

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

CHCC Community Guidance Center certifies nine adults in Mental Health First Aid

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Community Guidance Center (CGC) certified nine additional individuals on Oct. 27, 2021, in Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). The agencies represented included the CNMI Superior Court's Office of Adult Probation and the CNMI Substance Abuse, Addictions & Rehabilitation Program.

The groundbreaking skills-based course teaches participants the tools to identify, understand, and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge, and connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary.

Friends and family members may find it hard to know when and how to step in, and as a result, those in need of mental health services often do not receive care until much later. But just as CPR helps those without medical training assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis.

Led by CGC's Kimberly Seman Tudela and Lorielyn Duenas Lacay, Mental Health First Aiders learned the MHFA 5-step action plan that guides them through the process of reaching out and offering appropriate support, which helps break down barriers and stigma in order to better support one another.

The CGC has certified a total of 1,168 individuals in the CNMI, Palau, and Guam in either the MHFA youth curriculum, adult curriculum, or both.

The next scheduled public training for Mental Health First Aid is Nov. 18, 2021, on Rota.

For more information on MHFA, please visit <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>. For contact information and to request for the CGC's MHFA training, visit <https://chcc.gov.mp/communitysupporttraining.php>.

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