

PRESS RELEASE



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“YUTU CCP Services to End After Successful Year of Serving the Community”

Under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation’s (CHCC) Community Guidance Center (CGC), the mission of Crisis Counseling Program You, Us, Together, United (CCP-YUTU) is to help survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu recover, rebuild, and revive through educational and empathetic outreach.

Since December 2018, outreach teams on Saipan and Tinian have worked tirelessly to empower survivors in helping them understand their reactions to the disaster, connect with community resources, and engage in healthy coping strategies. CCP-YUTU is on track to exceed their service delivery target, and has already provided individual, family, and group counseling services to over 18,000 survivors. Over 160 presentations were conducted at local schools, first responder agencies, and many other community organizations and events. For CCP-YUTU staff, this experience has been an honor and privilege to help the communities of Saipan and Tinian make great progress towards recovery and build resilience through improved behavioral health for storms to come.

As a temporary disaster relief program, funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), CCP-YUTU will come to a close on February 11, 2020. Though Super Typhoon Yutu has been the most devastating storm to ever hit our islands, and program staff have been humbled by the community’s cohesion, inherent resilience, and acceptance into their homes. While progress has been made, CCP-YUTU recognizes that there are still unmet physical and behavioral health needs within the community. Individuals and families still in need of services are encouraged to continue connections with other local government and non-profit agencies who may assist in their recovery process. If you or a loved one continues to experience emotional distress, you can call SAMHSA’s Disaster Distress Hotline at 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUS to 1-212-461-4635 (available 24/7, 365 days a year).

Continuity of disaster behavioral health services is essential for our residents to heal. The Community Guidance Center is in the initial stages of standing up the Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP). The goal of the DCMP is to assist individuals and families as they continue to recover in the aftermath of Typhoon Yutu by helping find and connect them with resources to meet their disaster-caused unmet needs.

The DCMP will be providing services to the islands of Saipan and Tinian, including outreach, advocacy, screening and assessment, information-sharing and referral to social and health services, and the

development of a recovery plan. The DCMP will assist survivors on a tiered hierarchy, correlating the level of services with the level of disaster need. Any survivor whose primary residence was in the impacted area and has a verifiable disaster-caused unmet need that has not been met through other assistance may be eligible for these services.

More information on the DCMP and services will be forth-coming. You may contact the DCMP Program Manager Angel Palacios via email at cgc.dcm@gmail.com.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

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