

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EDWARD BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

WILFRED G. AFLAGUE
Director

**2011 PEACE Council Tasked to Aid in
Creating Better Quality of Life on Guam**

Hagåtña, Guam – The Governor’s PEACE (Prevention Education and Community Empowerment) Council was sworn-in to position last Wednesday, September 14, 2011 by Governor Eddie Calvo at his office in Adelup.

Governor Calvo acknowledged the association of substance abuse to a number of local crimes that the island has been facing. The Council’s efforts therefore are valuable in creating an overall better life quality on Guam.

About the PEACE Council

The Governor’s PEACE Council was established to:

- advise the Governor of Guam on current state and community-level programs, policies and practices relative to mental health promotion and substance abuse prevention and early intervention efforts and resources needed;
- support the work of Guam’s State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) in the collection, analysis and reporting of Guam data on mental health and substance abuse consumption patterns and consequences;
- guide and support state and community-level organizations in their development and implementation of comprehensive mental health and substance abuse prevention and early intervention Plans for Guam that are: data-driven, strategic, culturally relevant and sustainable for Guam; and
- advocate for the strategic use of data by government-funded entities for determining what mental health and substance abuse prevention policies, programs and practices to serve to be the most necessary and effective for the people of Guam.

History and Membership

The PEACE Council was initially created in 2003, whose appointed members represent the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, private sector and community-based prevention advocates. The Council was charged with the development of policies, programs, and practices to address Guam’s substance abuse and suicide problems, which includes planning, implementing and evaluating comprehensive evidence-based prevention strategies that result in positive environmental changes.

Based on Executive Order 2011-03, signed on January 2011, Governor Calvo appointed the following council members, representing distinct sector and groups within the community:

Lisa Marie Pachkoski	Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam
Wilfred Aflague	Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Dr. Keith Horinouchi	Guam Seven Day Adventist Wellness Center
Patrick M. Wolff*	Inafa' Maolek Conciliation
Louise C Rivera*	Mayors' Council of Guam

Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon	U.S. District Court of Guam – U.S. Probation Office
Dr. Annette David	Health Partners LLC. & State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)
Peter Barcinas	University of Guam, Cooperative Extension Services
Mildred Q. Lujan	Sanctuary, Inc.
Taling Taitano	Guam Department of Education
Adonis J. Mendiola	Department of Youth Affairs
Capt. Fred Bordallo	Guam Police Department
James Gillan	Department of Public Health and Social Services
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr	I Liheslaturan Guahan, Committee on Health and Human Services
Cpt Melvin B. Pilarca	Guam National Guard – Office of Demand Reduction
Rey M. Vega	Guam Memorial Hospital
Carmen D.P. Quenga	Guam Department of Education, Head Start Program
Sr. Marian Arroyo, RSM	Archdiocese of Hagatna, Division of Pastoral Ministries
David P. Leddy	Guam Chamber of Commerce
Kristine Lujan	Sorensen Media Group
Andresina McManus	Southern Christian Academy
Tim de La Cruz	Guam Alternative Lifestyles Association (GALA)
Mary-Therese Edgerle	G.I.F.T.S.



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Row 1: Taling Taitano, Sr. Marian Arroyo, RSM, Governor Eddie Calvo, Andresina McManus, Carmen Quenga / **Row 2:** Dr. Annette David, Rossana Villagomez-Aguon, Captain Fred Bordallo, Peter Barcinas, Wilfred Aflague, Patrick Wolff, Mary-Therese Edgerle, Mildred Lujan, Tim Dela Cruz, David Leddy / **Row 3:** Dr. Keith Horinouchi, Adonis Mendiola, Louise Rivera
Not photographed: Lisa Marie Pachkoski, James Gillan, Senator Dennis Rodriguez, Jr., Capt. Melvin Pilarca, Rey Vega

Looking Ahead

In line with their goals, the PEACE Council will advise the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse – Prevention and Training branch and SEOW members in the development and implementation of Guam’s Five-Year Comprehensive State Prevention Plan for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (FY 2012 – 2017). This State Prevention Plan will identify targeted goals and objectives, and tasks focused on promoting positive mental health and preventing substance abuse and mental illness within an infrastructure that demonstrates state and community collaboration among consumers and family members, policy makers, services providers and other advocates.

This planning initiative will be federally funded by the State Prevention Enhancement (SPE) grant, starting FY 2012. The purpose of this grant is to strengthen Guam’s prevention infrastructure and systems of care for individuals identified to be at risk of developing mental illness and engaging in substance abuse, as well as for those who may already be experiencing the onset of emotional, behavioral (including substance abuse) or mental health challenges.

For more information about the PEACE Council and their responsibilities, contact the PEACE office at 671-477-9079 thru 9083, or visit our website at www.peaceguam.org.



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