



# Judiciary of Guam

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ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, June 15, 2026

### **Judiciary and GBHWC Partner to Advance Crisis Intervention Strategies on Guam**

(Hagåtña, Guam) — In a continued effort to strengthen how Guam responds to mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health crises, the Judiciary of Guam and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center are bringing together national experts and local leaders to build a more coordinated, compassionate, and effective crisis response system that connects individuals in need to care, support, and stability when it matters most.

On June 5, 2026, community leaders and stakeholders gathered at the Judicial Education Center for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Leadership Engagement Meeting, a collaborative planning session facilitated by national experts from CIT International (CITI). The meeting brought together representatives from GBHWC, Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department, Guam Legal Services – Disability Law Center, Guam Memorial Hospital, Guam Vet Center, Public Defender Service Corporation, GY671, TOHGE, WestCare Pacific, and the Mayors' Council of Guam to discuss the behavioral health crisis response system and identify opportunities for enhanced coordination and collaboration.

Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman emphasized the Judiciary's commitment to ensuring a safer and more responsive system for the community. ***“Our courts see firsthand the impact that behavioral health crises have on individuals and families. Strengthening crisis intervention efforts is not only a matter of public safety—it is a matter of human dignity. We are proud to collaborate with Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center to support initiatives that bring our justice, health, and community partners together to build a system rooted in compassion and effective care. This training is a long time coming, and we are grateful for the training provided by the CITI trainers.”***

The Leadership Engagement Meeting, presented by Marianne Halbert from CITI, served as a critical component of Guam's ongoing CIT System Assessment. Through stakeholder discussions and feedback, participants explored ways to improve crisis response practices, strengthen interagency partnerships, and expand access to care and support services for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use crises.

The Judiciary and GBHWC also hosted the CIT Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Program from June 8–11, 2026, at the Judicial Education Center. Facilitated by Dottie Davis, Lori Wood, and Marianne Halbert, the intensive four-day training prepared selected participants from behavioral health, law enforcement, emergency response, healthcare, and community organizations to become certified CIT instructors.

The TTT Program is designed to establish a sustainable network of local CIT instructors who can deliver future trainings and support the continued growth of Guam's Crisis Intervention Team program. By developing local

expertise, Guam will reduce reliance on off-island resources while ensuring ongoing training opportunities for professionals who respond to individuals in crisis.

The CIT model is an internationally recognized, community-based approach that promotes collaboration among public safety agencies, behavioral health providers, healthcare professionals, and community organizations. Through specialized training and coordinated response strategies, CIT programs help improve outcomes for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use crises while enhancing community safety and access to treatment.

Together, the Leadership Engagement Meeting and TTT Program mark important milestones in Guam's efforts to establish a sustainable, community-driven Crisis Intervention Team program that supports recovery, strengthens partnerships, and improves behavioral health crisis responses across the island.

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