



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office of the Secretary



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**Joseph P. Deleon
Guerrero
Secretary**

CNMI is off to a great start as BRAIN BUILDERS!

**Vivian Sablan
Administrator
Division of Youth
Services**

On Friday, April 22, 2022, the CNMI Child Care Development Fund Program (CCDF), in partnership with Evergreen Learning, completed the first CNMI Brain Builders-Science of Early Learning Orientation with its partner agencies.

**Rita Chong
Historic Preservation
Officer
Historic Preservation Office**

CCDF recently established partnership with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) - Division of Youth Services (DYS), CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD), Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) - Community Guidance Center-System of Care (CGC-SOC), and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Through this partnership, CCDF will be able to connect with parents and families in the community, to implement the Science of Early Learning Initiative, brand new to the CNMI.

**Parker Yobei
Executive Director
Commonwealth Council
for Arts & Culture**

The Orientation was held at the Kagman Community Center from 2:00-4:00pm and facilitated by Melissa Palacios, Science of Early Learning Coordinator, and Rayanna Fitial, Science of Early Learning Administrative Assistant.

**Walter A. Manglona
Director
Office on Aging**

In attendance were Ms. Maria Olopai - DYS Community Development Specialist, Josephine Kapileo - DYS Community Development Technician, and Kyanna Norita - Council on Developmental Disabilities Administrative Assistant. Not in photo is Philip Santos, CHCC-CGC System of Care Lead Family Coordinator, who attended the orientation previously via virtual.

**Walter I. Macaranas
Administrator
Nutrition Assistance
Program**

At the Orientation, members of the partner agencies had an opportunity to gain information about the Science of Early Learning Initiative, the approaches that will be taken for the implementation, the curriculum that will be used and the resources available to activate the program.

**Melvin Faisao
Executive Director
Chamorro/Carolinian
Language Policy
Commission**

Mind in the Making (MITM) Curriculum provides knowledge about the scientific tenets of early childhood development and how to boost life skills for children ages 0-8. MITM is the science and sets the “why we have to elevate the importance of the first 5 years of child development,” particularly – the brain development.

**Maribel D. Loste, M.Ed
Director/Administrator
Child Care and
Development Fund
(CCDBG)**

Vroom offers tips and tools that are used throughout early childhood systems, community agencies that provide services to children, and other networks. Vroom is the tool that offers strategies that parents, families, and caregivers can apply, in order to use everyday moments to build children’s brains.

**Low Income Home Energy
Assistance Program
(LIHEAP)**

**Gordon Salas
Supervisor
Childcare Licensing
Program**

Garapan Street Market

Together, MITM and Vroom are complementary offerings responding to the national landscape of early learning.

Both early learning programs are asset-based and start with the relationships that are built between caregivers in the lives of children.

Now that these partner agencies have completed their orientation, they are ready to proceed with the series of training, which start this week.

