

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE, ADDICTION & REHABILITATION (SAAR) PROGRAM



HOPE Recovery Center  
Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### About SAAR:

The **Substance Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program**, under the Office of the Governor, established the **Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti - H.O.P.E. Recovery Center ("HOPE")**. HOPE is dedicated to providing quality clinical care and social services to individuals struggling with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and educational support for their families.

SAAR's Mission Statement is to **CHANGE** the lives of individuals struggling with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and addiction. In alignment with the Mission Statement, SAAR's **Vision** is to **LEAD** the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands towards building a safe and addiction free society.

### Synopsis

SAAR was developed through the reestablishment of the Special Assistant for Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation position under the **Executive Order 2018-07**.

The HOPE Recovery Center provides an evidenced-based residential treatment program thru the use of the Matrix Treatment Model, with the support of a 24 hour staffed, safe-environment living. SAAR also established the Offender Advocacy (OA) program to provide a transitional support service for formerly convicted and incarcerated individuals that are soon to be released, and have struggled as a result of substance misuse.



**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Lieutenant Governor

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**Yvette R. Sablan**  
Special Assistant



# SERVICES OFFERED

## Participant Quotes:

“Do not ever give up.  
Never back down.  
Work it because you  
are worth it.”

“I am important.”

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

In July 2020, the Hope Recovery Center transitioned from outpatient treatment jointly with a group home setting to ASAM Criteria’s Level 3.1 clinically managed low-intensity residential treatment center. Residential treatment is crucial for individuals whose recovery environment conflicts with their recovery goals.

Clinical treatment is client-centered and treatment plans are individualized. We provide evidenced-based cognitive behavioral therapy treatment: MATRIX (Relapse Prevention, Early Recovery Skills, Family Education, Social Support), Anger Management, Drug & Alcohol Education, Life Skills, recovery support groups, individual & conjoint sessions, and intense case management.

Admission and acceptance into the program is contingent on the recommendation of the biopsychosocial assessment, history on violent or sexual convictions, medical clearance from a medical doctor or psychiatrist, and test negative for COVID-19.

Recently, the clinical team completed a 7-day international Moral Reconnection Therapy training. This evidenced based, systematic, cognitive based, step by step treatment modality is intended to improve self-image, promote positive growth, and develop moral reasoning, therefore reducing recidivism.

In addition, the Hope Recovery Center team has completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) first aid training. The team is prepared in basic response skills, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster medical response, and first aid CPR.

### TESTIMONIAL 1:

*“Today, I am honestly proud to say that I am a better person, a better mother, daughter, grand-daughter, sister, niece, employee, and a friend. For the changes I’ve made, I thank SAAR for helping me, motivating me, advising me, and supporting me. SAAR helped me get my life (that) I almost lost to meth.”*

-Z.Y.

## HOPE RECOVERY CELEBRATES ITS 4TH ANNIVERSARY

Honorable Ralph DLG Torres expresses continued support and shares the news of the up-coming state-of-the-art facility and Attorney Robert T. Torres addresses the addiction professionals on self-care. (September 2021)



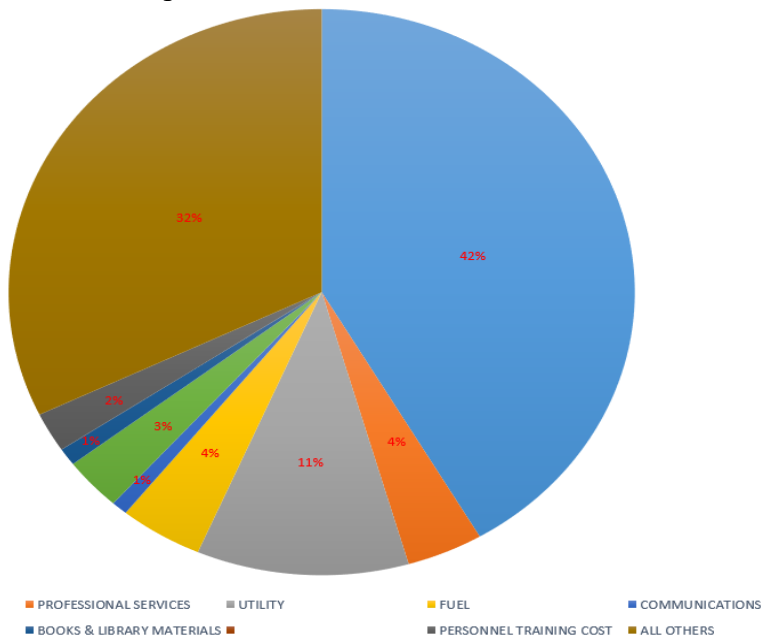
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## LOCAL BUDGET

