

PRESS RELEASE
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**DMHSA Receives \$600,000 Grant for
PEACE Enhancement**

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Prevention and Training Branch received notice from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of Guam’s successful application for a State Prevention Enhancement Grant. The Notice of Grant award is in the amount of \$600,000 for one year to advance the island’s substance abuse prevention efforts.

SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde stated that “the new grants are designed to help states better position communities to reach America’s young people before they become involved with alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and abuse of prescription drugs.” According to a SAMHSA research, substance abuse increased in America in the recent years. This calls for the strengthening of such prevention programs. ([Read full story here](#))

The *State Prevention Plan* grant will be facilitated by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training branch, in collaboration with the Governor’s PEACE (Prevention Education and Community Empowerment) Council and SEOW (State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup) members. The planning objective of the PEACE Enhancement Grant is to identify targeted goals and objectives, and tasks focused on promoting positive mental health and preventing substance abuse and mental illness within a system that demonstrates state and community collaboration among consumers and family members, policy makers, service providers and other advocates. A series of village-based meetings and focus groups will be conducted throughout the year.

Guided by the strategic prevention framework process, DMHSA’s Prevention and Training Branch staff will lead in the development of Guam’s Five-Year Comprehensive State Prevention Plan for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Ultimately, PEACE aims to strengthen Guam’s prevention systems of care so that individuals identified to be at risk of developing mental illness and engaging in substance abuse will receive prevention and early intervention services.

To learn more about the *State Prevention Enhancement Plan*, visit www.peaceguam.org or contact the PEACE office at 477-9079 thru 83.

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