

PRESS RELEASE



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“CHCC Holds Workshops to Better Serve LGBTQ+ Community”

From October 29-31, 2019, workshops were offered at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) on creating an inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ patients and staff. The workshops were facilitated by Vicki Kobayashi and Darlene Du Brall, from the Hawaii Youth Services Network, in partnership with the CHCC Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Both Kobayashi and Du Brall are GLSEN Certified Trainers. GLSEN is a non-profit, US-based organization that works to promote LGBTQ+ inclusivity, particularly in K-12 schools.

There were two workshops offered to a combination of 31 CHCC staff and community partners, including representatives from the Northern Marianas College and Public School System. The first workshop, “The LGBT Community: Understanding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” focused on providing an overview of the many terms and vocabulary that are frequently used in the LGBTQ+ community, including the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity. The workshop was designed to improve communication and messaging that involves LGBTQ+ topics.

The second workshop, “Creating LGBT Inclusive Environments,” provided information on creating a safe and inclusive environment for both LGBTQ+ clients and coworkers. The content was designed to help participants think critically about their organization’s policies regarding LGBTQ+ people, and how they could be improved, understand LGBTQ+ people and their health needs, and improve communication to create an affirming workplace for everyone.

Workshops such as these are vital in improving health care access for LGBTQ+ people who often face discrimination from health workers, particularly if they are transgender. The CHCC is committed to maintaining a high standard of care for every patient, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and will continue to educate staff on the importance of LGBT-specific care, as well as work to improve internal policies to protect and affirm LGBTQ+ staff.

For more information about GLSEN, please visit: <https://www.glsen.org/>

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

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