MICRONESIAN INTEPRETER TRAINING AND CHALLENGES

BY
BARBARA TOM, RN

MICRONESIAN HEALTH ADVISORY COALITION (MHAC)

FORMED IN RESPONSE TO BASIC HEALTH HAWAII TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUITY

VISION :
Healthy and Empowered Micronesian Community

MISSION:
MHAC, through it's collaborative leadership & guided by our unique cultural values, advocate for the health and wellbeing of Micronesians to improve their quality of life in seeking justice and equality for the Pacific Community

MHAC IDENTIFIES & ADDRESSES NEED FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS

- PACIFIC CEED LEGACY PROJECT 2009-2010
  Provides funding to help MHAC identify and train interpreters in health to address access to care issues for the Micronesian population.
- 4 interpreters were selected and accepted to the University of Hawaii's Center for Interpretation and Translation, 2 Chuukese, 2 Marshallese

Lessons Learned

- First Micronesian interpreters to ever go through interpreter training at the University level

1. English proficiency needed
2. Need for standard glossary of medical terminology in languages
3. Process for medical interpretation certification

2012 Pacific CEED Legacy Grant

- 2 Chuukese
- 2 Marshallese (1spoke both Marshallese and Kosraean
- 1 Kosraean

2013 DOH Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Grant

- 3 Marshallese
- 1 Palauan
- 2 Chuukese
- 2 Kosraean

HAWAII COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM & MHAC

- Annual Interpreter Training
- Topics suggested by interpreters themselves
- Interpretation technical skills review
- Medical Terminology
- Navigation
- Information on being self employed

CHALLENGES

- Criteria for Acceptance
- Cultural Barriers
- Interpretation vs. Navigation
- Language (different dialects, no translation for medical terms)
- Standard medical glossary
- Service providers need to know how to work with interpreters
- Funding
- Other
  - Punctuality
  - Transportation
  - Understanding Medical Terminology

MAHALO!