



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Pacific Behavioral Health Collaborating Council Hosts Regional Meeting with Dr. Eric Broderick, SAMHSA Deputy Administrator

Hagatna, June 1, 2011 – Rear Admiral Eric B. Broderick D.D.S., M.P.H., Deputy Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. DHHS) is on Guam to meet with members of the Pacific Behavioral Health Collaborating Council (PBHCC). PBHCC members represent leaders in mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment fields from the islands of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands and Guam.

This regional meeting begins today, (June 1st thru 3rd) at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa in Tumon and will highlight collaborative efforts to strengthen behavioral health and primary health care programs, policies and practices within the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands. Strategic planning will occur to include partnering with experts who will be in attendance: Dr. Greg Dever and Michael Epp from Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), Dr. Caleb Otto, Board Vice-Chair of the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL), Dr. Iris PrettyPaint, Director of the Native Aspirations Project and Dr. Steve Gallon from the Northwest Frontier Addictions Training and Technical Assistance Center (ATTC).

PIHOA has declared a Regional State of Emergency Declaration on non-communicable diseases in the U.S-affiliated Pacific Islands. President Obama's Affordable Care Act provides a unique opportunity to advance national and local efforts to integrate behavioral healthcare with primary care and support real investments in prevention. SAMHSA has made a commitment to work very closely with the Pacific Jurisdictions to maximize on ACA implementation and secure resources for Pacific Islanders. This and other discussions on strategic planning and development, regional training and technical assistance, leveraging resources and workforce development will be held.

For more information, please call Ms. Barbara S.N. Benavente, DMHSA Prevention and Training Branch Supervisor at (671) 477- 9079~ 83 or visit www.peaceguam.org.

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