

UCEDD *it!*

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**University Center
for Excellence on
Developmental
Disabilities (UCEDD)**

CHILDREN DENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

By: Lia Pelenato

Dental Facts:

- **The ADA recommends that children be seen by a dentist by age 1**
- **Cavities are a bacterial infection & can be prevented**
- **Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease**
- **Tooth decay is dramatically on the rise for children ages 0-5 years old**

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February is National Children’s Dental health Awareness Month. The American Dental Association (ADA) since 1949 has sponsored this awareness month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Since then, each February has been designated as the month for Children’s Dental Health Awareness. By taking good care of your dental needs, your teeth will last a lifetime. Dentists recommend the proper brushing and flossing of teeth at least once daily and routine cleanings in the office twice a year. The biggest reasons for losing teeth are gum disease and tooth decay, but dental care can help prevent this. The sticky, white, filmy coating that constantly builds up around your teeth and gums is known as plaque, and plaque is the breeding ground for the bacteria that cause cavities. Plaque is formed when particles of food and saliva mix with the bacteria that lurks within your mouth. As you consume foods

heavy in starch or sugar, acids can be produced that will wear away at your enamel, which coats your teeth. Enamel can actually break down after too much exposure to plaque, thus allowing cavities to form. If you continue to be exposed to plaque, you can contract gum disease. Brushing every day and flossing to remove debris between the teeth extricates plaque. When we fail to brush and floss routinely, plaque is permitted to solidify and thicken. We call that hardened plaque “tartar.” Tartar typically aggregates at the line where the gums meet the teeth. The first stage of gum disease is known as gingivitis, and can be caused by swollen gums from tartar buildup. To control plaque and tartar buildup, teeth must be properly maintained at home. Visits to the dentist for regular cleanings are also in order.

Use the proper brushing technique to clean your teeth. Children with Developmental Disabilities (DD) have special dental needs. Some children with DD are very susceptible to tooth decay, gum disease or oral trauma. Others require medication or diet detrimental to dental health while other children with DD have physical difficulty with effective dental habits at home. Some children with DD may need additional support to feel comfortable during the dental visit, which is why parents and dentists should select a technique based on the specific health needs of your child. Nurses and staff of Children with Special Needs (CSN) program under the Department of Health (DOH) make site visits to different schools on island to provide dental care for students with DD and their classmates.



Policy Seminar Meeting

By: Ernie Seiuli



ASCC VP Etuale, Congressman Hunkin and UCEDD staff Seiuli after a meeting with the Congressman at his office in Washington D.C.

Cultivating New Champions was the theme for this year's Disability Policy Seminar, which was held at Capital Hill. American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Vice President Mikaele Etuale and UCEDD staff member Ernie Seiuli attended this meeting held February 14-16. More than 100 participants from agencies all around the United States that provide assistance and advocate for individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD) gathered to absorb a sig-

nificant amount of information about national public policy issues that are critical for people with DD. One main recommendation introduced was the reauthorization of the DD Act which includes:

- Increasing the authorization for appropriations for all programs authorized under the DD Act;
- Reauthorizing the Title 3 program

- Reauthorizing and funding the Title 2 Family Support program
- Protecting and expanding the authority of Protection and Advocacy Systems
- Support of federal funding for self-advocacy leadership activities

Ernie Seiuli met with Congressman Faleomavaega E. Hunkin on the last day to discuss ways to improve the UCEDD program in serving our DD population here in American Samoa.

Accommodation Training

By: Lia Pelenato

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference"

~Winston Churchill

Title 1 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires an employer/institution to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) who are employees or applicants for employment and/or students, unless to do so would cause undue hardship. Basically, an accommodation is any change in the work environment or institution or in the way

things are customarily done that enables an individual with DD to enjoy "equal opportunities." American Samoa Community College (ASCC) is an institution of higher learning that prides itself on ensuring an intellectual richness to its students. ASCC strives to be supportive of the academic, personal and work related needs of students with DD, and is committed to facilitating the full participation of students with DD

within ASCC. In promoting this commitment, ASCC held an Accommodation Training for its faculty and staff on the 3rd of February in the Lecture Hall. This training, delivered by UCEDD Director, Ms. Tafa Tupuola., included various ways of accommodating a student with DD during registration, accommodation in a classroom, and addressing the people first language barrier.

