



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION

BULLETIN

Fall~Winter 2006

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/disability-services/developmental/current-dddbulletin.pdf>



The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Division is to assure community based supports and services for persons with developmental disabilities through the principles of self-determination and person-centered planning.

Welcome to the Developmental Disabilities Division's (DDD) combined news bulletin with information from Division Administration, Case Management and Information Services Branch, and Disability Supports Branch (Neurotrauma). The DDD news bulletin is a means to communicate Division happenings.

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WHAT A YEAR – CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 STATE TEAM OF THE YEAR

Case Management Unit (CMU) 4 is one of eight case management units in the State Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division, Case Management and Information Services Branch on Oahu. CMU 4 is responsible for approximately three hundred fifty

(350) individuals with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities who reside in Windward Oahu, between Kahuku Point and Makapuu Point. Case managers (CMs) need to be knowledgeable of a spectrum of

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Front row: Ching Hsin Tseng, Evan Matsushima, Dr. David Fray, Margaret Thompson. Back Row: Shari Olores, Shan Wang, Caroline Hanaoka, Debbie Uyeda, Christal Jeong, Elaine Ma, Randy Lum, Renee Koizumi, Irene Okuda.

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State Team of the Year

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public and private supports for individuals, who range in age from infants through senior citizens, and their families.

Evan Matsushima, CMU Supervisor, nominated his staff for their application of the Team concept and successful client outcomes. The Team concept utilizes individual CM and support staff talents, professional knowledge, experience, and creative strategies to collectively implement the various tasks to provide service to our individuals and their families.

“Case management roles and responsibilities have become increasingly complex. Paperwork documentation of case management time and effort has grown exponentially as State and Federal funding streams require detailed demonstration of accountability. Compliance mandates for class

action litigation have also loomed as a heavy responsibility for case managers. These challenges now seem to dominate case manager’s time and effort. This prompted us to find a better way to do business,” stated Matsushima.

Matsushima continued, “The resulting work model that CMU 4 designed and implemented has met with overwhelming success. Consumers and their families were introduced to the Team concept. Rather than individual case management support, families have welcomed the support of a Team of case managers collectively working on their behalf. With the Team approach, any team member would already be familiar with specific case issues and in most instances the caller would also be familiar with the team case manager. In short, family members and individuals with disabilities expressed overwhelming satisfaction with the cumulative support of CMU 4’s case

management teams. Parents also complimented their case managers and their teams for their prompt responsiveness in getting their needs met. One mother commented at a community meeting with other parents, “...My case manager and my team made my life easy. All it would take would be for me to call. My team took care of the rest.”

On June 8, 2006 CMU 4 staff was awarded the Department of Health’s Team of the Year award. At the Governor’s award ceremony on October 4, CMU 4 was one of seventeen (17) state agency teams that were honored by their respective agencies. CMU 4 was announced by Governor Linda Lingle as the “2006 State Team of the Year.”

Congratulations CMU 4 for making a difference in the lives of your individuals and their families/guardians you serve – **every day!**

PAUL BROWNE - REACHING HIS DREAM

By Diane Yandell, Case Management Unit 3

On October 8, 2006 the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation’s **Concert of Extraordinary Abilities** was held at the Hawaii Theater. It was a terrific night and the talent was awesome! Mr. Paul Browne, an individual for whom I provide case management services, was a finalist along with four other individuals. He performed the song “The Sunny Side of the Street” accompanied by Brian Von Ahsen from Hale Nui Community Services and his band, the Social Smokers.



Paul Browne: Winner of the Singer Soloist Category

All the finalists were awarded \$10,000 to donate to their favorite charity and \$1000 in gift cards for their personal use. Paul donated his \$10,000 to the Special Olympics.

The show will be telecast on Thanksgiving night and Christmas night as part of the Hawaii Stars Production. Check your TV schedule for the channel it will be featured on those nights.

Congratulations Paul!

KEITH ISOBE PUTS THE FUN IN SUMMER

By Brad Kusunoki, Kahala Community Park Summer Aide

Summer is a time for fun. Most children have a couple months of vacation where they either spend their time at the beach, at home, or at day camps such as summer fun. Some wish that they could use their entire summer as a vacation, but in the case of one person, it is the time to return to his favorite volunteer job.

