

Executive Summary

Course Title: Engaging with Samoan Communities: Family Kinship and Cultural Expectations

Target Audience: All public servants in Social Services can benefit from this course. New and veteran staff, Child welfare sector, Line staff, supervisors, and support staff.

Outline of Training:

2 Training Sessions (Morning & Afternoon: 9 am– 12 pm / 1 pm – 4pm ... you decide)

A. Introductions

B. A taste of Samoan breakfast (Suaesi: Papaya Porridge & Bread)

C. THE COURSE WILL BE IN 3 MAIN SECTIONS

- 1. Historical background of Samoa, Forms of Government, Common and Customary Laws.**
**The course will be presented thru PowerPoint (Audio-Visual), some activities
And will conclude with Qs & As**

The Course will include:

- a. Samoan family structure and family dynamics (the extended family).**
 - b. The Village**
 - i. Hierarchical structure**
 - ii. Titles & Heirs, the up-bringing of a Samoan including rearing of a child**
 - iii. Cultural Expectations**
 - iv. Adoptions: Next of kin / Illegal**
 - v. Significance of religion: The evening worships of the Samoans**
- 2. The Migration : Emigrating to America**
 - a. Reasons of Migration**
 - i. Individual responsibilities (cultural expectation: family & community)**
- 3. Samoans in America and beyond**
 - a. Migration benefits**
 - i. Islander Conception**
 - ii. Churches**
 - iii. Communities (Low income Areas: Predominantly metropolitans)**
 - iv. Education**
 - v. Sports**

- 4. The Rude Awakening: (The work & function of the Samoan Community Development Center: Services and Programs)**
 - a. The Misconception**
 - b. Education**
 - c. Juvenile System**
 - d. Gambling and Church**
 - e. Cultural Expectations**
 - f. Socio-Economics**
 - g. Other Issues**
 - (i) Qs & As**
 - (ii) Course Evaluation**

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

As a result of this training, participants will leave with a sense of identity, having an idea of why Samoans do some of the things they do, their family systems and cultures. They will also learn of the struggles Samoans have in America's due to its multi-ethnic, multi-racial society. Participants will also have a better idea on how to approach families while learning some of the most prevalent cultures of the Samoans: The underlying support of "respect" and how to approach children and families especially when they have been involved in the system. This course will also help lessen if not eliminate the common stereotypes of the Samoans, therefore building relationships with the community gaining the respect of the people.