Administration for Native Americans Training

By: Ernie Seiuli



ANA Project Coordinator Mrs. Rosita Tavita-Curry during the training at Tradewinds Hotel

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) from the State of Hawaii hosted a 2-day training on grant writing to promote the goal of self-sufficiency and cultural preservation for Native Americans by providing social and economic development opportunities through financial assis-

tance, training, and technical assistance. Mrs. Rosita Tavita-Curry shared her knowledge in helping local government agencies and non-profit organizations fill out grant proposal applications to the ANA. University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Interdisciplinary

trainer Ernie Seiuli was in attendance. Since ANA grant funding is available for the people of American Samoa, the UCEDD program plans to apply for this grant as to promote and develop more sustainable programs for individuals with DD and our disability community here in American Samoa.

SANE-SART TRAINING

By: Lia Pelenato

SANE stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. A SANE is a specially trained registered nurse (RN) who provides comprehensive care to victims of sexual assault. The role of the SANE includes taking a history form the victim; performing a thorough genital exam; collecting and documenting any forensic evidence; assuring coordinated service; and providing courtroom testimony when needed. SART stands for Sexual Assault Re-

sponse Team, which is a community based coordinated response to sexual assault (SA). American Samoa Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence Director Mrs. Ipu Lefiti sponsored and hosted the first-ever SANE-SART training for American Samoa. The SART was a 2-day training at Sadie's by the Sea with local agencies while SANE was a 5-day training with LBJ Physicians and RN's. The guest speaker was Dr. Linda E. Ledray who is the

Director of the SANE-SART Resource Service in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Ledray was the founder of one of the first-ever SANE programs in the U.S which was developed in 1977. This training promoted local agencies collective work to bring an end to SA and has brought about the implementation of SANE-SART with 6 physicians and 2 RN completing the training and receiving awards to be qualified SANE professionals in American Samoa.



Attendees of the SANE & SART training at Sadie's by the Sea



Mrs. Ipu Lefiti, Dr. Linda Ledray and Mrs. Tereise Young during the SART training

FYI CORNER: DID YOU KNOW?

2011 Disability Employment Statistics

Currently, over 209,284 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD) work for the federal government and they make up 7% of the federal civilian workforce. The Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics 2009 is the first news release focusing on the employment status of

persons with a disability. The information in this release is from the current population survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households that provides statistics on employment and unemployment in the United States. Some highlights from the 2009 data: the unemploy-

ment rate for persons with a disability was 14.5 percent in 2009, and nearly one-third of workers with a disability were employed part time. This February, the percentage of Individuals with DD in the labor force was 20.6. The unemployment rate for those with disabilities is at 15.4 %

"You may trod me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I RISE"
~ Maya Angelou

Increasing Disability Employment

President Barack Obama celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July 2010 by signing Executive Order 13548, which aims to transform the disability

employment landscape within the federal government. This directive calls on federal departments and agencies to increase the recruitment, hiring and retention of people with disabilities in coming

years. The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has been charged to assist the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in implementing this Executive Order.





SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

We would love to hear from you if you have comments about our newsletter, or if you would like to be added to our newsletter list! Drop us a line at: ucedd@amsamoa.edu

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ACRONYMS/MEANINGS

- ADA:** Americans with Disability Act
- ANA:** Administration for Native Americans
- ASCC:** American Samoa Community College
- CSN:** Children with Special Needs
- CPS:** Current Population Survey
- DD:** Developmental Disabilities
- DOH:** Department of Health
- ODEP:** Office of Disability Employment Policy
- OPM:** Office of Personnel Management
- RN:** Registered Nurse
- SA:** Sexual Assault
- SANE:** Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- SART:** Sexual Assault Response Team
- UCEDD:** University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities

Please consider our environment before printing.

OUR MISSION

The University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) assures that individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages and their families participate fully in activities that will design and promote self determination, independence, integration and inclusion in all facets of life in American Samoa. The UCEDD will ensure the delivery and purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Act through culturally competent activities.

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