



PRESS RELEASE

Governor Camacho and Lt. Governor Cruz to Accept “Big Check” for Mental Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 01, 2009, Guam

Dr. Eric Broderick, Acting Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), will be visiting Guam from April 8-11, 2009. His visit is part of SAMHSA’s “Focus on the Pacific” efforts and this federal agency’s commitment to addressing the needs and concerns expressed by our island leaders.

Dr. Broderick will be meeting with government and community leaders and will be presenting a “Big Check” honoring Guam’s successful application and receipt of a Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) grant to address Youth Suicide Prevention. Guam was awarded a 3-year grant in the amount of \$500,000 for each year. This presentation to Governor Felix P. Camacho, Lt. Governor Michael W. Cruz, M.D., and Dr. David Shimizu, Director of the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, will take place at the Office of the Governor in Adelup on Thursday, April 9 at 11 a.m.

DMHSA Director Dr. David Shimizu congratulated his employees, “for their hard work in securing federal funds to help address a very serious problem confronting our community.”

“SAMHSA’s approval of Guam’s application for federal funding speaks clearly to the unyielding commitment of our dedicated employees who continue to help develop this and other programs aimed at preventing youth suicide, underage use of alcohol and tobacco, and similar issues affecting our island’s youth,” concluded Dr. Shimizu.

DMHSA staff and other health and human service providers will have an opportunity to conduct face-to-face discussions with the SAMHSA Administrator specifically on federal policies and practices relative to needed funding, resources, training and technical assistance. One of the many agenda topics will be the potential for expanding DMHSA’s prevention and treatment programs in order to be fully responsive to the needs of the people of Guam, as well as preparing for the anticipated mental health needs as a result of the anticipated military build-up.

For more information, please call Barbara S.N. Benavente at (671) 477-9082 or visit www.peaceguam.org.

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