Through Public Law 21-35, SAAR was funded a total of \$70,047.00 for two (2) FTE and \$154,953.00 for other operational costs.

As HOPE aims to increase its treatment approaches, the program invested in the Morale Reconciliation Therapy training. Training, curriculums, and shipping costs, roughly summed up to \$9,000. The program also spent nearly \$9,000 on professional services for independent consultant and clinical supervision, critical to the integrity of the services.

While 42% of this budget covered personnel, utility was at least \$24,000 and fuel expense was about \$9,500. As fuel price increases, the program is forced to continue to implement control measures.



### TESTIMONIAL 2:

*“When I came to the HOPE Center’s garage with my luggage– I was afraid, broken, and lost. By the time I completed treatment, I walked out a different person. I was clean, I was strong and confident. SAAR changed me.”*

- M.C.

### TESTIMONIAL 3:

*“The HOPE Recovery not only taught me how to battle my drug addiction, it also gave me control over my anger and other emotions. SAAR is the reason why I believe treatment works and I am very grateful.”*

- F.C.

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$481,876,521 was allocated to the CNMI on May 2021. The funding has been approved for on-going COVID-19 emergency, the replenishment of lost government revenues, return jobs lost, use for capital projects, infrastructure improvement, additional rental assistance, and small business credit expansion.

A total of \$239,127.50 was dedicated to the SAAR program to cover personnel for April to September 2021, and twice more will be appropriated for fiscal year 2022.

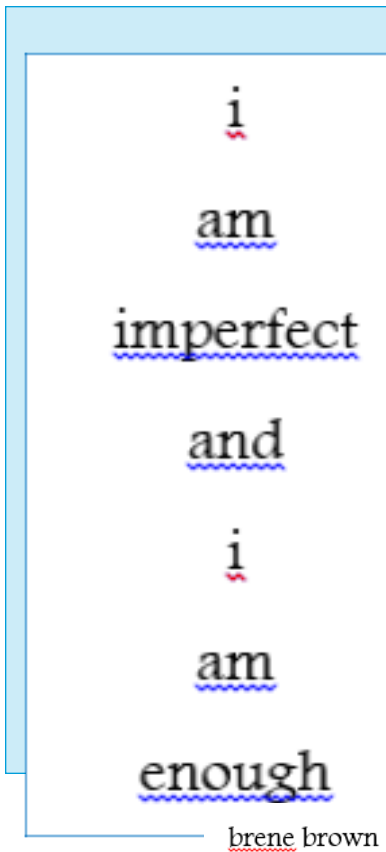
## OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS (OIA)

In the midst of the shutdown, the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) authorized the remaining funds (\$197,399.27) of the awarded TAP-CNMI-2018-04 (\$297,077) for an addiction psychiatrist professional services to be reprogrammed for personnel use. This allowed HOPE to reopen for services (2020) and continued to cover personnel up until March 2021.