Keith Isobe began working as a junior leader at the Kahala Community Park summer fun back in 1985 as a 7th grader. Today at the age of 33, Isobe continues to take hour-long bus rides from Moanalua to Kahala and back so that he can teach summer fun children how to be model citizens. He says that his favorite activities include anything that involves working with children, especially dodgeball, field trips, and assisting in any way that he can.



Keith (left) and summer fun program children on lift truck at loading dock during tour of Star Supermarket at Kahala Mall

Some of his other jobs have included working at Kuakini Hospital as an activities volunteer, and at Waioli

Tea Room as a kitchen assistant. But he enjoys summer fun the most because he can work more with children. He begs his mother every year to go back to Kahala for summer fun, and it is always a benefit to have him there. His mother rewards him for his hard work by packing him the greatest lunches that anyone has ever seen.



Keith (back row left) with his summer fun program group on field trip to Cookie Corner Kahala Mall

Everyone in the summer fun program treats Isobe with love and respect. The staff and children understand how valuable it is to have a volunteer that is this willing and dedicated and they always make sure that he knows that he is appreciated. Isobe has been the face and spirit of the Kahala summer fun program for the past twenty years and his services will always be welcomed.

SEW HAPPY “A Success Story”

by Calvin Ebesutani, Special Project Coordinator

Imagine spending 28 years of your adult life at an adult day program; not experiencing the excitement of having a job and earning an income. Well one individual had such an experience and is now working over 20 hours a week, earning an income, and receiving medical benefits. She is now “so happy”.



Left to right: Sew Happy Seamstresses Jody Fong, Eliza Gawat, Suzanne Pang, Robyn Chung

Opportunities are everywhere. It starts with talking with a business owner about hiring individuals with disabilities, one owner at a time.

Marge Sheehan, Contract and Resource Development Section Supervisor and Sharon Tanaka, Acting Case Management & Information Services Branch (CMISB) Chief did a site visit at Health Resources, Inc., a Developmental Disabilities/ Mental Retardation (DD/MR) Medicaid waiver provider. During their meeting with President Grace Seo, the idea of hiring individuals with DD to work in her garment manufacturing business as seamstresses was brought up. Ms. Seo also had other ideas of possible work opportunities – eyelash packing. Calvin Ebesutani, Special Project Coordinator for CMISB, was

assigned to follow-up with Ms. Seo to hire individuals with DD/MR at Health Resources, Inc.

A job interview was held to hire just one individual with DD/MR. Case manager, Les Chinna, formerly with a provider agency that trained seamstresses, arranged to have four of their most experienced seamstresses go to this interview. During the interview all four ladies performed so well on the power industrial sewing machines, that Ms. Seo hired all four individuals. Ms. Seo also bought additional space in the building and renovated the area to accommodate the growing business. In the past few months, two more individuals with developmental disabilities were added to her staff of seamstresses.

Presently, there are six ladies with developmental disabilities/mental retardation employed at Health Resources, Inc. Two individuals are working over 20 hours a week and receiving medical insurance. They have become a “family” of workers enjoying the employment and social benefits of working, e.g., going to the Health Resources Christmas

party. They are “so happy” in their new employment situation.

They participated at the Pearl City 1st Annual Family Fun Fair and Music Festival on August 27, 2005 with other craft fair vendors and sold their craft items under their business name of “SEW HAPPY.” They plan to participate in other craft fairs throughout the state.

On October 12, 2006, Lt. Governor, Duke Aiona presented the **2006 State Of Hawaii Vocational Rehabilitation Employer of the Year Award to Health Resources, Inc.** for their contribution to society for hiring individuals with disabilities.

MEDICAID INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

by Susan Miller, Project Director

In 2005, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the state of Hawai'i, a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) to promote access and outreach to work incentive information and to build an infrastructure that expands the employment opportunities for consumers with disabilities while safeguarding their federal benefits.

Hawai'i MIG, titled "Hire Abilities — Hawai'i," spent its first time gathering essential information from stakeholders to enhance the current Medicaid and work support system that maximizes employment opportunities for people with disabilities eligible for Medicaid and Social Security benefits. During its second year, "Hire Abilities — Hawai'i" has focused its work on outreach and education on work incentives to consumers, family members, case managers, and employers to learn more on how to make informed employment choices.

As the lead co-state agency with the state Department Human Services (DHS), the University of Hawai'i Center on Disability Studies (UH-CDS) serves as the day-to-day administration to advance the "Hire Abilities — Hawai'i" mission, according to MIG project principal investigator, UH-Manoa Professor Robert Stodden, Ph.D., Center on Disability Studies Director.

