2021 kNOw More Training Series: Transforming Services Addressing Domestic & Sexual Violence to Foster Healthy & Safe Spaces

The Guam Coalition held its November training series: Transforming Services Addressing Domestic & Sexual Violence to Foster Healthy & Safe Spaces. Trainers facilitating this year’s conference have presented at previous Coalition conferences. Barbara Yamashita’s opening remarks set the tone for the in-person conference, acknowledged the challenges to providing services due to the pandemic, and focused on intergenerational initiatives as a strategic response to delivery of services.

Zoom sessions were simultaneously conducted as ‘breakout’ sessions, providing opportunities for those attending via zoom to hear presentations by Beverly Baligad, Nina Jusuf, and Ann Pobutsky. In addition, Deborah Vagins, President and CEO for the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), shared NNEDV’s programs on domestic violence, safety and technology, and economic justice that support GCASAFV’s efforts as well.

For both the in-person conference and the Zoom webinars, Nina Jusuf, co-founder of the National Organization of Asian Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV), discussed building community catalysts to engage and move communities to be better resources and supports to addressing multilayer sexual, domestic, and family violence issues. Nina shared the impact of the pandemic, such as the intersectionality of sexual violence/domestic violence with health, mental health, depression, suicide, unemployment, homelessness, hate crime, and addiction. She asserted the need for systems change and provided a socioecological model to acts of violence and the importance of recognizing the connections.

Dr. Ann Pobutsky, Territorial Epidemiologist with the Department of Public Health and Social Services provided an overview of available data on family violence and sexual assault from the Guam Police Department. Dr. Pobutsky identified some of the limitations of data but noted the potential strengths with utilizing data to enhance services for victims/survivors.

Beverly Baligad, J.D., Director of Student Compliance/Title IX Coordinator and Behavior Intervention Team Chair at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu, reviewed a model of threat assessment utilized in school-settings and, with Barbara Yamashita, facilitated group discussion of an actual case study to identify shortcomings of the response and how tools presented could have resulted in a better outcome.

Barbara Yamashita moderated a panel discussion on the Impact of the Pandemic and How Services are Delivered with Pale’ Mike Crisostomo, Archdiocese of Agana/St. Anthony Catholic Church; Atty. Daniel Somerfleck, Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center; and Diana Nucum, Erica’s House.

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For both the face-to-face and webinar sessions, Barbara donned her role as President of Soroptimist International Waikiki Foundation to facilitate the discussion on Local Efforts to Address Domestic Violence in the Community featuring representatives from the Soroptimist International of Guam and the Soroptimist International of the Marianas – Rena Borja, Arlene Bordallo, Nancy Tan, and Sylvia Crafton. These sessions provided a review of Soroptimist International, a global volunteer network of women working to improve the lives of women and girls, and current projects and initiatives of Guam’s Soroptimist Clubs, who were instrumental in establishing Erica’s House and continue to ensure that services are provided.

Mira Jusef, Executive Director for Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity and NAPIESV’s co-founder, focused on addressing the Micronesian diaspora and transforming services while Nicole Matthews, Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition, addressed indigenous people and transforming services. Mira shared Monsoon’s services to support Micronesians in Iowa and addressing their needs over the years. Nicole discussed the impact of colonization and the importance of advocacy, especially among indigenous populations. She further outlined and emphasized the roles of advocates and the need to provide a victim/survivor-centered approach.

Barbara, Nina, and Beverly shared highlights of the facilitated discussions with conference attendees on barriers to services during the pandemic and opportunities for strengthening systems to support the needs of the community. Judge Arthur Barcinas joined the discussion as they focused on “Integrating Lessons Learned for Services in the ‘New Normal’ Environment” and echoed the call to action for men to engage more men in the work to end domestic and sexual violence.

Next steps...the Guam Coalition continues to focus on providing training and raising awareness on domestic and sexual violence, to facilitate opportunities, and to implement initiatives that address systems change through policy such as establishing standards for delivery of services and fostering partnerships to ensure a continuum of care for victims/survivors.

Keep up with the Coalition’s activities and check out www.GuamCoalition.org!
The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) shared key findings from their 2021 needs assessment conducted in 2020. The findings make significant implications on the issue of how technology can be misused and how technology can also be an outlet for survivors to access services.

The following key findings were found:

- The most common types of tech abuse include harassment, limiting access to technology, and surveillance. The findings also indicated an increase during the pandemic.
- A common misuse of phones, social media, and messaging was reported as tactics of tech abuse.
- Internet of Things devices such as smartphones and smart-watches, location trackers, and other technologies are increasingly used for tech abuse.
- A survivor’s limited access to technology often creates a barrier to receiving the services they need, such as legal support, social support, and other services.
- Although there has been an increase in virtual communication such as video, text messaging and chat amid the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional phone service and meeting in-person remained essential strategies for service providers communicating with victims/survivors.

