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GBHWC Enhances Cultural Expertise and Clinical Depth with Arrival of New Psychiatrist - Dr. Donald McLawhorn

[Tamuning, Guam] – Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) is proud to announce the addition of its new Medical Director, Dr. Donald McLawhorn, a board-certified adult and forensic psychiatrist. Dr. McLawhorn joins GBHWC with significant regional experience, serving as a staff psychiatrist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hospital in Saipan, CNMI. His addition marks a milestone in GBHWC's mission to lead and foster culturally respectful and inclusive quality behavioral health services that strengthen the wellbeing of the community.

Dr. McLawhorn brings a rare intersection of clinical and academic expertise to Guam, holding an MD from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and a PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. As a Sinologist and Japanologist, he has dedicated his career to researching the history of psychiatric categories from Chinese and Japanese perspectives. This unique background allows him to provide specialized care that is sensitive to the cultural nuances of the Pacific region. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. McLawhorn has served on the faculty at the University of Rochester Medical Center and has published extensively on personality disorders and psychiatric categories in Asian contexts.

“Welcoming a specialist with Dr. McLawhorn’s regional experience and his deep academic background is a major win for our island,” said GBHWC Director Carissa Pangelinan. “His extensive clinical background and expertise in the cultural manifestation of symptoms directly supports our vision of a safe, supportive, and holistically healthy community.” By integrating Dr. McLawhorn’s specialized training, GBHWC continues to enhance the quality of care available locally, ensuring residents have access to high-level psychiatric services that respect their cultural identity.

For more information, visit gbhwc.guam.gov or contact GBHWC at (671) 647-5440

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