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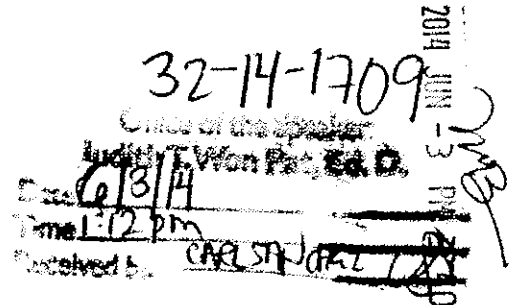
June 03, 2014

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
The 32nd Guam Legislature
155 Hessler Place, Suite 201
Hagatna, Guam 96910

The Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Vice-Speaker
The 32nd Guam Legislature
155 Hessler Place, Suite 107
Hagatna, Guam 96910

The Honorable Tina Rose Muna Barnes
The 32nd Guam Legislature
155 Hessler Place, Suite 101
Hagatna, Guam 96910

The Honorable Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
The 32nd Guam Legislature
Orlean Pacific Plaza, Ste. B104
865 S. Marine Corps Drive
Tamuning, Guam 96931



Re: **Third Report of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse
of Children within the Child Protective Act**

Dear Speaker Won Pat, Vice-Speaker Cruz, Senator Barnes and Senator Yamashita,

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Pursuant to Public Law 31-97, entitled “The LaniKate Protehi Y Famagu’on-ta Act”, the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children within the Child Protective Act hereby submits its third report as to its progress and its continued efforts to meet the mandates required under this Law.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. *Dångkolo na Agradesimiento!*

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Sincerely,

LEONARDO M. RAPADAS
Attorney General of Guam

cc: All Senators, 32st Guam Legislature

**Third Report of the
Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children within the Child Protective Act
“The LaniKate Task Force”**

June 2014

Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas, Presiding Officer

Task Force Members:

Vice Speaker Benjamin F. Cruz
Senator Aline Yamashita, PhD
Evelyn Claros, Office of Senator Yamashita
Chief Deputy Attorney General Phil Tydingco
Deputy Attorney General Carol Hinkle Sanchez
Police Chief Fred Bordallo, Jr., Guam Police Department
Director James W. Gillan, Department of Public Health and Social Services
Arlene Gadia, Department of Public Health and Social Services (BOSSA)
Linda Rodriguez, Department of Public Health and Social Services (BOSSA)
Jon Fernandez, Guam Department of Education
Robert H. Malay, Guam Department of Education
Doris Bukikosa, Guam Department of Education
Diana B. Calvo, Catholic Social Services
Virginia Yashuhiro, Judiciary of Guam
Erika L.S. Perez, Judiciary of Guam
Cynthia Cabot, Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence
Melissa Casil Chargualaf, Association of Individual, Marriage, and Family Therapists
Millie Lujan, Sanctuary, Incorporated
George Salas, Sanctuary, Incorporated
Maresa Aguon, Department of Behavior Management and Wellness Center (Healing Heart Crisis
Center)
AnnParo Rios, Department of Behavior Management and Wellness Center (Healing Heart Crisis
Center)
Adonis Mendiola, Department of Youth Affairs
Dr. Juan Rapadas, Department of Youth Affairs
Latisha Taitague, Victim’s Advocate Reaching Out (VARO)
Julie Ulloa-Heath, University of Guam

Introduction

Our community, like many other communities all over the United States, and even other countries, face many great challenges when addressing issues that relate to the children in our respective communities. Any service provider whose agency, programs, or services are developed and geared towards treating and servicing children and their needs can tell you that they face a tough challenge; that is, the complexity that comes with handling and addressing the

child's needs. Addressing a child's needs, in and of itself, requires a very comprehensive approach because when addressing the child's issues, providers must take a multifaceted approach, which requires addressing everything that revolves around that child. This includes the child's home and living situation, educational needs, and the child's physical, mental and psychological needs. Further, each case that involves a child will be treated differently from the other because every child will have their own specialized and unique needs; there is no one case that can be handled exactly the same way as another. The intervention of multiple agencies are oftentimes required to ensure that the child is provided with the full realm of services or related supportive services that will be needed to address the individual needs of a particular child. This alone is a major task, but to ensure that the services and treatment provided have a long-term success, providers do not just limit the services to the child victim, but the system extends the services it offers to the child's family members, or their primary caretakers. This multidisciplinary approach has been embedded within all the systems that service our youth, from our Juvenile Justice System, to our Educational System, and even our Mental Health System. It is apparent that the system is in place for providing our youths with effective and long-term care, services, and treatment.