NNEDV reminds us that as we continue to undergo this pandemic, we should be prepared that tech abuse adopted or increased will not be easily diminished. Additionally, service providers and other agencies and organizations should work collaboratively to ensure that victims/survivors have access and enjoy the benefits of technology, including in their work, school, and public life. As we continue to adjust to the ‘new normal’ the pandemic has created, it is also important to reflect and build on the lessons learned about technology safety. NNEDV Safety Net will support efforts through technical assistance, resources, and training to ensure privacy and safety. To learn more about technology safety, visit https://www.techsafety.org/

Men Standing Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

While we recognize the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and locally as Family Violence Awareness Month and the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, data from the Guam Police Department (GPD) indicate that domestic and sexual violence reports are made throughout the year. In 2020, GPD’s report noted 1,030 victims of family violence and 190 victims of criminal sexual conduct, compared to 1,016 victims of domestic/family violence and 259 victims of criminal sexual conduct reported the prior year.

Although the 2020 GPD report indicates that 74% of the victims of family violence and 87% of the victims of criminal sexual conduct identified as females, both men and women are susceptible to being victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. According to the World Health Organization, intimate partner violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women globally. As a community, both men and women play key roles in raising awareness and supporting victims/survivors. Men can play a leading role in standing against domestic/family and sexual violence. If you are interested in participating in identifying opportunities to engage men in addressing violence in our community, email john.payne2@guamcc.edu or info@guamcoalition.org.
With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to see its devastating effects in Guam and worldwide. Violence against women and girls continues to occur, and with the pandemic, rates have increased in some countries. According to the United Nations, 243 million women and girls were abused by an intimate partner in the past year. Additionally, less than 40% of the women who experience violence report the violence. The United Nations emphasizes, “Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a human rights violation, a universal issue, with great impact on victims/survivors, their families, and communities.” Despite being a widespread issue and a violation of human rights, VAWG remains greatly unreported due to impunity, silence, stigma, and shame.

Violence Against Women and girls can occur physically, sexually, and psychologically through:
- intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide);
- sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment);
- human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation);
- female genital mutilation; and
- child marriage.

This year’s theme for International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, recognized on November 25, was “Orange the World: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!” This year also marks the 30th anniversary. This year’s theme will mobilize all UNiTE networks, civil society and women’s rights organizations, the UN system, the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, government partners, schools, universities, private sector, sports clubs and associations, and individuals to:
- Advocate for inclusive, comprehensive and long-term strategies, programs, and resources to eliminate violence against women in both the private and public spaces.
- Amplify the success stories showcasing effective strategies and interventions against VAWG.
- Promote the leadership of women and girls, especially in policymaking and decision making on both a local and global scale.

Throughout the 16 days of activism from November 25 to December 10, all UNiTE partners are encouraged to:
- Coordinate orange events and activities with a focus on advocating for inclusive, comprehensive, and long-term strategies, programs, and resources to prevent and respond to VAWG in all settings.
- Encourage public conversations and education on what individuals and organizations can do to raise awareness about VAWG, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- Hold virtual seminars, radio programs, explore creative and innovative approaches, such as through digital and print media.
- Feature stories from survivors, activists, and women’s rights advocates to highlight their critical role in ending VAWG on both a global and local scale.
- Enhance engagement of media and opinion makers to promote and broaden awareness of understanding of the benefits of inclusive programming and the need for sustainable financing for efforts to prevent violence against women and girls.
- Wear orange and place the color orange in physical and virtual spaces on November 25 and throughout the 16 days of activism, such as workplaces, websites, and social media accounts.

For more information, visit https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism
Call for Proposals . . .

GCASAFV plans to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to support agencies that provide services to victims of domestic violence in accordance with the guidance from the US Department of Health & Human Services’ FY 2021 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding Program. Agencies eligible are those non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations that currently provide services to victims/survivors of domestic violence. The funding aims to provide agencies with support to recover from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue efforts to prepare, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

GCASAFV anticipates posting the RFP the week of December 13, 2021. Check our website, www.GuamCoalition.org, for more updates and information.

October Family/Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2021 Events

Erica’s House Family Violence Awareness Month Wave

To recognize October as Family Violence Awareness Month, and in support of victims and survivors, Erica’s House held a FVAM Wave on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at two locations; Skinner’s Plaza and the ITC intersection. GCASAFV staff took part in raising awareness at this event.

GCASAFV's FVAM Waves in the Villages

Every year, October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and locally recognized as Family Violence Awareness Month. The Guam Coalition would like to thank all the village mayors and their staff, Coalition members, and agency partners who took part in the Family Violence Awareness Month Waves in the Villages Wednesday, October 20, 2021, in Piti, Hagatna, Tamuning, Dededo, Yigo, Barrigada, Mangilao, and Yona. Over 100 wavers joined in raising awareness, showing support, and standing against family/domestic violence.