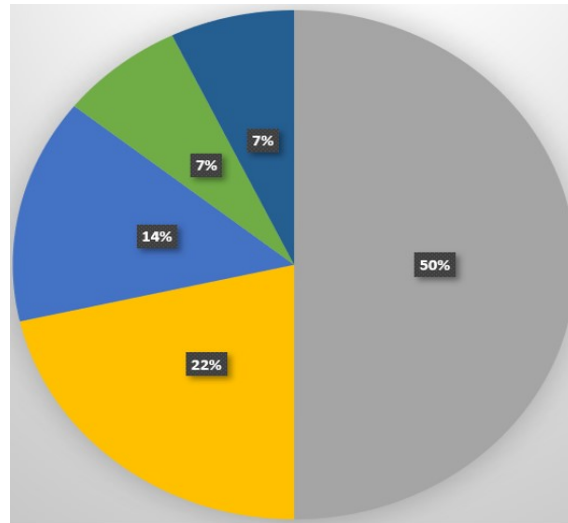
# IN-TAKE MEASURES

As a result of the COVID-19 temporary shut down for 2020, services were suspended for a little over 2 months. The unprecedented pandemic affected many homes and some employees did not return to duty, prompting HOPE to reorganize, which eventually led to it becoming a residential program altogether.

Toward the end of the year, our data reflected an increase of female in-take at nearly 20%, and the highest in-takes remain to be self-referrals. Upon graduating from treatment, four (4) (females) acquired section-8 home placements, four (4) secured employment, and two (2) earned their High School Diploma through the ABE program at the Northern Marianas College (NMC).



## 2020 IN-TAKE



- SELF REFERRAL
- DRUG COURT PROGRAM
- BOARD OF PAROLE
- US PAROLE OFFICE
- OFFICE PERSONAL MNGMT



## 2021 NATIONAL ADDICTION PROFESSIONAL DAY

The SAAR Program recognized the Addiction Professionals of the HOPE Recovery Center, Community Guidance Center (CGC), and organizations in the community.

## CURRENT EVENT

God grant me the  
*Serenity*  
to accept the things  
I cannot change, the  
*Courage*  
to change the things I can,  
and the  
*Wisdom*  
to know the difference.

Serenity Prayer

### Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP)

In 2011, the US Army Corp of Engineer (USACE) conducted a site inspection to evaluate the likelihood and significance of potential residual of munitions and explosives of concern (MCE). This inspection was then followed with a remedial investigation/feasibility study (2019) to assess the nature and extent of the munition contaminant of the 14 acre compound of the HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi, a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS).

Through the initial efforts of BECQ and DPL, the commitment of Lt. Colonel, District Commander Eric Marshall, PE, PMP, and the support of the Pentagon, an action memorandum was issued on April 2021, to authorize a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) to remove immediate threat associated with Munitions and Explosives of Concerns (MEC). HydroGeoLogic, Inc. has been contracted by the USACE and the project started on October 2021.

The Office of the Governor values its working relationship with our federal partners and together with the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs (CBMA), BECQ, DFEMS, DPW, HSEM, and the Substance Abuse, Addiction, & Rehabilitation (SAAR) program, we are working very closely with USACE and HGL to ensure a smooth and collaborative local level support with logistics. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2021.

For more information, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Project Administrative Records.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

### Upcoming New Facility

As of June 2021, a dedicated land, through Public Law 15-2, has been designated to the SAAR program for the upcoming state of the art facility. This facility will be designed to address proper spatial areas for efficient operational use, composing of a first-rate ADA compliance, exceptional safety and health preventive water and air quality systems, and integrated future cost reduction and power efficiency source through solar energy.

### Gambling Addiction Disorder

While two (2) clinical staff have acquired their certification for problem gambling through the University of Minnesota, a Certified Gambling Counselor is readily available to implement the materials, curriculum, gambling assessment tools, and clinical supervision, pending the status of the COVID-19 situation and quarantine directives.

The HOPE Recovery Center will also be provided the consultation and guidance for community readiness and working with partners on how to capture gambling disorder in the work place and community establishments.

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Office of the Governor

Substance Abuse, Addiction, & Rehabilitation  
(SAAR) Program

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