"For consumers of Developmental Disabilities/Mental Retardation (DD/MR) waiver services to weigh their options, they need to know about Medicaid work incentives. If they decide to work, they also need to know that if they use personal assistance services at home and in



Cavin Castaneda speaking to DDD Case Managers

the community, they can also use direct support worker services in the workplace," stated Stodden.

Stodden said that Hawai'i has among the highest percentage of unemployed DD/MR waiver recipients, despite quality assurance results that indicate consumers with developmental disabilities want employment opportunities. Stodden hopes that "Hire Abilities — Hawai'i" will help close the information gap. Consumers need to feel confident that they can work and maintain their benefits.

In 2006, the Hawai'i MIG team began an intensive partnership effort, offering outreach and education to Medicaid waiver and Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) case managers. Hawai'i MIG has joined forces with the local Social Security Administration (SSA) Work Incentive office, Hawai'i Centers for Independent Living (HCIL) and Hawai'i Disability Rights Center (HDRC), which provides Medicaid benefits planning as CMS's local protection

and advocacy agency, to build an infrastructure that supports consumers with disabilities who want to work.

Heading the MIG community outreach effort has been Cavin Castaneda, a native Hawaiian consumer with a disability who returned to work three years ago. As a consumer advocate, Castaneda's presentations are available to consumers and their families, disability advocacy groups, employment and education agencies, which work directly with persons with disabilities.

In an effort to make sense of complex rules surrounding work incentives and related healthcare benefits, Castaneda's introductory presentations cover the SSA and Medicaid guidelines. In his role at Hawai'i MIG, Castaneda offers a down-to-earth, common sense approach to accessing accurate SSI, SSDI, and Medicaid information, to enable others to reach a better understanding of employment supports. "I want the information to lead to the understanding that people with disabilities can seek competitive employment without losing their Medicaid funded healthcare," Castaneda said. He also is working to recruit other consumers to join the peer-to-peer education network.

Castaneda is inspired to share this information with others struggling with the decision to return to work but are uncertain of the impact it has on their benefits status. By partnering with SSA, HDRC, and HCIL, Castaneda has learned first hand how it's done. In addition to

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Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

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educating individuals on this topic, he offers a consumer's perspective.

Currently, there are approximately 49,000 Hawaii recipients/beneficiaries in current-payment status. To the disadvantage of the consumers there are only two Medicaid benefits planners who do community outreach. The ratio of

consumers to benefits planners strongly suggest the need for more benefits planners to serve consumers interested in choosing a path to competitive employment by first understanding the rules of these work incentives under Medicaid and Social Security.

“By presenting the work incentive materials in a down to earth, common sense way, I give consumers such as myself a clearer understanding of how these work

incentives work with Social Security and Medicaid,” Castaneda said. “My goal is to educate consumers on these rules so they are better prepared to change their lives for the better.”

To arrange a presentation with case managers, consumers and families, Department of Education (DOE) transition teachers, and interested employers, call Castaneda at 808-956-9823 or by email at cavinc@hawaii.edu.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION'S MEDICAID WAIVER RENEWAL

The Home and Community Based Services (H&CBS) Medicaid Waiver Program for persons with Developmental Disabilities and/or Mental Retardation (DD/MR) has been renewed and is in effect as of July 1, 2006. Every 5 years, states have the opportunity to renew the service definitions and program functions. The State of Hawaii creates the renewal application with the input of many stakeholders, including program participants, family members, guardians, provider agencies, and Department of Health and Department of Human Services staff.

Some services have been changed or enhanced to improve accessibility and flexibility for program participants. Personal Assistance (PA) and Habilitation services have



been combined into one service called Personal Assistance/Habilitation, referred to as PAB. Chore services have become a service category. Services provided in licensed or certified settings such as Adult Foster Homes or Developmental Disabilities Domiciliary Homes are now called Residential Habilitation. Services availability has not been decreased as a result of these changes. In addition, the consumer directed options have increased, as Personal

Assistance/Habilitation, Chore, and Respite may all be consumer directed, if selected by the participant.

In response to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), the federal Medicaid agency, a greater focus on quality measurements and outcomes has also been included in this waiver renewal. States have the opportunity to collaborate with CMS, to improve quality and consistency within the various Medicaid programs. States and service providers must adhere to minimum quality measures as defined and approved by CMS.

