

Room 4 and 5, Sinajana Community Center, Sinajana, GU 96910

Tel: (671) 477-1505/1757; Web: www.gumamami.net

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[**Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service, University of Guam**](http://www.guamcedders.org/)

University of Guam, House 29, Dean Circle, Mangilao, GU 96913

Tel: (671) 735-2481; Web: www.guamcedders.org

[Image description for Page 7: The newsletter page features a section titled "UPCOMING EVENTS," listing various events with details such as date, topic, who to contact, time, and location. The events include workshops, meetings, and training sessions on topics like language development, assistive technology, and disability awareness. A second section on the page provides "PARTNER CONTACT INFORMATION," listing various organizations and their contact information, including addresses, phone numbers, and websites.]

**PAGE 8**

**General Membership Meeting**

**June 11, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

**II. Public Notice Requirement**

A. Wednesday - June 4, 2025

B.  Monday - June 9, 2025

**III. Review of Minutes:**March 12, 2025 Meeting

**IV. Reports**

A. Executive Director

B. Council Membership Status

C. Standing Committees

D. Agency Presentation - DISID

**V. Old Business**

A. 2025 State Plan Work Plan Activities (Self-Advocacy and Community

Living)

B. Public Health Workforce Grant

C. FY2025 Budget Update

D. 2027-2031 State Plan Development: Timeline, Public Input, & Survey

**VI. New Business**

A. 2024 Program Performance Report: Submitted April 9, 2025

B. 2026-2027 Election of Officers: September 10, 2025

C. 2024-2025 Reprogram of Funds

D. 2026 Budget Proposal: $275,000.00

E. Salary Adjustment: Program Coordinator I

F. Council Training

**VII. Announcements**

**VIII. Adjournment**

*For additional information, please contact the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council office at (671)735-9127/8. This meeting will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/guamddcouncil. Requests for reasonable accommodations must be made seventy-two (72) hours prior to meeting by calling (671)735-9127/8. This ad is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

**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.

\*\*\* This project, and the activities and resources provided by the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, is funded by a federal grant administered by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HHS, the U.S. Government, the Government of Guam, or our partners.

[Image description for Page 8: One image includes a group photo of people, likely participants of the council or council activities, and a large, stylized graphic with the text "DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS." Another image details a "GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING" scheduled for June 11, 2025, at 2:00 pm via Google Meet. An accompanying image of the agenda for the membership meeting is also present. Additional sections cover information about the council and include a feedback section with contact information.]