

DMHSA Employees Continue Cycle of Improvement

Agency Receives Grant to Improve Guam's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Program

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The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) has been awarded a grant by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging for the expansion and enhancement of Guam's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Program. The Project period is for September 30, 2009 thru September 29, 2012. The total amount awarded for the year 2010 is \$225, 862.00.

Guam ADRC will use new ADRC funds to: (1) Streamline the enrollment process by working with providers to identify a common dataset for intake forms, and configuring Guam's ADRC information system to automatically populate these forms using existing community health records. (2) Improve coordination with the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) by co-locating SHIP counselors at ADRC community events, and cross-training ADRC/SHIP staff. (3) Implement person-centered discharge planning by developing a consumer preference survey and a community living plan template; providing consumers, family caregivers, and discharge planners access to real time availability (waitlist) information; interfacing with medical records (to the extent possible) to eliminate duplication/compartmentalization of data; and expanding electronic community health records to include decision support tools that allow consumers to better manage chronic conditions while living in the community.

(DMHSA Director Dr. David Shimizu congratulated his employees, "for their hard work in securing federal funds to help address the needs of our senior citizens and individuals with disabilities."

"The approval of Guam's application for federal funding speaks clearly to the unyielding commitment of our dedicated employees who continue to help develop this and other programs aimed at improving the quality of service we provide to our community," concluded Dr. Shimizu.