

DMHSA OPENS NEW CHILDREN INPATIENT UNIT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This morning, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) Director Dr. David Shimizu and staff opened the doors to a new Children Inpatient Unit (CIU) at the agency's main building in Tamuning. Because DMHSA was without a CIU at the time of Dr. Shimizu's appointment earlier this year, agency staff worked diligently to open a temporary site for children requiring immediate health services. DMHSA personnel and private contractors also worked to complete repairs to various maintenance and safety components at the site of the new CIU including the air-conditioning and fire suppression systems, carpentry, electrical, and general housekeeping problems. After the Guam Fire Department certified the agency's fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems last week, DMHSA and Department of Public Works' staff worked throughout this last weekend to make final repairs prior to today's opening ceremony.

Dr. Shimizu praised the hard work of his staff and also extended his appreciation to those, "who helped to ensure that a place like this is readily available to temporarily shelter our youth who require immediate healthcare services from our team of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, community program aides, and others who provide direct patient care."

"Our staff will continue to work hard to improve the quality of service we provide to those in our community who need our help. Equally important will be the work we do to ensure that our consumers are served in safe and clean environment," concluded Dr. Shimizu.

Among the many guests who were present for the opening of the new CIU were Speaker Judith Won Pat, Health Oversight Chairman Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Senators Tina Muna-Barnes and Telo Taitague, former Chief Justice Philip Carbullido, Monsignor David Quitugua, DISID Director Rosanne Ada, DYA Director Tony Ada, Public Guardian Marcelene Santos, and representatives from the Attorney General's Office, Guam Legal Services Corporation, and Child Protective Services. For more information please contact Mr. Jason Tedtaotao, DMHSA Deputy Director, at 647-5325.

(Attachments:

Pic 1: Monsignor David Quitugua shares an opening prayer, behind him (left to right) are DMHSA Deputy Director Jason Tedtaotao, DMHSA Director Dr. David Shimizu, Supreme Court Justice Phil Carbullido, Chairman Frank B. Aguon, Jr., and Nursing Administrator Daisy Cruz

Pic 2: Dr. Shimizu delivers welcoming remarks at the entrance of new CIU

Pic 3: DMHSA Maintenance Supervisor Henry San Agustin and Nursing Administrator Daisy Cruz participate in ribbon-cutting ceremony)