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## Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council Quarterly Meeting 2024



On Monday, September 30, 2024, Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council (CSAC) Chair and Lt. Governor La'apui convened the Council last Friday to discuss updates from subcommittee leads and the status of over \$1 million in opioid settlement funds, secured by the Department of

Legal Affairs' Office of the Attorney General and administered by the Governor's Drug Control Office.

Chairman Lt. Governor La'apui opened the meeting by thanking the members and leaders for their tireless efforts in addressing substance use issues in the Territory. He also reiterated the role of the Governor's Drug Control Office as the administrator of opioid settlement resources and as a facilitator of the inter-departmental Council meetings.

Council Highlights:

### **Governor's Drug Control Office**

The Governor's Drug Control Office has coordinated with numerous awardees to provide funding and resource support over the past several months. Following an application and review process earlier this year, more than \$800,000 in opioid settlement funds have already been allocated to various ASG departments and non-profit organizations whose missions align with the priority goals of the CSAC, including enforcement and investigation, education and outreach, and rehabilitation and treatment.

The Governor's Drug Control Office is located in Room 207 of the Mosooi Building.

### **Enforcement & Investigation Committee**

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) Vice and Narcotics Division shared data collected over the past six years, highlighting trends in substance use-related cases. DPS reported a total of 441 cases from 2018 to 2024, with methamphetamine being the predominant drug. Additionally, DPS noted a 67% decrease in total drug-related cases, from 67 in September 2021 to 22 in September 2024.

The Department of Treasury's Customs Division reported the addition of four new canines specializing in narcotics and explosives. They also confirmed the hosting of training sessions for new handlers and re-certifications. The DPS Customs Chief highlighted challenges with federal laws regarding mail arriving at the post office, a common entry point for illegal substances.

The Department of Homeland Security OTICIDE reported that from November 2023 to August 2024, interception operations resulted in the seizure of 141 pounds of meth, 2.3 pounds of marijuana, and \$140,000 in cash. They expressed appreciation to local and federal partners in Honolulu, Guam, and San Francisco for their continued support.

### **Education & Outreach Committee**

The Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (DYWA) shared details about community and outreach efforts led by their subcommittee, including the International Day Against Drug Abuse and the Invest in Prevention Youth Forum, which was attended by 88 Summer Youth Employment Program applicants and featured workshops and training sessions. DYWA also conducted a youth survey, with 83 participants, where over 65% indicated that school was the primary place where drugs were either being used or available. DYWA has been actively involved in outreach and education efforts at community events and is planning to launch a Red Ribbon 'Stomp Out Drugs' program to engage youth and educate them on the harms of substance use.

### **Rehabilitation & Treatment Committee**

The Department of Health's Behavioral Health Services Division updated the Council on capacity, resources, community engagement, and skills training initiatives. Some of the skills training provided includes intensive assessment, motivational interviewing, and referrals to treatment. Another key initiative DOH is heavily involved in, in collaboration with community stakeholders, is the development of a continuum of care. This model aims to enhance coordination between government and community organizations to more effectively allocate resources based on the level of treatment and stages of substance use disorders.

### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

Non-profit organizations, including the Foeoletini Foundation, Parents of Children with Special Needs (PCSN), Back on Track, and Tautua, were also given the opportunity to share updates on the progress of their programs with the Council.

If you or someone you know is seeking support for substance use, please contact the following resources:

DOH, Behavioral Health Services - 699-0315

Tautua: Mental Health Resource Center - 782-8255

LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Behavioral Health - 633-1222

Empowering Pacific Island Communities (EPIC) - 699-7923

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