



GOVERNMENT OF GUÅHAN



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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Guam Bureau of Adult Protective Services selected as the recipient of the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) Collaboration Award

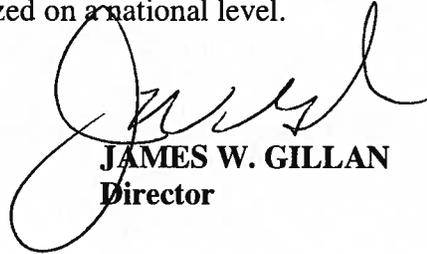
I am pleased to announce that the Bureau of Adult Protective Services (BAPS), Division of Senior Citizens (DSC) within the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPH&SS) has been selected as the recipient of the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) Collaboration Award.

Through the leadership of Senior Citizens Administrator Arthur U. San Agustin, on April 12, 2012 an Adult Protective Services Work Group was formed simply through invitation to work collaboratively to review and refine the Adult Protective Services mandate enacted over twenty years ago to protect vulnerable seniors and adults with a disability from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The work group was comprised of Social Services Supervisor Jocelynn Cruz, Social Workers Francisco Limtiaco, Evelyn Cruz and Claire Virata staff from the BAPS, DSC, and representatives from 15 community partners, which include: Executive Director Diana Calvo and Deputy Director Jesse Catahay of Catholic Social Service, Director Benito Servino of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Social Worker Marilyn Miral from the former Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse now the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Executive Director Cynthia Cabot and Project Director PeterJohn D. Camacho of the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence, Captain Daren Burrier of the Guam Fire Department, Program Coordinator Yvonne Flores of Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, Program Coordinator Carol Cabiles of Guam Legal Services Corporation Disability Law Center, Case Manager Jared Ada of Guam Medical Transport, Social Worker Timothy Santos of Guam Memorial Hospital, Executive Director Bernadita Grajek of Guma' Mami Incorporated, then Vice Mayor Louise Rivera on behalf of the Mayor's Council of Guam, Chief Deputy Attorney General Phil Tydingco of the Office of the Attorney General, Public Guardian Marcelene Santos, Senator Aline A. Yamashita Ph.D, Family Liason Evelyn Claros of the Office of Senator Yamashita, and Crew Chief Brian Torres of Saint Joseph's Medical Transport.

The APS Work Group met for fourteen (14) consecutive weeks, two (2) hours each week, to review and cross-reference the Guam APS mandate with that of five other state APS mandates, from the state of California, Texas, Tennessee, Florida and Hawaii. Through the section-by-section review of Guam's existing APS mandate, comparing the sections to the five other states and incorporating practice experiences and professional considerations into the discussions, resulted in the necessary and appropriate amendments to the existing APS mandate to strengthen the law which protects two of our island's most vulnerable populations, our seniors and adults with a disability.

On August 16, 2013, a nomination was submitted to the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) awards committee on behalf of the 15 member working group who put forth the amendments to the Adult Protective Services Act which eventually became Public Law 31-278, effectuated December 28, 2012 by Governor Eddie Baza Calvo. This Bureau was notified on August 21, 2013 they were selected as the recipient of the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) Collaboration Award in recognition of significant contribution to the growth and development to the field of abuse of elders and persons with disabilities or protective services through collaborative efforts.

I extend my congratulations and gratitude to all members of the working group for their commitment and dedication to undertake this task to protect and serve our seniors and adults with a disability who are now being recognized on a national level.



JAMES W. GILLAN
Director