Special thanks to Piti Mayor Jesse Alig for his coordination with the village mayors and their staff - Tamuning Mayor Louise Rivera, Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares, Yigo Mayor Anthony Sanchez, Barrigada Mayor June Blas, Mangilao Mayor Allan Ungacta, and Yona Mayor Bill Quenga, and to Marvin Francisco for being the point of contact for the Mangilao site.
GCASAFV's FVAM Waves in the Villages

Piti
Hagatna
Tamuning
Dededo
Yigo
Barrigada
Mangilao
Yona
Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC) provides legal assistance and advocates and promotes equal rights and equal access to justice for the underserved communities of Guam. GLSC-DLC staff conduct intake assessments, provide counsel and advice, provide representation at court hearings or meetings, advocate for individuals' rights, investigate abuse allegations, and make appropriate referrals. GLSC-DLC provides services to individuals who are victims of crime or individuals with disabilities. Their current hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and they are closed on weekends and holidays.

In addition to their direct services, GLSC-DLC also developed interactive interviews, which are available on their website for concerns regarding guardianship, divorce, change of name as well as orders of protection. An individual can go through an interactive interview and answer questions, creating the legal documents necessary to file in court without an attorney.

GLSC-DLC has numerous community partnerships due to the various programs they operate. In the area of domestic relations and domestic violence, GLSC-DLC works closely with Victim Advocates Reaching Out, Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence, Office of the Attorney General, the University of Guam Violence Against Women Prevention Program, I Famaguon' ta, Sanctuary Incorporated, the Family Court, Child Support Enforcement, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and many other agencies/organizations. These partnerships are fundamental in providing GLSC-DLC with options for individuals who need help and may need to be referred to other organizations. GLSC-DLC's primary task is to provide civil legal services. GLSC-DLC refers individuals for shelter, income support, foster placement, treatment of injuries and trauma, parenting, anger management, and other needs.

GLSC-DLC is a non-profit organization established in 1978 and opened its doors in 1981 to serve the low-income community. In 1999, GLSC-DLC became the designated Protection and Advocacy System for Guam. To qualify for any of the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) programs in the GLSC-DLC, a person must have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the legal issue for which help is sought must be related to a disability. Under the Protection and Advocacy programs, there is no charge for clients for legal services. However, clients are responsible for paying fees associated with their case. If a client is unable to pay these fees, GLSC-DLC will work with the client to determine if the fees may be waived.

The organization is funded primarily by federal grants and is made up of 8 different programs: Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD), Protection and Advocacy for Individuals Rights (PAIR), Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT), Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS), Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries (Rep Payee Reviews), Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI), Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA). Funds provided through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program administered by the Office of the Attorney General of Guam and Services Training Officers Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) administered by the Governor's Community Outreach - Federal Programs Office supports a broad array of programs and services that help victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and support them to rebuild their lives.

Location: 434 West O'Brien Drive, Suite 102, Hagatna, Guam 96
Contact Numbers: (671) 477-9811/2
Email: information@guamlsc.org
#DIGITAL CORNER: Save the Date!

## Training Opportunities

**Community Engagement: How to Support Culturally Specific Student Populations**, hosted by Clery Center for Security on Campus  
**Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 5:00 AM - 6:30 AM ChST**

**Description:** This webinar will increase participants' awareness on how to engage with culturally specific student populations by sharing strategies and cultural considerations. Grantees will have concrete action steps to engage individuals to become more involved in working to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**Contact:** jputhran@clerycenter.org

**19th Annual Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, & Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan** by Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma (IVAT)  
**March 28, 2022 - April 1, 2022**

**Description:** The summit goals include building multidisciplinary solutions to prevent family violence, child maltreatment, sexual violence, trauma and compassion fatigue; disseminating promising and best practices in prevention and intervention; linking research, practice, advocacy and policy; providing opportunities/techniques to re-fuel, reenergize, and apply self-care; and disseminating practical application techniques.

Registration will open in January 2022. To register, visit [https://www.ivatcenters.org/hawaii-summit](https://www.ivatcenters.org/hawaii-summit).

**International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Reimagining Justice** by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI)  
**April 19-21, 2022**

**Description:** This conference focuses on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, human trafficking, and elder abuse to highlight promising practices and emerging issues to effectively respond to these crimes in all our communities.  
**Audience:** law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, parole and probation officers, rape crisis workers, health care professionals, faith community members, educators, and researchers.

To register, visit [https://web.cvent.com/event/e49c7e07-0275-4051-986d-aa39127f11c8/summary](https://web.cvent.com/event/e49c7e07-0275-4051-986d-aa39127f11c8/summary)