



University of Guam CEDDERS
Guam System for Assistive Technology
Advisory Council
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 3:30-5:00pm
House 19 Deans Circle, UOG



(X) Lisa Ogo, Chairperson	(X) Tavita Faasuamalie	(X) Carla Torres (GSAT)
() Evelyn Duenas, Vice-Chairperson	() Bill Fuppul	(X) Michelle Cruz (GLSC-DLC)
(X) Josephine Cortez, Secretary	(X) Rudy Ignacio	(X) Roseanne Ada (GDDC)
() Vedalema Valencia, Member At Large	(X) Steve Fuppul	(X) Helena Kubo (DVR/ DISID)
(X) Roy Rosario, Member At Large	(X) Dawn Maka	() Terese Crisostomo (GDOE)
(X) Barbara Johnson, Member-at-Large		(X) Tilda Meno (AHRD/ WIA)
() Lou Mesa		

Minutes of the Meeting

I. Call to Order / Introductions

Meeting called to order at 3:42PM.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes

Rudy Ignacio makes a motion to approve the minutes on January 22, 2014. Dawn Maka seconds the motion. Minutes approved by acclamation.

III. Reports

A. Conference/ Fair Survey Results (results enclosed and discussed)

Overall results were positive. Data indicates that AT provision has increased. Carla states that more people were getting AT through Vocational Rehabilitation. Kasinda Ludwig was going to get Data, success stories to follow. DVR Staff presented more about the history and the law. Presentation was good, but missed the mark to what we want presented. Department of Education (DOE) was able to show data, success stories, and experiences their students had using AT.

1. Conference/ Fair Debrief

Michelle Cruz suggested getting the data in writing from DVR. Carla mentioned that during the conference, she received questions about DVR data, directed them to DVR and they declined to comment. She adds that we (AT Council) are looking to improve the provision of AT on the island and if Voc. Rehab is a main funding source, their data is important. On behalf of the council, she can address a letter to Kasinda requesting the information. Rosanne Ada recommends pulling data from the National Website.

Fair. Rudy prefers it to be held at the Micronesia Mall. He states that it is cramped at Agana Shopping Center. DOE put on an impressive display this year. All departments within the SpEd division came out. She adds that the Mall allows for table displays in the wings, but we try to keep vendors in the center court this year. Overall the turnout was good

B. Wheelchair workshop

1. **Survey Results.** (Positively received). Carla showed some of the developed products that were disseminated during the wheelchair workshop. She had also shared with the council Laura Cohen's profile, a licensed physical

therapist and certified seating mobility specialist. Laura was the consultant hired to facilitate the workshop. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were issued for the licensed clinicians. Carla explained the objectives and described photos taken during the workshop. (Photos shown to the Council). Carla expressed that amazing things came out of this. Two local case studies were presented and mat assessments conducted. Participants got to see how inappropriately wheelchairs were matched to the individuals, even inflicting harm. With one case study, the company that employs the therapist who did the wheelchair evaluation and the DME technicians who spec'd out the chair were both present. The consultant and recommendations for better seating systems for the two and participants got to develop a plan of care for them. Laura Cohen promised to help us to get the seating systems correct for the two individuals.

2. **Next Steps...Issues.** (Issue with our Medicare/Medicaid system.)

Carla announced that to build the capacity of Clinicians, GSAT is going to sponsor a series of Webinars this summer, provided by NCART (National Coalition for Rehab Technology) and the University of Pittsburgh. Michelle Nicole Cruz proposed that DVR attend the Webinars. Carla stated that GSAT won't have funds to sponsor something this big next time around. She added that the CEDDERS core grant will fund the Webinars. Rosanne Ada mentioned that a work session on DDC's state plan will take place tomorrow, and hoped that Carla can give recommendations in the area of Assistive Technology. Perhaps funds could be allocated for a next wheelchair workshop. Laura Cohen will provide draft legislation - looking at how we define things (i.e. "rehab complex technology" and "durable medical-equipment") that some states have implemented. This could be a way to increase coverage. GSAT has been providing physician letters from a website called Noridian Healthcare Solutions that outlines what is required for coverage. (Website shown to the council and contents are explained). Lisa Ogo asked if the same requirements are use with Medicaid. Carla reads the Guam Medical State plan under equipment and supplies. Carla had spoken to Public Health Administrator Teresa Archangel about participating. Jodie, a claims reviewer was to attend but did not show up. No DPHSS Medicare/Medicaid staff was in attendance – would have been helpful. In addition to a participant survey, a write-up called SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) was generated at the workshop. It was shared with the council. This will help guide in building local capacity in meeting seating and mobility needs on Guam. Carla points out that local durable medical equipment suppliers don't have established accounts with a variety manufacturers nor is anyone certified complex rehab technology suppliers. Laura Cohen through her connections can help us work around this and help to make the establishment. Discussions with Laura about TeleRehab had, i.e., the complex Rehab Technology (CRT) supplier in the mainland will work with the supplier here and provide the assessment via videoconference. Carla will send out a resource for suppliers where for \$150 per moth they can be a part of a group of CRTs, receive training and AT discounts.

C. Quarterly Report (report attached)

III. Old Business

- A. **Updates to House 20.** Air conditioners will be replaced. Building was treated for pest, roaches, and termites. Carla hopes that by summer, everything will be transferred to house #20

IV. **New Product**

A. Pediatric Wheelchair. Carla shares Miana's story, 3 years old. GSAT did an open-extended loan for the Krypto Ultra Light Children's Wheelchair for Miana, while waiting for Department of Education to procure a chair for her. Carla shows a picture of Miana on the wheelchair and discusses the impact on her life.

B. Purchase of Wheelchair Simulator

3. Carla mentions that the island could really benefit from a wheelchair simulator. She explains the wheelchair simulator which costs \$14,000. The equipment helps to determine the type of seating, the cushion, and postural supports needed. Therapists feel that this is a tool that they are missing to do appropriate wheelchair evaluations. Discussion held on possible resources to obtain the simulator – cost sharing, solicitation, GMH Volunteers OT/PT association, Staywell other insurance companies. Veterans Affairs, compact/impact grant. Rosanne Ada suggested creating an Ad Hoc Committee for this cause. Sign in sheets were passed around for those interested in the purchasing of the wheelchair simulator-forming an ad hoc committee. Rosanne Ada requested from Carla a justification letter so they can add it to the state plan and collaborate with GSAT. She discussed the process SinA went through in becoming the State Self Advocacy group. Helena Kubo suggested getting two clients that needs a specific wheelchair and use the information gathered during the conference to present to the agency. Helena Kubo shared that majority of the clients have Medicaid / MIP. She added that it would be best to bring in Tess or the Director of Public Health to interpret their laws and get the data of how many of our clients has that need. Carla is looking at developing an informational packet for wheelchair users and family members. Michelle Nicole Cruz recommends a 20 minute presentation on the issue for the Guam Medical Association, doctors, and DOE to increase their awareness.

V. **Open Discussion/ Announcements**

A. DD Awareness Month. Rosanne Ada passed a summary of the events and pictures of the proclamation signing from the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The DD council celebrated the "Ability at Work," clients and individuals with disabilities on the work side. Pictures were taken and exhibited during the DDC Open House. She states 67 people attended the Open House. All events were successful.

B. PEP 5K. Michelle Nicole Cruz shared there was a great turnout despite the rain

C. DISID Computer Center- underutilized. Due to time constrains, Carla suggested we table this discussion for the next meeting

VI. **Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. Next Meeting July 15, 2014, 3:30-5:00PM