



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Barbara S.N. Benavente, Prevention & Training Supervisor
Phone Number: 671- 477-9082
E-mail: barbara.benavente@mail.dmhsa.guam.gov
Fax Number: 671-477-9076
Website URL: www.peaceguam.org

A Call for Community Guidance and Participation For Youth Suicide Prevention

Hagatna- Guam, December 1, 2008- In January 2008, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) submitted a successful application to the federal Center for Mental Health Services for a 3-year State Youth Suicide Prevention Grant entitled, “*Focus on Life*”. This initiative will specifically address the areas of prevention and early intervention among 10-24 year olds.

DMHSA’s Prevention and Training Branch will lead in this prevention efforts and sends out this *Call for Community Guidance and Participation*. “*Focus on Life*” proposes to:

- Conduct village-based meetings with the grassroots community, survivors of suicide and key prevention partners to provide information on suicide prevention resources and referral sources;
- Increase active participation and feedback from survivors of suicide in Guam’s Prevention Plan;
- Increase the number of professionals and para-professionals trained on identifying and responding to children and adolescents at risk for suicide; and
- Develop and implement a community awareness campaign on the availability of suicide prevention and treatment services.

Interested individuals are invited to the first Community Meeting scheduled for Friday, December 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the PEACE Office in Hagatna. At this meeting, data will be presented on Guam’s suicide as known to the Prevention and Training Branch at this time, as well as local, regional and national resources available that will support our island’s efforts. Guidance and support from members of Guam’s grassroots community is critically needed.

Ms. Barbara S.N. Benavente, supervisor for the Prevention and Training Branch, serves as the Principal Investigator for this federal initiative. Please contact her at (671) 477-9079 thru 9083 or barbara.benavente@mail.dmhsa.guam.gov for more information and/or to confirm your attendance.

- End -