



Prevention & Early Intervention Advisory Community Empowerment
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*Drug Free, Alcohol Free, Tobacco Free
Towards a Healthy Future for Guam*

For Immediate Release

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PEACE Offers a Series of Substance Abuse Prevention Trainings to Community Representatives

Hagatna, November 21, 2007- Celebrating the holiday season is a joyous occasion shared with family and friends. Traffic crashes, Driving Under the Influence (DUI), burglaries, family violence are the harsh realities not often thought about until you or someone you know has been victimized by the negative consequences of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse.

In an effort to reduce the high numbers and prevent future substance use and abuse within Guam's community, PEACE continues to mobilize community representatives to address the priority areas identified in Guam's Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Substance Abuse Prevention. The priority areas identified are: alcohol among youth and adults and tobacco among youth and adults.

Approximately 25 community leaders representing various faith-based, ethnic groups, youth and other civic and non-profit organizations attended a series of substance abuse prevention trainings. The purpose of the trainings is to build readiness in leading Guam's community organizations to jointly carry out the Strategic Prevention Framework 5-step process for eventual implementation of "evidence-based prevention programs" on Guam. These are model programs that have been proven to work.

"The ultimate goal is to see a reduction in substance use and abuse and this can happen if all areas of the community are actively involved in their prevention programs," said Christine Camacho, PEACE Public Information Officer.

The series of trainings started with the APPEAL (Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership) community readiness and leadership training, which was held on October 29-31, 2007 at the Fiesta Resort Guam. The 3-day training consisted of teambuilding, collaboration, facilitation and other leadership activities and discussions. The select group of community leaders and members also completed the Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist

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from the deep slumber of unawareness
and urges us to accomplish our and others' welfare.**

Training (SAPST); this was held from November 13-16, 2007 at the Guam Royal Orchid Hotel. The training was facilitated by the Prevention and Training Branch of the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse. SAPST is a national certification consisting of 32 credit hours developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center of Substance Abuse Prevention.

What's Next- Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification Training:

PEACE is collaborating with the Department of Public Health & Social Services, American Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute Cancer Information Service, U.S. Naval Hospital and Staywell Insurance to facilitate the Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification training next week Friday, November 30, 2007. The training will be held at the Guam Marriott Resort and Spa from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 50 participants including teachers and counselors representing the education/community sector and PEACE's partners from the community organizations will be attending the training. Due to seating capacity, registration is no longer being accepted.

Beginning January 2008, the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Prevention & Training Branch (PEACE) will offering brief tobacco cessation services at the village mayors offices. A schedule will be announced later.

Where To Get Help During the Holidays:

Feeling depressed during the holidays and need someone to talk to? The Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse's Holiday Crisis Hotline (647-8833) will be available to the community beginning 6:00 p.m., December 24 to 6:00 a.m. December 26, 2007 and on 6 p.m., December 31, 2007 to 6 a.m. January 2, 2008. DMHSA is seeking volunteers to assist with the crisis hotline. Training will be held on December 15, 2007 at the PEACE office in Hagatna. For more information, contact Debbie Duenas or Peter Cruz at 477-9079/ 8861.

For additional information, call Christine Camacho at 477-2301 or visit www.peaceguam.org.

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