For any questions regarding services, please contact your case manager.

NCI UPDATE

Hawaii is into its sixth year of the National Core Indicators (NCI). We have a Quality Assurance (QA) Subcommittee to review NCI data results and work towards change and improvement in the system of

supports for people with developmental disabilities in Hawaii. We are currently in the process of adding four additional members (one on Oahu, one on Maui and two from the island of Hawaii), which will

give us full statewide representation. This subcommittee is made up of self-advocates, parents, family members and staff from state agencies. We meet on a quarterly

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NCI Update

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basis and submit recommendations to the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division. The DD Division also has an internal Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Team that is currently addressing quality standards for waiver providers and case management that is in line with the Quality Framework. The QA/QI Team also reviews some of the NCI data for DD Divisions' strategic planning initiatives.



NCI Staff: Glenn Seigaku, Gail Yogi and Virginia Oshiro



NEUROTRAUMA SUPPORTS

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If you have Microsoft Windows media player, check our website: www.hawaii.gov/health/disability-services/neurotrauma/index.html

for videos on-line. Videos that are relevant to survivors of brain, spinal cord injury and stroke will be shown periodically.

For information and resources, or to suggest topics of interest for this newsletter, call the Neurotrauma Helpline at 808-453-6151.

HAWAII FALLS PREVENTION CONSORTIUM

The Consortium is comprised of members from the public and private sectors such as HMSA, Ohana Pacific Rehab Services, Project Dana, Eldercare Hawaii, KCC and the Dept. of Health (Injury Prevention and Control Program, Executive Office of Aging, and Neurotrauma Supports). Their focus from the Hawaii Injury Prevention Plan 2005-2010 is to reduce the number and severity of falls.



Three subcommittees were created in the areas of public awareness, program development and professional awareness and involvement. The first group's objective is to enhance public awareness that falls are preventable and to promote actions that reduce the risk of injury. The audience targeted will be supports groups, fitness centers, baby boomers,

caregivers, people with disabilities, senior centers, meals sites, and retiree organizations. The second group's objective is to increase availability and accessibility of fall prevention programs statewide for caregivers and the elderly. A resource book will be devised on how to prevent falls and effectively identify and utilize community resources. And the third group's objective is to educate, facilitate and engage local professionals in fall prevention strategies and programs. The recommendation of this group is to develop two kits to do screenings – one for pharmacists and the other for practitioners.

Another committee is in the process of planning the 2007 Falls Conference. It is to be held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on October 23, 2007. SAVE THAT DATE.



Life Goes On – the DVD featuring persons with TBI, their lives after injury, their circle of support, others from the field of brain injury, person-centered planning, and resources on TBI is now available. It was made possible through a grant and partnership with

HMSA, Pacific Basin Research Rehabilitation Training Center and the Developmental Disabilities Division. If you are interested in viewing it and/or obtaining a copy, contact the Neurotrauma Helpline at 808-453-6151.

TBI GRANTS

The TBI Implementation Grant has completed its evaluation phase and the final report is available for review. A new TBI Grant has been approved and a contract for a Peer Mentoring project out of the

Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific is currently being developed. For this project, a TBI survivor/advocate will serve as a mentor for a TBI patient who is soon to be discharged to support and assist that

person. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like more information on this project, call the Neurotrauma Helpline at 808-453-6151.

ADVISORY BOARDS

The State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board held its annual meeting in July and decided on working as a whole on one overall goal – *to increase identification of persons with TBI and their service needs through a statewide educational and awareness campaign*. A presentation was given by Tanya Schwartz and Emi Isaki as the new leads on the Community-Based Rehabilitation Project.

The Neurotrauma Advisory Board met in June to review its membership, its priorities and subcommittee assignments. An overall and positive evaluation of the May Neurotrauma Conference was presented.

The STBIAB meets on the third Friday of odd months at the Capitol Center, 1177 Alakea St., Rm. 302; and Neurotrauma on the fourth

Friday, even months at the Kalanimoku Bldg., 1151 Punchbowl St., Basement, and the State Bldg. in Kapolei on Oahu. Both meetings can be accessed via the State video conference centers (VCCs) on Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. Meetings are from 1:30 to 4:00 pm and open to the public. Call 453-6295 for the specific dates, times or more information.



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Linda Lingle, Governor
Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.,
Director of Health