

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor
JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor



**GUAM BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
CENTER**

790 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Rd.
Tamuning, Guam 96913
TEL: (671) 647-1901
FAX: (671) 649-6948


THERESA C. ARRIOLA
Director
CARISSA E. PANGELINAN
Deputy Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 12, 2024 GBHWC and DPHSS Announce
“Empowering Families Initiative” Programs**

The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) is thrilled to unveil a groundbreaking partnership with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS). This alliance heralds the launch of the “Empowering Families Initiative,” an assortment of programs meticulously crafted to empower children and families across Guam. With a generous funding of \$4.9 million, the initiative underscores our unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive, accessible services that address diverse needs without financial barriers. “Every family in need deserves support; this collaboration ensures they receive it,” affirms Theresa Arriola, Director of GBHWC. “We are proud to partner with GBHWC to launch the Empowering Families Initiative, a visionary project that will transform the lives of many children and families in Guam.” - Art San Agustin, Director of DPHSS

Key Programs:

- **Autism Services Program:** Tailored interventions and training for children with Autism, their caregivers, and educators. A forthcoming Request for Proposals will identify a local organization to spearhead this pivotal service.
- **Mobile Crisis and Family Stabilization (MCFS):** A 24/7 responsive team offering in-home crisis management and post-crisis skill-building sessions for up to 90 days ensuring sustained family wellbeing.
- **Therapeutic Foster Care – Home Based (TFC-HB) Program:** A sanctuary for children with behavioral health needs in the welfare system; trained therapeutic foster caregivers paired with therapists ensure holistic care.
- **Juvenile Justice Program (JJP):** Comprehensive therapeutic supports for youth in DYA transitioning back into the community; fostering reintegration through family and community engagement.

Dr. James Cooper-Nurse, Administrator of GBHWC’s Child/Adolescent Services Division, encapsulates our ethos: “We’re not just responding to crises; we’re nurturing mental health awareness and fortifying families.”

Our Missions:

- **GBHWC:** To lead and foster culturally respectful and inclusive quality behavioral health services that strengthen the wellbeing of our community.
- **DPHSS:** To assist the people of Guam in achieving and maintaining the highest levels of independence and self-sufficiency in health and social welfare.

For inquiries or further information, reach out to the GBHWC Director’s office at 671-647-1901. Together, let’s weave a tapestry of support, resilience, and holistic wellness for every family in Guam.

###