With that said, the LaniKate Task Force re-iterates the fact that it is faced with the tough task of developing a comprehensive plan for the prevention of child sexual abuse. Addressing child-related issues alone is already a complex matter; the added effects of child victimization as a result of a very heinous crime, presents the Task Force with an even greater challenge when addressing the issue of prevention of child sexual abuse in our community. The Task Force is aware that any case involving a victim of any kind of sex crimes requires a great amount of sensitivity. We are also aware that many victims of these crimes are generally minors, and as such, the handling of cases wherein minors are involved, whether as a victim or an offender, require very specialized skills and expertise. There is no question that a multidisciplinary approach is necessary to effectively service our children, and their families. A comprehensive plan is needed to ensure long-term success- a plan that will not only address the prevention aspect- but all the other issues surrounding the problem, which should also include addressing the necessary services and treatment of offenders.

The LaniKate Task Force continues to meet to discuss its efforts on meeting the objectives and goals set out in the first and second report. The Task Force continues to address preventive measures to end sexual abuse. One of the priorities of this Task Force would be to implement educational curriculum that will be age-appropriate for children- grades Prek-K to 12- in the public school system. This is one of the mandates under the law, and the Task Force hopes to accomplish this goal soon. Once the Task Force has developed an educational program, the Task Force will try and work with Guam's Private Schools to encourage them to implement a similar educational program for their students.

Again, there is no easy answer to end sexual abuse, but the Task Force continues to strive in meeting its goals and objectives, as was submitted in the first and second report. The Task Force is still set to work on surveys that will assist in the collection of more accurate data on sexual abuse, and conduct various surveys to gather information that will give the task force and the community a better understanding of the system and services that Guam has in place, as well as the severity and extent of child sex crimes occurring on Guam. The Task Force hopes to conduct surveys for informational purposes from students of all grade levels in the public school system, as well as surveys to collect information from both victims and offenders. This information will assist the Task Force in putting together the pieces of the puzzle so that we can develop a

systematic solution that will provide better services and treatment for both victims of crimes, and perpetrators.

Currently, agencies have been divided into various working groups. These working groups have been tasked with discussing assigned goals and objectives, and seeking ways that each respective goal and objective can be met. Again, the priority goal and objective that the Task Force has been focused on is to develop an educational curriculum that can be implemented in the school system hopefully by school year 2014-2015. Discussions of the curriculum are ongoing between Healing Hearts Crisis Center, who has taken the lead on this goal, and the Department of Education, and formalities as to implementing this curriculum within the school system is being discussed by both agencies, as well as funding.

Another priority of the Task Force is data collection. The working groups assigned to this goal and objective will develop sample surveys that will be used for each respective group, i.e. school children, victims, and offenders.

The Task Force also continues to keep track of various legislations, and the benefits and impacts to victims of sex crimes. One of the more recent legislation that relates to sex crimes was the amendments to the Guam Sex Offender Registry that provided clarification on the juvenile registration for juvenile sex offenders. The Task Force will continue to monitor any legislation introduced that relates to sex crimes or that affects or impact sexual abuse victims.

Finally, the Task Force is working on providing specialized training to the providers and the community relating to child sexual abuse and prevention. The Task Force is hoping to bring out an expert(s) that will be able to discuss various topics, which may include social work investigation, crime investigation and forensic evidence, and prevention measures.

Conclusion:

The Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children within the Child Protective Act submits this third report to provide status on its working progress. The Task Force intends on submitting a supplemental report within the next few months that will provide more details as to the efforts and progress being made by the task force on the educational curriculum and the surveys. This report does not take into account the possibility that initial or periodic funding may be required, whether from the local government or through federal grants that may require match funding. The supplemental report will also include any information relating to funding of the educational curriculum. As such, there may be a need for legislation that will specifically allocate money to fund such program (curriculum materials, training, etc) should the agencies not find any federal funding that is available to initiate the program. The need for any legislation will also be noted in the supplemental report. The Task Force continues to work on developing and implementing a comprehensive preventive program that will assist Guam, particularly the children of Guam, in curbing sexual abuse. The task force wants to ensure that when we address the needs of Guam's children, we continue to be vigilant that this is a very specialized and sensitive area, and providers are given the appropriate and specialized training needed to provide effective services because we want to ensure long-term success. We also want to be sure that providers will take a multidisciplinary approach when addressing children's issues, and ensure that Guam has all the necessary services and programs in place that are required to assist our children today, tomorrow, and the years to come.