



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

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### April is Designated as Alcohol Awareness Month

**March 31, 2009, Guam**- Nationwide, April is designated as Alcohol Awareness Month. With prom and graduation season just around the corner, there is a nationwide urgency for parents to connect with their teens. The Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse (DMHSA), Prevention & Training Branch has partnered with the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA), University of Guam's -Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services, I Pinangon Campus Suicide Prevention Program, Campus Violence Program and Psychology Club, Mangilao Mayor's Office, Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam (YFYLG), Island Girl Power, Guam Public Schools and the Guam Police Department to conduct awareness activities and events to educate individuals of the harmful effects of alcohol and to assist parents in talking with their children about alcohol. Several activities will be held throughout the month of April in observance of Alcohol Awareness Month.

#### **2009 Alcohol Awareness Month Activities:**

##### **Proclamation Signing**

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 12:30pm at Chief Brodie Elementary School

##### **Reach Out Now Teach In Session\*** (Targets 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students)

April 14, 2009 – Chief Brodie Elementary School (Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam)

April 16, 2009 – Liguán Elementary School (Island Girl Power)

April 17, 2009 – Benavente Middle School (Island Girl Power)

**Targets** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

**Community Partners:** DMHSA-PEACE, YFYLG, IGP, DYA

##### **Alcohol Screening Day\***

April 15, 2009 – 9:00am – 2:00pm at the University of Guam

**Targets** college students, staff & faculty

**-More-**

**Community Partners:** DMHSA-PEACE, DYA, UOG-Student Health Services, Student Counseling Services, I Pinangon Campus Suicide Prevention Program, Campus Violence Program and Psychology Club

**Underage Drinking Prevention Town Hall Meeting\***

April 16, 2009 – 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Mangilao Senior Citizen's Center

**Targets** youth, parents, community

**Community Partners:** DMHSA-PEACE, DYA, Guam Police Department, and Mangilao Mayor's Office.

**Youth Leadership Summit**

Monday, April 21st, 2009 – 8:00am – 5:00pm at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa

**Community Partners:** DMHSA-PEACE, DYA

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth for Youth Conference**

April 25-26 & 27, 2009 – 8:00am – 4:00pm at the Hyatt Hotel

First day focuses on Underage Drinking Prevention; second day focuses on Suicide Prevention; third day focuses on Substance Abuse Prevention

**Targets** middle and high school students from Guam, CNMI and Palau

**Community Partners:** Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Prevention & Training Branch-PEACE, DYA, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Office Of Highway & Safety, Guam National Guard Counterdrug Program, Bank of Guam, Government of Guam Employees Federal Credit Union, Subway/Foremost Foods, Coca Cola Beverage Company, Pacific Daily News, KSTO/KISH, KJI, Sorenson Media Group, Elite Printing, Hollywood Theaters, GPO Digital Signage and TriVision.

**\*National Events**

On Guam, alcohol use and abuse among youth and adults continues to be a concern. According to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 1 in 3 (34.9%) of Guam high school students are current drinkers and 1 in 5 (19.2) are binge drinkers. According to the 2007 Guam Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile, 1 in 5 (19.5%) of adults on Guam are binge drinkers and 2 in 5 (40.4%) of adults are current drinkers. Alcohol directly contributes to liver cirrhosis which is the 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death on Guam.

For more information or if you would like to get involved, call the Department of Mental Health, Prevention and Training Branch at (671) 477-9079 thru 9083 or visit [www.peaceguam.org](http://www.peaceguam.org) for a complete schedule of Alcohol Awareness Month Activities.

For more information about national activities, visit the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration websites at [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) or [www.stopalcoholabuse.gov](http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov).

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